



ECEI 2009



**4th European Conference on
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
University of Antwerp, Belgium
10-11 September 2009**

Conference Chair: Dirk Van Dyck, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Programme Chair: Johan Braet, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Keynote Speakers: Paul Verhaert, Verhaert Space, Belgium
"Integrated product development: a step stone that makes or breaks the valorisation of new findings".

Keynote outline

Innovation is today the edge of competition for the Western world to keep a role in the economy, but will become a universal differentiator in the economy of tomorrow.

The beauty of innovation is that it is in reach of anyone on the planet. It is an endogen capacity of mankind for growth and value creation. It is even to a big extent independent or at least not restricted by access to resources be it human, raw materials, energy or others. It is basically an intellectual exercise shadowing all other competitive advantages that are in most cases only temporary.

Success will be depending on our capability to master the process.

Paul Verhaert

Paul Verhaert founded the Verhaert Company in 1969 to support other companies in developing new products. Over 400 innovative products have been created ever since for different industrial sectors. To fuel the product development activities with top knowledge and state of the art technologies, the company started activities in the space sector in 1984. Today "Verhaert Space" is a prime contractor to the European Space agency to design and build their most advanced small satellites for earth observation and research.

Paul is a Member of the Federal Council for Science Policy of Belgium; Founder of Verhaert New products & services nv and Verhaert Space NV. He also serves a Director of: AGORIA Belgian technology industry association, and several companies devoted to or highly depending on new products development and as Lecturer at UAMS University Antwerp Management School