

{No.9 Vol. 170}

Shanghai Center for Pujiang Innovation Forum

September 22, 2023

2023 Pujiang Innovation Forum Bulletin IX

**Innovation and development in key fields enabled by high-quality
incubator construction**

Editor's Note: The 2023 WeStart Global Entrepreneurial Investment Launch Ceremony and High-Quality Development of Incubators Forum of the Pujiang Innovation Forum 2023, with the theme of "Conduct Unbounded Innovation, and Shape the Future through Integration ", gathered experts from various fields at home and abroad to discuss the high-quality development of incubators in depth. This bulletin summarizes views of guests at the WeStart Global Entrepreneurial Investment Conference for your reference.

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Innovation and development in key fields enabled by high-quality incubator construction

Currently, overall social investment in R&D has risen significantly, and a number of major original achievements have emerged successively. The endogenous power of high-quality development enabled by technology is growing. The change in incubation model is gradually shifting to Version 4.0, and incubators are actively seizing major opportunities such as technological innovation globalization for high-quality development. The experts present agreed that **high-quality incubators are carriers for the in-depth integration of innovation, industry, capital and talent chains, and constructing high-quality incubators can accelerate the development of the entire technological innovation chain, and improve the quality and efficiency of technological entrepreneurship and incubation.**

I. New innovation and development paradigm for high-quality incubators

First, incubators provide a network for resource integration. Xu Tian, Chair Professor in Genetics and Vice President of Westlake University, and Chairman of Fosun Lead, pointed out that hard and soft platforms provided by incubators include office spaces, mentor guidance, financial support, marketing, legal advice, etc. Such comprehensive support helps entrepreneurs overcome various challenges in the entrepreneurship stage and accelerate their growth.

Second, the aggregation effect of incubators accelerates the

transformation of technological achievements. Incubators are typically located at centers of innovation ecosystems, such as technology parks or innovation zones, where a large number of technology companies, venture investors, universities and research institutions gather. A centralized environment is conducive to innovation communication and cooperation, and promotes crossover cooperation and knowledge sharing. **Xu Tian** pointed out that in the cycle of scientific research projects from the generation of research findings to transformation into products, original achievements in basic research are the origin, and the transformation role of incubators is a key step in promoting economic development through technological innovation.

Third, incubators provide a global perspective and help startups expand into the international market. Incubators can provide international market research, international partners and international business strategies. **Xu Jieping, Executive Director and CEO of Plug and Play China,** pointed out that high-quality open innovation incubators can create a highland for technological innovation in Shanghai in the future.

II. Industry upgrading enabled by the "investment + incubation" service system

First, the full chain financial service system drives the higher-quality development of industries. Shanghai has established a technology finance system based on technology credit, technology insurance, equity investment and a multi-level capital market with focus on supporting the development of technology enterprises. It is an

important guarantee for supporting higher-level innovation breakthroughs and driving the higher-quality development of industries. **Mi Lei, Founding Partner of CASSTAR**, pointed out that every financial revolution is accompanied by a technological revolution, and the financial system and venture capital must match technological revolutions. Xu Tian pointed out that U.S. high-tech companies have generated huge profits by combining technology with finance, and the Rothberg converter is a successful case.

Second, high-quality incubators can expand innovation and development paths for major enterprises. The incubator industry has driven a number of leading enterprises in the industry to build professional incubators around their own industry chains, kept giving birth to new products, industries, services and business formats, and become an important front for technological innovation and entrepreneurship. New technologies of incubated enterprises can meet the innovation demand of major enterprises, improve their innovation efficiency, promote the transformation and upgrading of conventional industries, back-feed major enterprises from innovation efforts of small and medium enterprises, promote the integration and development of enterprises of all sizes, accelerate the introduction of achievements, and provide preferential and convenient policies. **Hou Angui, Deputy General Manager and Executive Member of the CPC Committee of China Baowu Steel Group Co., Ltd.**, pointed out that Baowu Group has created a good innovation and entrepreneurship environment, incubated and developed innovation startups, promoted the transformation of technological achievements, and connected all upstream and downstream

breaking points in the industry chain.

Third, technology finance boosts hard technologies and incubates future new industry directions. Incubators help startups explore new fields, innovative technologies and new markets by providing resources, guidance, market insights and an innovation culture, thereby opening up new arenas ultimately. **Mi Lei** pointed out that hard technologies require long-term R&D investment and continual accumulation, and have extremely high technological barriers. Moreover, hard technologies are from innovation in the physical world other than the virtual world, innovation in technology other than model, and innovation in a real economy other than a virtual economy. **Ren Jia, Chairman and General Manager of SIMIC Holdings Co., Ltd.,** pointed out that members of incubation teams should go to scientist teams, and both capital and people should be put into scientist projects together for co-creation with scientists. Capital should be an engine that truly empowers technology incubation. **Zhou Yingying, Director of Research and Analytics, Elsevier Greater China,** stated that data mining can help industrial investors find hot research directions and themes, and explore the latest frontier arenas from forefront research insights.

III. Actively building a high-quality incubation ecosphere

First, give active play to the leading role of policies. Promote financial reform and financial product innovation, and provide full lifecycle financial services to technology enterprises. Deeply expand financial and tax policies, technological resources, capital markets, industry resources, etc. The government should implement targeted

policies to accelerate the aggregation of incubated enterprises. In addition, improve the mechanism for selecting the superior and eliminating the inferior for maker spaces and incubators, and strengthen supervision, evaluation and regulation. The Implementation Plan for Developing High-quality Incubators in Shanghai (issued on July 21) states that it is planned to accelerate the development of a number of high-quality incubators with focused industries, prominent professional capabilities and obvious demonstration effects to drive the transformation of incubators from basic services to targeted services, from aggregating enterprises to creating new industries, and from incubation chains to consolidated ecology, thereby creating two or three technological innovation explosion points with an output value of around 100 billion yuan.

Second, establish a synergy mechanism for incubator innovation factors. A professional incubator brings resources such as technologies, talents and capital together to build a positive and stable operating model, which is crucial for bringing various factors into play in innovation. **Xu Jieping** said that an incubation ecosystem is a base of innovation ecology that combines research institutions, entrepreneurs, capital markets and urban resources. It is very important to combine virtual digital spaces with spatial carriers to provide a platform for close interactions with entrepreneurs and technology companies. Bases, technology incubation and acceleration, and investment should form an organic whole. **Mi Lei** stated that a research and achievement transformation model based on four parts and four integrations should be explored, in which the four parts are suitable leading talents, mature innovative technologies, patient

early-stage capital, and professional scientific and technological innovation services, and the four integrations refer to the integration of technology and finance, technology and services, technology and markets, and research institutions and society.

Third, strive to improve the service level of incubators. High-quality incubators are high-level innovation and entrepreneurship service providers that focus on the origination of high-tech innovation, the transformation of disruptive technological achievements, the incubation of hard technology enterprises, and the integration of all-round resources, with first-class incubation talents being the core driving force. It is crucial to improve the service level and build incubation talent teams. **Qu Yi, Founder and Chairman of Xinze Incubator,** pointed out that we should focus on the technological transformation of high-level research institutions, and incubation should also be upgraded, from more extensive services to original and disruptive innovation serving scientists, and no longer limited to model and application innovation. During incubation, we will experience iteration and upgrading together with scientists in a spiral process, and should have patience and confidence in high-level projects.

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