

## INNOVATION CAMP ST. PETERSBURG CHALLENGE 3: HOW TO ATTRACT RUSSIAN AND INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES TO ITMO HIGHPARK?

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The challenge highlights development of the ITMO Highpark innovation ecosystem in terms of cooperation with Russian and international companies.

A collaborative project of the Russian Government, the Government of St. Petersburg, ITMO University, and businesses and a jointly named new innovative cluster ITMO Highpark is expected to become a most powerful growth driver for St. Petersburg and the nation.

ITMO Highpark is a world-class research, education, and innovation center and the site of ITMO University's second campus, as well as research centers, student dorms, and, in the longer term, a techno-valley and business park.

The idea of establishing a world-class sophisticated research, education, and innovation center under the aegis of ITMO University generated from the lack of infrastructure needed to implement the university's new development strategy: adopted a Master's-PhD university model and focused on world-class R&D.

In order to achieve those goals, it was important for the university to establish close collaboration with businesses, state corporations, and international partners, to create an entrepreneurial environment, and to increase by several times the number of new and successful companies (startups) that employed or were founded by its students.

ITMO Highpark is planned on the territory of the town of Yuzhny in the Pushkin district of St. Petersburg and will include scientific buildings, innovative manufacture facilities, and a business incubator. It is planned to create 50 international laboratories and at least 5 innovative industry companies at the territory.



The Highpark's new innovation cluster will tackle the challenges in IT, photonics and quantum technologies, robotics and cyberphysical systems, biomedical technologies and smart materials. The R&D centers of ITMO Highpark's resident companies and ITMO University's laboratories will develop new technologies and solutions. In this manner, the cluster will become a testing ground and point of origin for new knowledge and its commercialization. The performance of ITMO Highpark and its residents will aim to develop markets such as: urban studies, safe/smart cities, the exploration of new territories, extreme environments, virtual worlds, and creative industries.

Besides including a new campus of ITMO University, ITMO Highpark is an urban innovation hub designed to build the interaction between universities, research organizations and companies and with strong engagement of the community in St.Petersburg and beyond.

At the core of ITMO Highpark is the combination and fusion of education, science, and business. Its mission and vision are focused on unlocking human potential and establishing an ecosystem conducive to the growth of talent, quality of life, and capital. It is fully consistent with the Strategy of the socio-economic development of St. Petersburg 2035. One of the aims of developing the ITMO Highpark innovation ecosystem is to attract Russian and international companies to Highpark and create effective tools and infrastructures for the development of startups.

**DESIRED OUTCOME:** recommendations on a set of tools for developing the ITMO Highpark innovation ecosystem in terms of attracting Russian and international companies to Highpark and developing startups.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:** ITMO Highpark project aims to achieve St. Petersburg's leading position in the above listed technologies and can impact its economy growth.

**EXISTING DIFFICULTIES:** existing economic and communication barriers that make it impossible to make long-term investments in science and business partnerships.