

SIN Poland ensures Cambridge Enterprise wins £1.5m bid for training Polish innovators



Top 500 Innovators – Oxford Programme
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With support from SIN Poland, Cambridge University has successfully won a £1.5m bid to the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

As part of the Ministry's "Top 500 Innovators" program, Cambridge and Oxford Universities provided management training to 80 of Poland's leading scientists and innovators.

SIN Poland alerted UK organisations to the announcement of a commercial opportunity to provide training to Poland's science community. As a result, Cambridge Enterprise Ltd. expressed interest and with the help of SIN was introduced to the relevant Polish Ministry of Science contacts.

A SIN officer advised Cambridge Enterprise through the application and mediated with Polish officials throughout the bidding process. With SIN's help throughout the process in May 2015, the UK bid worth £1.5m was granted and training courses took place in summer the same year.

Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, (a commercial arm of the Cambridge University) working with Oxford Enterprise put together a nine week training programme. The aim was to provide the participants with the skills they need to manage cooperative research projects in Poland and bring high-technology products to the market.

Steve Cleverley, Head of Isis Enterprise's UK activities said: "We were delighted to host our colleagues from Poland for the Top 500 Innovators Programme. The training programme we delivered builds on the experience gathered at Oxford University Innovation in managing thousands of technology patents and licenses and over a hundred spin-outs over the last 20 years, as well as our experience of providing highly practical technology transfer training programmes to innovators from around the world for the last 11 years". The Polish delegates said, "The coaches are knowledgeable, gave a plethora of examples and encouraged our active engagement".

After returning to Poland the Science Managers joined the Top 500 Alumni Network¹ and shared their experiences gained in the UK with other members of the network. The training has motivated individuals to be innovation champions in their own business and university environments.

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¹ <http://top500innovators.org/english>

