



**VENTURELAB TWENTE**

**YOUR GATEWAY TO  
SUCCESS IN EUROPE!**

**Now is  
the time...**

**to realise your ambitions**

**VENTURELAB**  
TWENTE



**THE NETHERLANDS**

# HAS YOUR BUSINESS GONE GLOBAL YET?

In an increasingly wired world, adding an international dimension is now within reach of any company. It is becoming almost the same to do business overseas as it is at home, keeping a few things in mind though. New countries have other cultures and regulations. To cope with these differences choosing an entrepreneur-friendly environment is crucial.

([www.money.cnn.com/2007/07/12/magazines/fsb/going\\_global.fsb/](http://www.money.cnn.com/2007/07/12/magazines/fsb/going_global.fsb/))

The Dutch have an impressive track record in “bridging contradictions”.

## VENTURELAB TWENTE

VentureLab Twente, in the Netherlands is ready to be your Gateway to the European market! VentureLab is an ambitious pre-incubator program for high-tech entrepreneurship, embedded in a dynamic entrepreneurial environment. VentureLab includes the facilities and expertise of the University of Twente, the adjoining Business & Science Park and Saxion University of Applied Sciences. For over 25 years business incubation has been a core activity of the University of Twente. Thus appropriate structures and capabilities are in place.

Key aspects of VentureLab: its one year training offer, office facilities, personal coaches, and access to a variety of networks, including high-tech, financial, business, and legal expertise.

## THE VENTURELAB OFFER

VentureLab is a community of entrepreneurs, scientists, and managers and experts from industry and the financial world, brought together with one aim: assisting high-technology, high potential start-ups to develop and reach their full potential.

VentureLab's offers an intensive programme which includes individual and team competence-development. Shaping a business opportunity, developing the business model and writing a business plan, building an entrepreneurial team, and starting the company are all part of the programme. Highly qualified and internationally experienced experts and entrepreneurs offer their expertise as coaches, experts or trainers.





## ACCESS TO NETWORKS

VentureLab is embedded in a dense-networked entrepreneurial environment. Open innovation is embraced. Networks can be dedicated to business, sciences or services exclusively, or be business & science & services platforms. Focal areas in the region are health, food, materials, security and construction. Dedicated incubators specialize in nano technology-related and ICT-related innovation and business development. Regional support organizations have longstanding experience in advising companies in the process of site selection, business or research partner selection, finding office space, production or R&D facilities, as well as on legal, financial, fiscal or funding issues, including work and residence permits.

## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Essential is an ambition to want to own a high-tech high-potential company and the stamina to make it happen!

Appreciation for technology and its opportunities for society are a must. Equally important are team spirit and an interest in performing a clear role in your future business, be it as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, or yet another capacity.

Your background, age, experience or employment status may vary. You may apply with your intended management team, business partners, or as an individual. If your employer is interested in new business development through corporate venturing or overseas venturing, you (and your team) can also apply for VentureLab.

## CONTACT VENTURELAB TWENTE

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## The Netherlands

Fortune Small Business (2007) ranks The Netherlands 22<sup>nd</sup> in the list of the 53 best countries for entrepreneurs, a list that gives equal weighting to the World Bank's Doing Business reports ([www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org)) and the Global entrepreneurship Monitor, 2007 High Growth Entrepreneurship Report ([www.gemconsortium.com](http://www.gemconsortium.com)). In 2007, the Netherlands ranked second as most competitive country in the euro domain ([www.nfia.com/nieuws.html?id=125](http://www.nfia.com/nieuws.html?id=125)) and in 2008 won the Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) ([www.nfia.co.uk/nieuws.html?id=24](http://www.nfia.co.uk/nieuws.html?id=24)).

## Twente region & The University of Twente

The Twente region is within two hours' drive from Amsterdam and borders on two of Germany's largest, highly industrial regions: Nordrhein-Westfalen and Niedersachsen. Since 2004, the increase in turnover of the Twente region has exceeded the national turnover growth percentage by 1% and was 4% in 2007. Export from the Twente region amounted to nearly 8% in 2007, surpassing the national level by nearly 4% (Twente-index, 2008\*).

\* The Twente Index is modeled on The Silicon Valley Index

The university of Twente is the only Campus university in the Netherlands. The University has more than 25 years of experience in supporting start-ups. Over 600 companies have started. Survival rates are higher than average. The university's MESA+ institute is famous as one of the largest nanotechnology research institutes in the world. MESA+ created a perfect habitat for start-ups in the micro- and nano-industry to establish and mature ([www.mesaplus.utwente.nl/](http://www.mesaplus.utwente.nl/)).

## Enschede

VentureLab Twente is based in Enschede, the largest city (155.000) in the region. In the past two centuries, Enschede flourished as the social and economic heart of Twente. Enschede's architectonic wealth is a reflection of the dominant textile industry during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The town is surrounded by country estates, woods, brooks, wooded banks and meadows ([www.enschede.nl/en/welkom/](http://www.enschede.nl/en/welkom/)).