

Welcome to NTNU in Trondheim, Norway for the 29th Conference of Rectors and Presidents of European Universities of Technology, September 2009



hosted by Rector Torbjørn Digernes



Who is NTNU?

- Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- About 20 000 students, 2000 PhD students, 5500 employees, 500 m€ budget in a city of 160 000 inhabitants
- Works closely with SINTEF, the 4th largest applied research institute in Europe – established by the university in 1950
- Contains an engineering school grown from the the roots of the German "Technische Hochschule" tradition
- Merged in 1996 with five other institutions
- Main profile in Engineering and Science (about 50% of credits awarded)
- Includes a medical faculty, a humanities faculty, a social sciences faculty, a music conservatory, a fine arts academy, as well as a 250 years old scientific museum
- Celebrates 100 years anniversary of the engineering school 15 September 2010

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Dealing with innovation and IPR in universities of technology in the knowledge economy

- Society expects universities to apply their knowledge to create innovation
- Industry looks at IPR as part of their assets, and wants to control the IP generated by university cooperation projects
- Universities need external funding to boost their research activities
- Universities need to maintain their role as independent academic institutions
- Open Innovation is promoted as a paradigm for creating an innovative society
- How can university/industry cooperation best contribute to innovation in general, and Open Innovation in particular?
- How do universities strike the balance between
 - Fulfilling society's expectations
 - Delivering to industry's expectations
 - Keeping our academic freedom
 - Maintaining our freedom to operate (not being limited by constraints from cooperation partners)
- What is best practice in dealing with IPR in university/industry relations?

4 Alternative:

Responding to society's needs – Multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and education in universities of technology

- "Universities have disciplines, society has problems"
 - how can the two unite?
- The body of knowledge grows quickly, the number of specialisations likewise
- Universities grow much slower
- Society needs both cutting edge knowledge in narrow specialisations and the ability to integrate knowledge from many disciplines to solve complex problems
- How do we best build the bridges between specialisations and integrate knowledge from many disciplines?
- How do we choose what to concentrate on, and what to leave out?
- How do we develop the relevant cross-disciplinary competence profiles in our education?
- How do we organize universities to meet the challenge of cross-disciplinarity?