

Excelsus Structural Solutions as an Intermediary between Industry and Advanced Analytical Services based at Large Facilities

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Outline

I. About Excelsus Structural Solutions

- How the company was born
- Company organization
- Company mission and strategy

II. How does the company operate?

- Who are Excelsus' customers?
- A case study: successful collaboration with Novartis Pharma

About Excelsus Structural Solutions (ESS)

- ❑ **ESS SPRL** founded in Brussels in March 2012 as a spin-off company of the Paul Scherrer Institute PSI (Fabia Gozzo, founder)
- ❑ Partnership with Excelsus Scientific Engineering and part of Excelsus Consortium
- ❑ **ESS (Swiss) AG** founded in February 2014 in Brugg, Switzerland. Since **April 2016**, part of the **Switzerland Innovation PARK INNOVAARE:**



NEWS OVERVIEW

PARK INNOVAARE WELCOMES EXCELSUS STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS

13.5.16

Excelsus Structural Solutions (Swiss) AG, Villigen, a spin-off company of the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), has moved to PARK INNOVAARE's deliveryLAB. Focusing on industrial R&D, Excelsus offers synchrotron-radiation-based analytical services to the industry, with emphasis on pharmaceuticals, food and chemicals.

Excelsus Structural Solutions (Swiss) AG received a warm welcome as a new resident high-tech company of PARK INNOVAARE from Prof. Daniel Kündig, CEO of PARK INNOVAARE, and Dr. Giorgio Travaglini, Head of the PSI Technology Transfer department. On April 27th, they met with Dr. Fabia Gozzo, founder and CEO of Excelsus, for a short ceremony at PARK INNOVAARE to symbolically mount the company's name plate on the outside wall of its new headquarters.

Excelsus provides a novel approach to synchrotron-based structural analyses.

Excelsus offers a fast, easy and affordable access to state-of-the-art characterization tools for the structural and microstructural analysis of materials (pharmaceuticals, food and aroma

Dr. Fabia Gozzo (founder and CEO of Excelsus AG), Prof. Daniel Kündig (CEO of PARK INNOVAARE) and Dr. Giorgio Travaglini (Head of the PSI Technology Transfer department)



Press Release

PARK INNOVAARE welcomes Excelsus Structural Solutions

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<https://www.parkinnovaare.ch/park-innovaare-welcomes-excelsus-structural-solutions>

<https://www.parkinnovaare.ch/dr-fabia-goazo-our-customers-come-from-all-over-the-world>

← Blog Overview

DR. FABIA GOZZO: "OUR CUSTOMERS COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD."

3.6.16

INTERVIEW WITH DR. FABIA GOZZO, FOUNDER AND CEO OF EXCELSUS STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS (SWISS) AG

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Dr. Fabia Gozzo (Photo: Scanderbag Sauer Photography)



Fact Sheet

Excelsus Structural Solutions (Swiss) AG

Company's mission: A spin-off company of the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland, Excelsus Structural Solutions (Swiss) AG offers fast, easy and affordable access to state-of-the-art characterization tools for the structural and microstructural analysis of materials (pharmaceuticals, food and aroma compounds, pigments, polymers as well as various other chemicals), for the selection, development and manufacturing of high-quality products. Excelsus' mission is to make the synchrotron X-Ray Powder Diffraction technique, traditionally reserved to experts, available to industrial customers irrespective of their prior knowledge, by offering a full service, ranging from the experimental design and sample preparation to data collection, analysis and comprehensive interpretation.

Excelsus Structural Solutions' organization

- Fabia Gozzo, founder (September 2011 – present)

ESS s.p.r.l. Belgium & ESS (Swiss) AG, Switzerland

- Paolo Mazzeo (March 2014 – present)

ESS (Swiss) AG, Switzerland

- Andrea Prodi (June 2015-May 2016)

ESS s.p.r.l. Belgium → position is being opened in Brussels

- Mathilde Reinle-Schmitt (July 2016-present)

ESS (Swiss) AG, Switzerland

- Ruggero Frison (October 2016- present)

ESS (Swiss) AG, Switzerland

Both in Belgium and in Switzerland, shared accounting offices

Excelsus' Mission

The company's mission is to offer the industry **fast**, **efficient** and **affordable** access to **synchrotron radiation-based *state-of-the-art* analytical services** for structural and microstructural analyses of materials for the selection, development and manufacturing of high-quality products.

❑ Scientific consulting on:

- ❖ Synchrotron x-ray powder diffraction analysis at the SLS
- ❖ Coordination of the access to other techniques and advanced quantum mechanical calculations

Excelsus' strategy

- ❑ *Create the need* for synchrotron-radiation based analytical services by demonstrating how real problems can be tackled and solved
 - ❖ At modern synchrotron facilities (e.g. SLS, ESRF, Alba, Diamond) efficient Technology Transfer offices exist → industrial customers can access SR facilities relatively fast and without submitting proposals.
 - ❖ Executing a *measurement* for industry is however RARELY enough → synergy between the synchrotron expert and the industrial partner is paramount and the key of success!

NOT *measurements*, but *experiments* each tailored to customer need!

- example of the case study

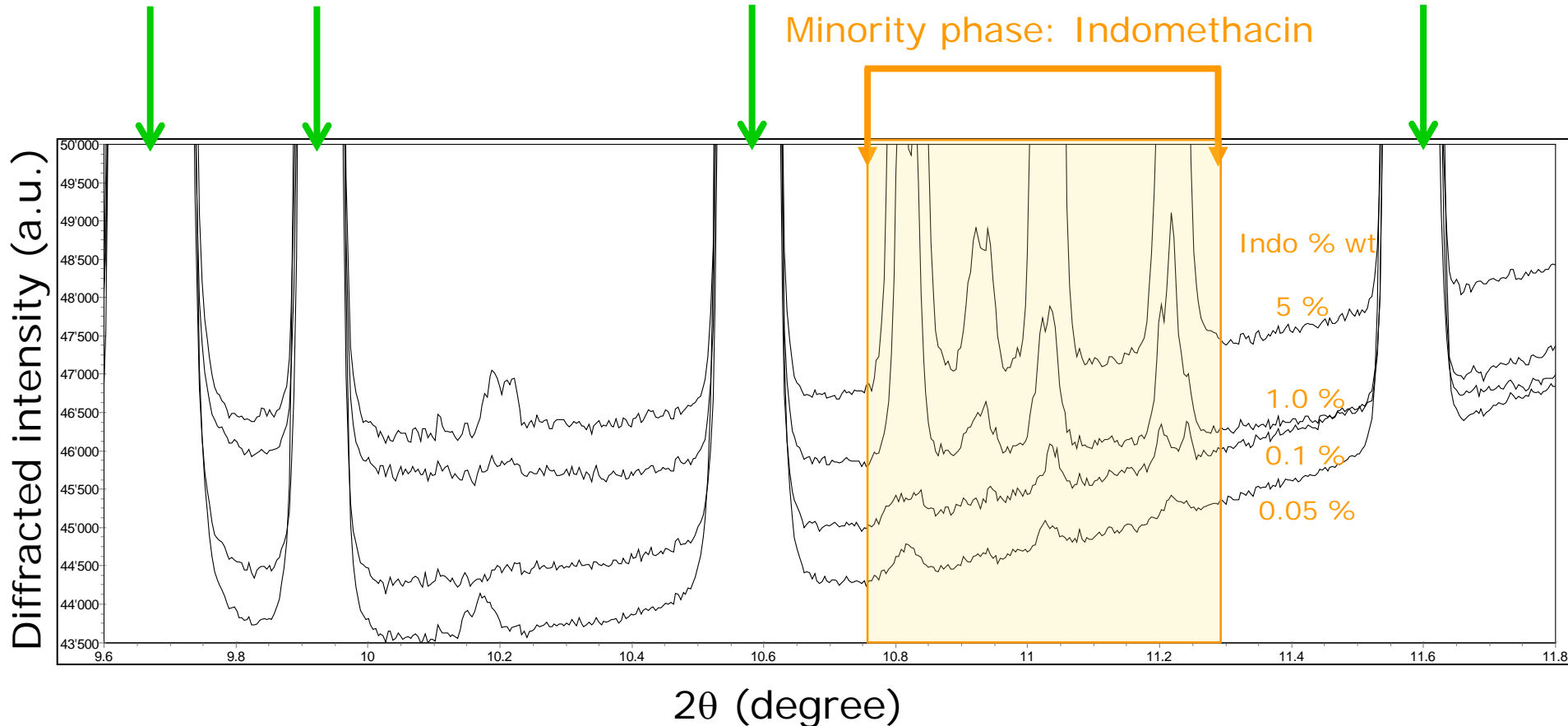
Excelsus' strategy (cont.)

- ❑ Direct and close contact with customers, get in tune with their needs
 - ❖ Implementation of a professional system of so-called Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- ❑ Keep **R&D a high priority** so to constantly develop new experimental set ups and methods of analysis specifically designed to answer industrial needs. Examples:
 - ❖ QPA of traces in formulated drugs

QPA of a binary API physical mixtures with fast SR-XRPD

Majority phase (intensity up to 1.5 M counts): Haloperidol

Minority phase: Indomethacin



Excelsus' strategy (cont.)

- Keep **R&D a high priority** so to constantly develop new experimental set ups and methods of analysis specifically designed to answer industrial needs. Examples:
 - ❖ QPA of traces in formulated drugs
 - ❖ Identification of an Internal Standard for pharmaceutical applications for absolute QPA
 - ❖ *In-situ* time-resolved kinetic studies of phase transformation with virtually any kind of firing profiles
 - ❖ Combined synchrotron and electron-diffraction for the structural analysis of nanocrystalline and amorphous drugs (EUROSTARS project)

Innoviris, un soutien financier pour vos partenariats internationaux

Bruxelles, petite région par sa taille, mais qui en matière d'entrepreneuriat peut clairement concurrencer les plus grandes. Avec ses 51 institutions d'enseignement supérieur et près de 13.000 chercheurs, la capitale de l'Europe dispose de bien des connaissances pour permettre aux entreprises innovantes de se développer et d'être actives. Et elles sont nombreuses à l'avoir compris... Selon les derniers chiffres du Bureau Fédéral du Plan, plus de la moitié des entreprises bruxelloises sont actives dans la RDI. Cela représente près de 8% de plus que la moyenne européenne. Bruxelles possède donc un énorme potentiel, mais elle doit oser sortir de ses frontières. Pour ce faire, Innoviris, l'Institut bruxellois pour la recherche et l'innovation, aide les entrepreneurs innovants dans leur quête de partenariats internationaux par le biais d'un éventail de financements et de programmes européens pour soutenir le secteur de la R&D.



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Un soutien financier sur mesure

Quel genre de programme Innoviris finance-t-il ?

En complément aux aides régionales et nationales à la R&D, il existe au niveau européen une large palette de programmes. Les financements peuvent venir de l'Union Européenne, des agences de financement nationales ou être issus d'un cofinancement impliquant l'Union et les agences nationales.

Le programme de financement pour le secteur RDI le plus connu est celui de la Commission Européenne, Horizon 2020. Ce programme dispose d'un budget de 79 milliards d'euros pour la période 2014-2020 afin de soutenir les projets des acteurs de la recherche et de l'innovation dans les thématiques jugées prioritaires en Europe. Innoviris soutient les candidats bruxellois via un financement de la phase de montage des projets.

Parallèlement à ce programme, Innoviris dispose d'un important budget pour soutenir des projets collaboratifs innovants orientés marché et donnant une place prépondérante aux entreprises. Ce réseau réunissant 41 pays, appelé EUREKA, fonctionne principalement selon une approche bottom-up ouverte, sans limitation des thématiques technologiques.

Eurostars, un programme européen en phase avec la réalité bruxelloise

Dans une industrie qui compte de très nombreuses PME, le programme Eurostars, qui fait partie du réseau EUREKA, est complètement en phase avec ce fait. De par la taille

réduite des projets introduits et son fort taux de succès, Eurostars permet à des PME n'ayant jamais participé à un projet européen mais démontrant d'un très haut potentiel d'innovation technologique, d'avoir une première expérience de collaboration internationale. L'objectif de ce programme est le développement d'un nouveau produit, procédé ou service technologiquement innovant, en vue d'une commercialisation rapide.

Nanomegas et Excelsus Structural Solutions, deux entreprises bruxelloises dans un projet Eurostars

Nanomegas développe et commercialise des outils hardware et software à destination des microscopes électroniques à transmission (TEM) et propose actuellement une gamme de solutions permettant la précession pour la diffraction électronique.

Excelsus Structural Solutions propose, quant à elle, des services de consultance dans le domaine de l'analyse structurelle et micro-structurelle des matériaux en utilisant le synchrotron et la technique de diffraction des rayons X par les poudres.

Le projet, en collaboration avec Boras, PME norvégienne, a comme objectif d'adapter une méthode d'analyse, basée sur la mesure des distances entre paires d'atomes, utilisée largement pour la caractérisation sur synchrotron de matériaux inorganiques, sur un microscope à transmission électronique afin de caractériser les phases amorphes de composés. Cette méthode associera une solution software et un détecteur hardware adaptables sur ce type de microscopes. Non seulement ce projet a comme objectif le développement d'une méthodologie combinée rayons X- électrons, mais il a également pour but de rendre la méthode apte à l'utilisation industrielle et donc accessible pour les entreprises à un coût compétitif. Grâce au financement Eurostars, Excelsus Structural Solutions et Nanomegas ont pu renforcer le staff scientifique pour se concentrer sur les aspects scientifiques du transfert de cette technologie et donc, de ce fait, affiner leurs compétences. Par ailleurs, ceci a rendu possible des efforts de R&D normalement difficiles pour des PME car non rentables à court-terme.

Appearing soon in the BECI
(Brussels Chamber of
Commerce) magazine



Excelsus' strategy (cont.)

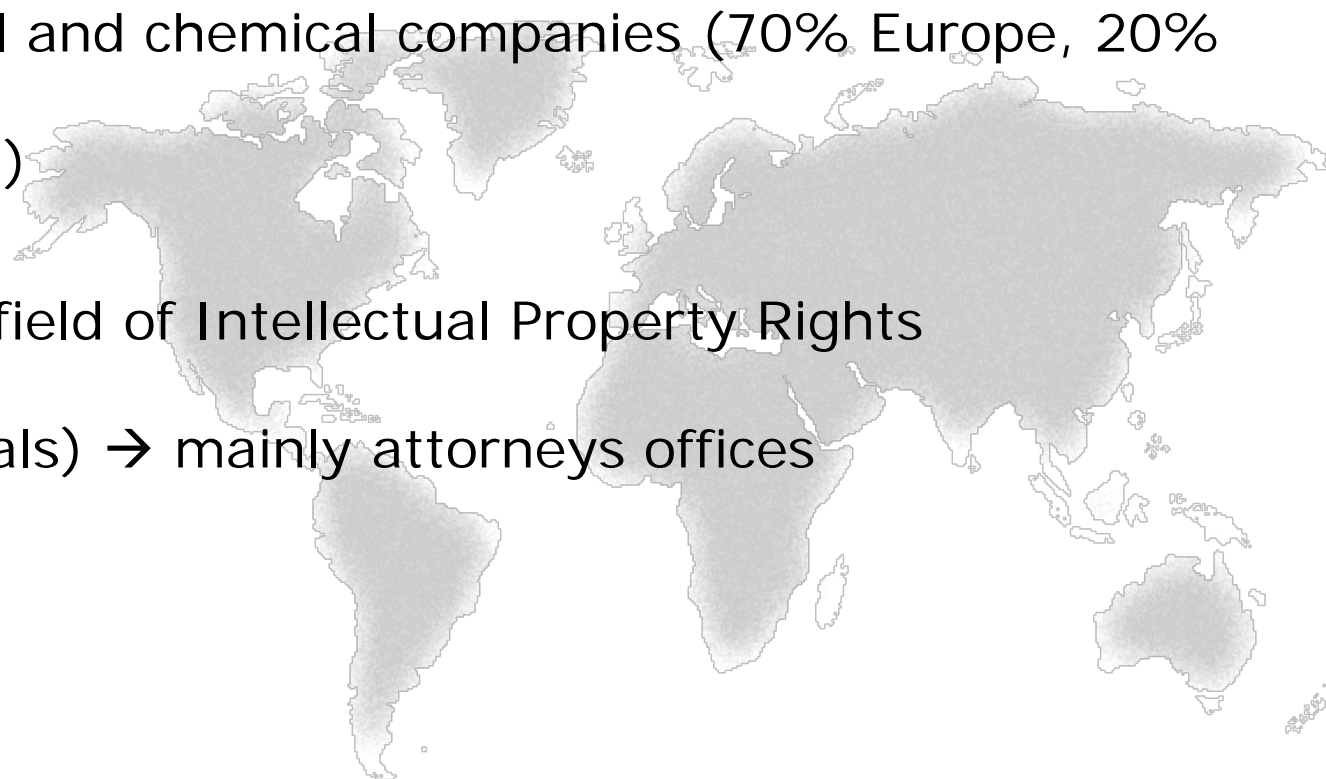
- ❑ Efficient communication tools, visibility at events
- ❑ A minimum of 2 scientists on-site at the synchrotron facility – presently only at the SLS, planned at other facilities



Who are Excelsus' customers?

- ❑ Large, medium and small companies, primarily pharmaceutical and chemical companies (70% Europe, 20% USA, 10% Asia)

- ❑ Experts in the field of Intellectual Property Rights (pharmaceuticals) → mainly attorneys offices



Case study: collaboration with Novartis Pharma

Restricted distribution

corresponding slides will not be shared

Acknowledgments

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- ❑ **Arturo Araque**, Excelsus Scientific Engineering, USA
- ❑ **Industrial customers**: Arnaud Grandeury (Novartis Pharma), Bernd Hinrichsen (BASF)
- ❑ **Ian Madsen & Nikki Scarlett** (CSIRO, Australia), **C. Giannini & co-workers** (IC-CNR-Bari, Italy), **A. Fitch** (ESRF, Grenoble, France) and many others

The Excelsus Structural Solutions Team

- ❑ **Fabia Gozzo**, founder and director of ESS Swiss and Belgium
- ❑ **Paolo Mazzeo**, Excelsus Structural Solutions (Swiss) AG
- ❑ **Andrea Prodi**, Excelsus Structural Solutions SPRL
- ❑ **Ruggero Frison**, starting October 1st, 2016



Thank you for your attention!

