

## The TUKE Startup Centre

- 2014 saw a breakthrough in supporting innovative activities in Eastern Slovakia: in March 2014, **the TUKE Startup Centre**, first of its kind, was launched as a result of TUKE initiative.
- **The TUKE Startup Centre** is an organisational structure created as a part of the University Centre for Innovation, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Protection (UCITT TUKE) with regional competence.
- The aim of the TUKE Startup Centre is to create a motivating environment in Košice and Prešov region with innovative potential for development in different areas of competence, which will help not only students, but all citizens of the regions as well.
- The main idea is to “start up” a process that will help people to realize their innovative ideas and to transform the idea into a commercially useful product or service. The Technical University of Košice has the ambition to significantly support innovative projects with expert, quality advice as well as its high-level research infrastructure through the Startup Centre.
- The Startup Centre offers the following to its interested parties:
  - favourable conditions for the physical placement of the “startup” in the premises of the TUKE Startup Centre,
  - expert and mentoring support of the project plan by specialized departments of TUKE and partner institutions,
  - support for the use of specialized departments, laboratories and other facilities of TUKE for the realization of project plans,
  - support for getting partners from the commercial environment, in searching for potential investors, and in creating a business plan.
- The advantage of the TUKE Startup Centre is the combination of the quality infrastructure with the mentoring support. Mentors have experience not only from the Slovak academic and commercial sphere, but through projects funded from European sources and European commercial environment; they are able to fully develop the potential of the idea and to transform the results of the work done in the TUKE Startup Centre into the economic practice.
- The aim is not a narrow specialization in a chosen field, but, above all, to bring people, ideas, opinions and experience from different science and business fields together and to ensure multidisciplinary and suitable environment for the overall development and success of the centre participants.
- Activities of the TUKE Startup Centre fully cover mainly the following areas:
  - Information and communication technologies
  - Electrical engineering, automation and control systems
  - Mechanical engineering
  - Civil engineering
  - Environmental engineering
- Since 2014, more than 80 innovative projects have participated in the competition (within the 6 rounds of the competition)
- To date, more than 35 **perspective startups** with a high innovation potential to convert innovation into marketable products (within the six-month pre-incubation stay) were active in the TUKE Startup Centre. Many of them have been able to get investor support and launch several successful products during their activity in the TUKE Startup Centre.

In the short period of its existence, the TUKE Startup Centre has earned a reputation by organizing activities for startup support and has become an important element of the innovation potential with a regional-wide impact.