UOM - NORDITE Program

NORDITE program for funding of research in the area of embedded systems is issued on behalf of VINNOVA Sweden, the Research Council of Norway and Tekes, Finland. The program aims to promote increased co-operative research in the fields of technology development for shortwave radio, wireless sensors, short range wireless networks and RFID or MEMS utilizing RF technology and to assist Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish research institutes and companies to further develop and demonstrate their technical expertise in that area. The program was running from 2005 to 2010. It addressed industry, research institutions and universities and was implemented in a form of two calls for proposals for funding of joint projects of industrial and academic partners from at least two, preferably three countries. All results from the research projects were made publicly available on open project web sites. In the first part of the NORDITE program, out of 23 proposals six projects were funded: Wireless sensor and actuator networks for measurement and control, RFID project, Wireless Interference-limited High-throughput Access Technologies and Applications, RF MEMS Steerable Antennas for Automotive Radar and Future Wireless Applications, Cross-Layer Optimization in Short-Range Wireless Sensor Networks and Printed RFID project. In the second part (NORDITE2), some projects have been prolonged and some new added.

www.tekes.fi

www.vinnova.se

www.forskningsradet.no

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths:

- Ensure robust progress and research development;
- The projects was presented and discussed on reputable forums;
- Innovation and technology development in high-demand areas like wireless sensors and short range wireless networks strengthens economic development opportunities;
- Participation of Scandinavian industry in the R&D process will expose commercial value of novel ideas in the field of wireless networking and sensor technology;
- The long duration (5 years) of the project guarantees safe penetration of innovation in Scandinavian industry and strong partnerships with research institutions;
- The presence of leading research institutions and national funding organizations;
- The program is addressed to industry, research institutions and universities;
- The program consolidates technological and economic development of Scandinavian countries.

Weaknesses:

- In the paper there are any concrete results of the program;
- There is a lack of business plan for the transfer of novel ideas from research institutions into the electronics industry;
- How was consensus reached between two participating independent companies (competitive thoughts, competitive advantage would be lost if 2 companies launch the same innovation) joining the project? Was there some extra bonus behind there?

Opportunities:

- Competitive advantage over other European countries through this program;
- The focus to state-of-the art technologies like short-range wireless networks and wireless sensors can create a considerable thrust to productive university-industry collaborations;
- Yearly conferences can be used as a vehicle to elaborate on successful partnerships between industry and academia.

Threats:

- There is not much information about the experience gained from the program;
- There is no strategic planning for creating high technology clusters with the aim for market penetration;
- Critical mass in terms of partners and resources should be guaranteed, otherwise many fruitful ideas can fail to reach the markets.