L-Università ta' Malta

IPR Management

and

Knowledge Transfer

at the

University of Malta

Some Context and Background

- When we started in 2009 the entrepreneurial ecosystem was practically non-existent
- Drawbacks:
  - Not much support from others
- Benefits:
  - We could devise our own policies/strategy

Some Key Milestones

2009 – Setting up of the Knowledge Transfer Office

2009 – First Maltese Patent Granted

2011 – First University of Malta Intellectual Property Policy published

2011 – Funding obtained for European Structural Funds project *"Creating a Knowledge Transfer Framework and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Programme"*

2011 – First International Patent Granted (GB)

2013 – Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation (CEBI) Launched

2014 – TAKEOFF Business Incubator launched

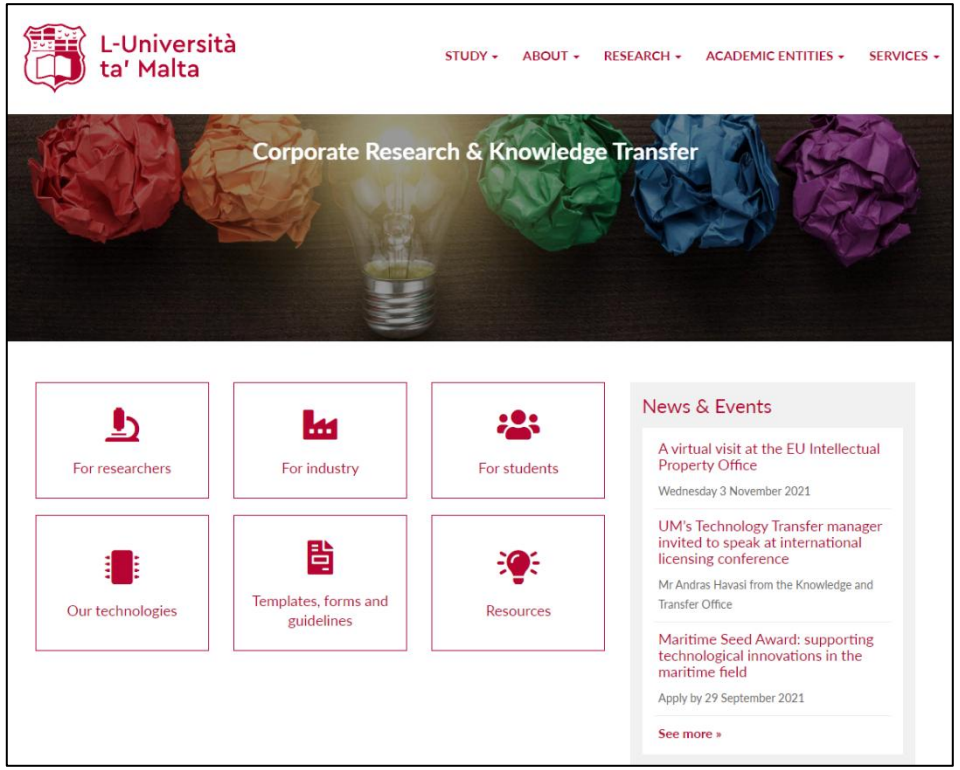
2019 – Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd (MUIP) set up

2019 – First company spun out from UM by KTO/MUIP – FLASC B.V.

The Knowledge Transfer Office

Key responsibilities - We liaise with academic members of staff and students to assist in:

- Managing the University's IP portfolio
- Facilitating Industry Academia Collaborations (with industry, governmental bodies, NGOs, etc.)
- Student Placements
- Technology Transfer (Commercialisation of Research)



www.um.edu.mt/knowledgetransfer

Collaboration Agreement

- Who does what and by when
- What resources the partners invest, including financial implications
- Duties, responsibilities and liabilities
- Framework for collaboration
- IP and confidentiality clauses

This is a Legal document with technical and managerial elements signed by the Legal representatives of Parties

The Knowledge Transfer Office – Project funding

- The KTO also assists academics/members of staff to apply for/obtain funds for projects e.g.:
  TOSFA (https://takeoff.org.mt/seedfundawards/tosfa-2026/),
  R&D (https://maltaenterprise.com/researchanddevelopment)
  Innovate Aid for SMEs (https://maltaenterprise.com/innovate)
  Post-doctoral Fellowship scheme (https://maltachamber.org.mt/post-doctoral-fellowship-scheme-2025/)

The Knowledge Transfer Office

Student Placements

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
No of Placement Opportunities	9	27	32	53	67	83	47	67	86	83	89	76	57	30
No of CVs sent by students	2	55	44	204	226	381	501	778	587	400	673	835	566	192

until 22.05.26

View placements

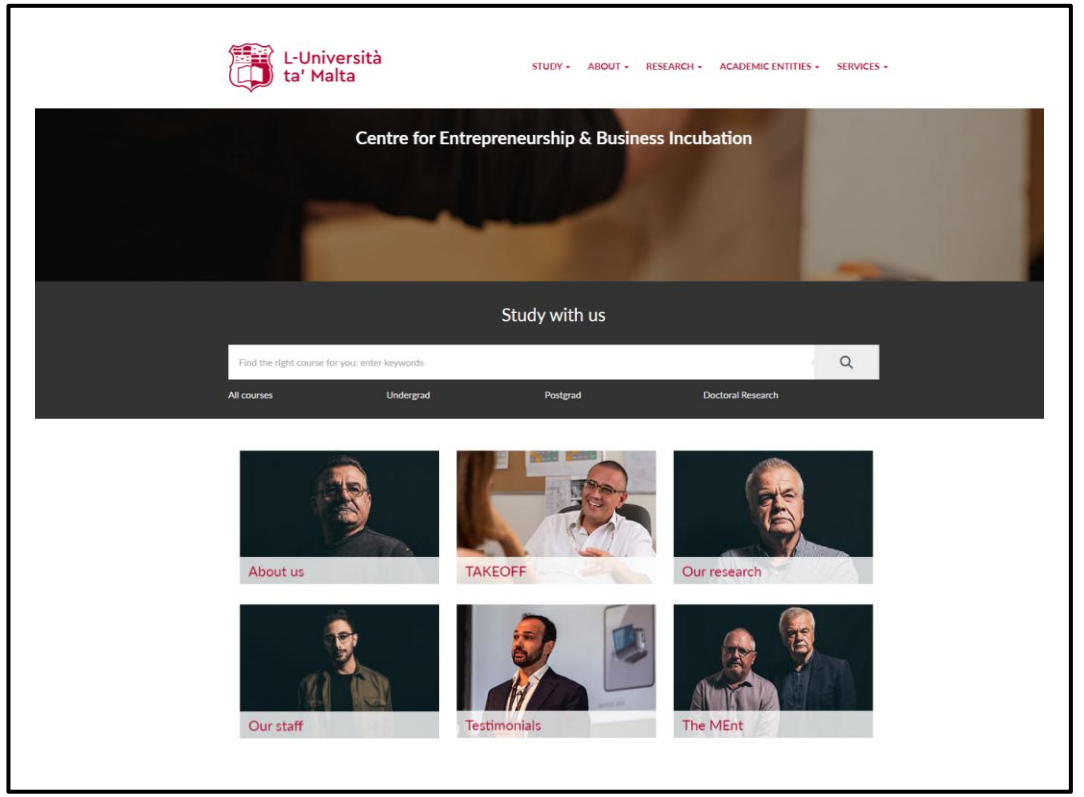
Post placements

Placements types

Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation (CEBI)

Key responsibilities:

- Academic Entity
- Flagship course is Masters in Knowledge-based Entrepreneurship
- Conducts research on factors that lead to start-up success
- Manages the TAKEOFF Business Incubator

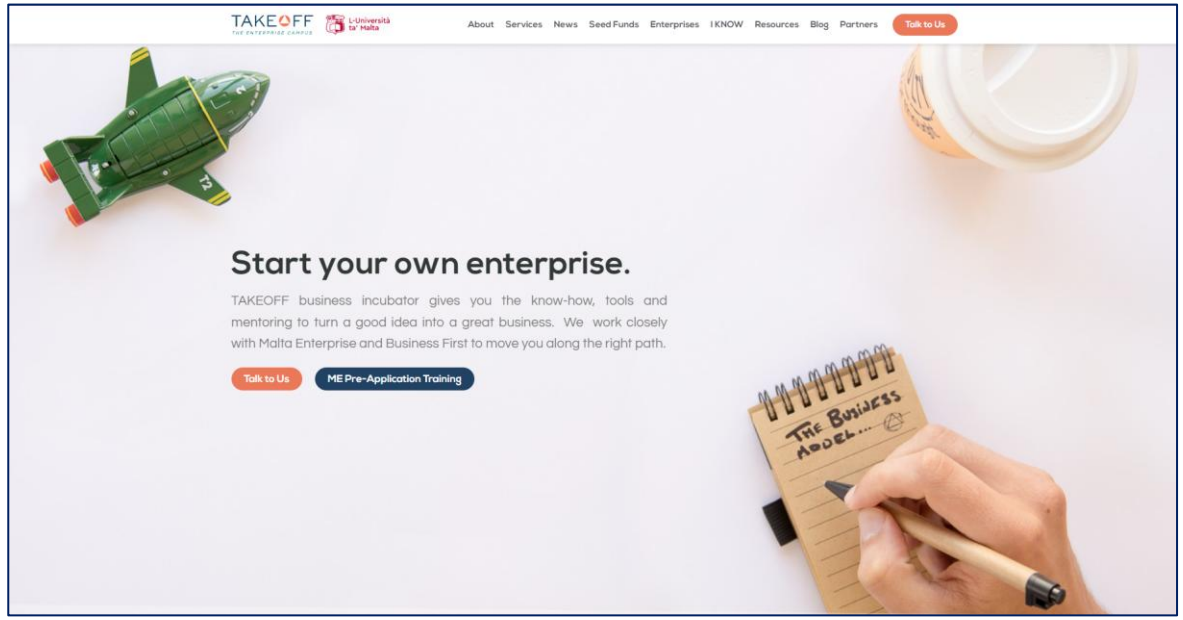


www.um.edu.mt/cebi/

TAKEOFF Business Incubator

Key responsibilities:

- Business Incubator
- Providing expert coaching, mentoring and support
- Open to all entrepreneurs from inside and outside the university



takeoff.org.mt/

TAKEOFF
THE ENTERPRISE CAMPUS

Malta University Innovation Portfolio Ltd (MUIP)

Limited Liability Company owned by the UM

Key responsibilities:

- Owning equity in start-ups on behalf of the UM
- Acting as Venture Builder to support spin-outs during the seed phase with business development, legal, and commercial advice
- May provide seed investment

SMART MATERIALS

MaltaHip

FLASC

The UM IP Policy

- Central Tenets:
  - Incentivise Originators to create IP and to be involved in exploitation of the IP
  - Provide support for the exploitation process to maximise socio-economic benefits
  - Be guided and comply with “EU Council Resolution on the Management of Intellectual Property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for Universities and Other Public Research Organisations”
  - Safeguard the reputation and interests of the University

The UM IP Policy in a nutshell

- Managed and implemented by the KTO
- Members of staff own **Copyright** on Teaching and Scholarly Materials (may publish/disseminate, respecting third party rights)
- Students own **Copyright** on Assessible student work (may publish/disseminate, respecting third party rights)
- KTO to be consulted prior to publishing commercially viable IP
- **Commercialisation rights** owned by the UM/subject to any terms of agreement with any third party
- For Students to publish Assessible student work up to **2 years** from submission, **permission of Board** of FICS is to be sought.
- UM owns all IP generated by staff (except copyright) as part of their employment/students as part of their studies, acknowledging originators
- KTO shall guide academics along the best route towards commercialisation – profit shared between UM and originator/s (according to the % contribution of each originator)
- KTO may decide not to commercialise and offer assignment of IP to Originators (15% of net profit to UM)

The UM IP Policy – Commercialisation

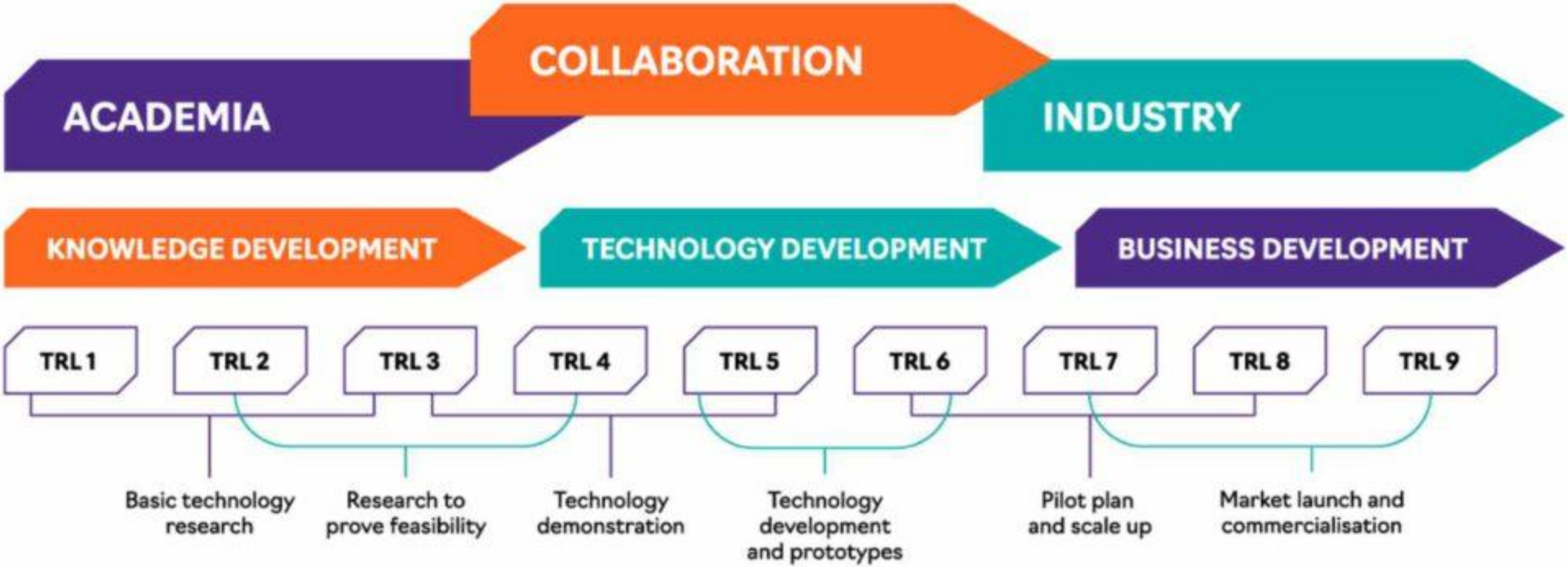
- Commercialisation of IP by the UM
  - Originators shall collaborate in the exploitation process
  - The UM shall seek protection e.g. through a patent
  - UM shall seek to retain use of IP for teaching and research purposes
  - Main routes for exploitation are licensing and spin-outs
  - KTO must conduct due diligence to determine UM's intention to pursue commercialisation and inform the originators within 6 months
  - Originators have a right to 50% of net profit generated
- Commercialisation of IP by Originators
  - Should the UM decide not to pursue commercialisation it is bound to offer to assign the IP to the originators
  - Should the originators decide to take on the commercialisation themselves, the UM would have a right to 15% of net profits

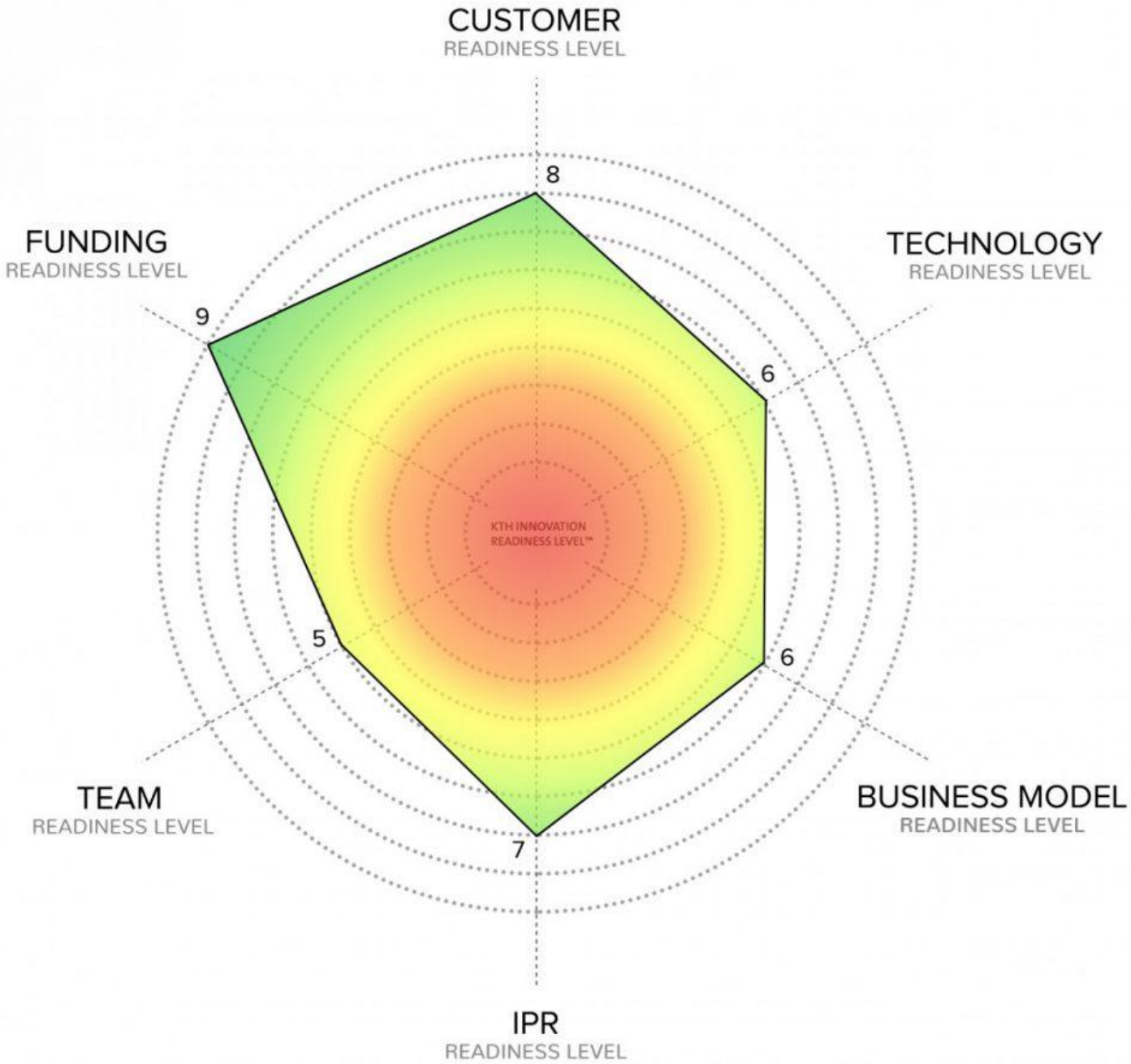
The Knowledge Transfer Office

Our mission is to enhance the University's **commercial**, **environmental** and **socio-economic impact** on a national and international level. We aim to facilitate the technology commercialisation process of putting **new knowledge** and the **generated research results** into **practical use** for the **benefit** of our **society** and **industry**.

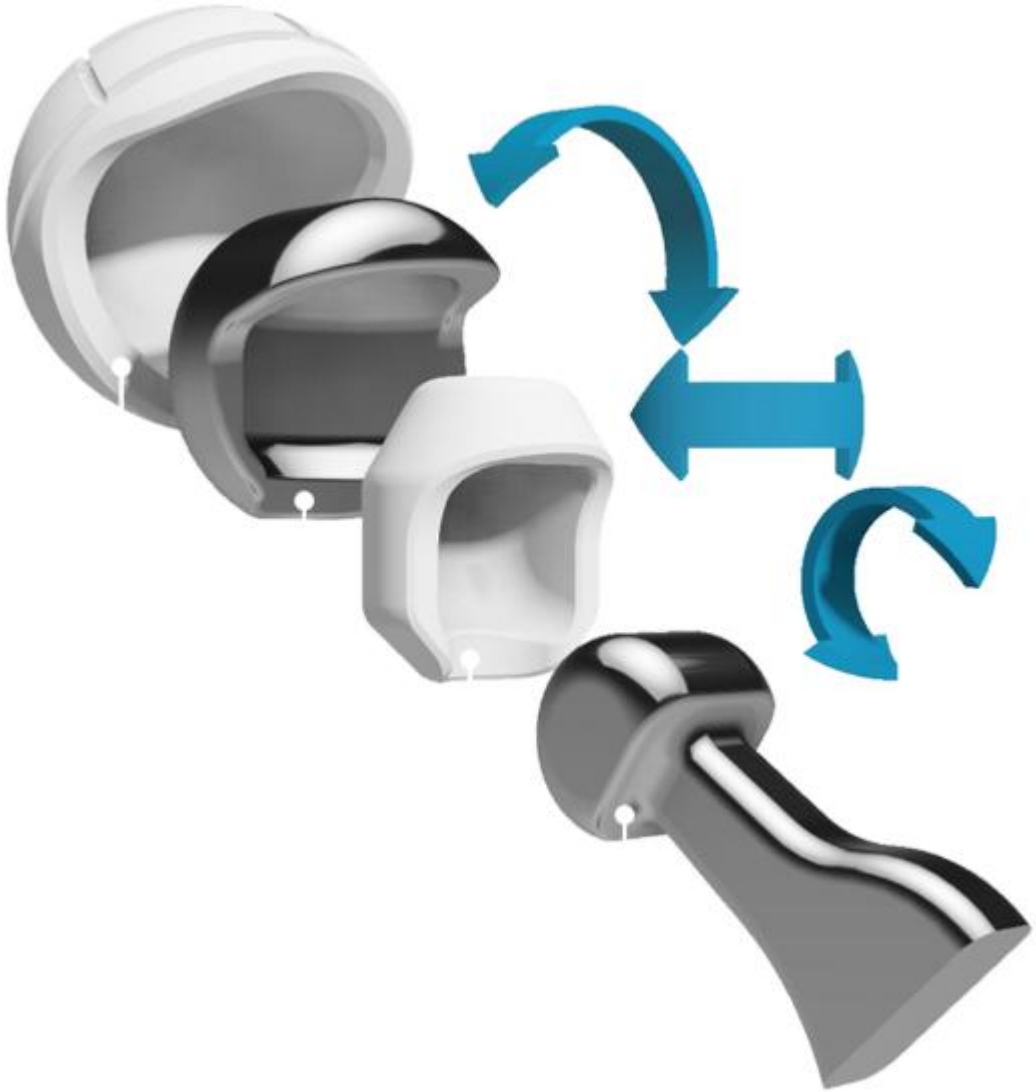
TRLs Overview

THE BIG BANG PARTNERSHIP

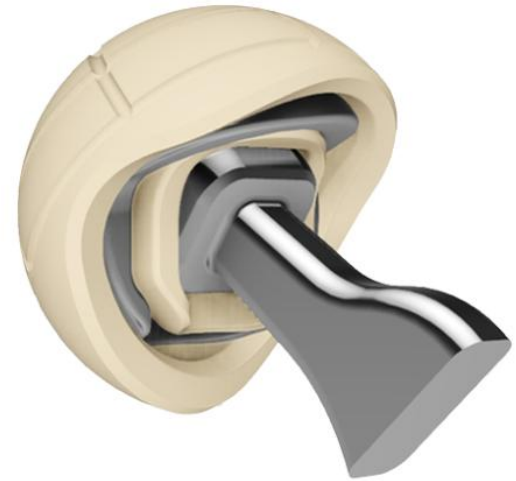



CUSTOMER
READINESS LEVEL
8
TECHNOLOGY
READINESS LEVEL
6
BUSINESS MODEL
READINESS LEVEL
6
IPR
READINESS LEVEL
7
TEAM
READINESS LEVEL
5
FUNDING
READINESS LEVEL
9
KTH INNOVATION
READINESS LEVEL™

FLASC



Ball & socket



MaltaHip

MaltaHip

Garland Surgical Ltd

Huggah®

Malta
Re-Stone

L-Università ta' Malta

Thank you

Andras & Elisa
Email:
andras.havasi@um.edu.mt,
elisa.vella@um.edu.mt