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NEWS ITEMS

International Conference "Global Project InnoCentive: Unique Possibilities for Russian Scientific Community"

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November 19, 2002 in the Mendeleev Scientific Center was held a scientific conference organized by the St. Petersburg State University, InnoCentive Company, and St. Petersburg Division of the Mendeleev Chemical Society. Over 150 scientists from Russia, USA, and Germany took part in the conference. One of the topics of the session was discussion of the future of scientific collaboration between chemists and biologists within the framework of a project suggested by InnoCentive.

The InnoCentive international forum of scientists came up with a proposal to use the resources of Internet in the search for solution of scientific problems. At present over 16000 of scientists from over a hundred of countries (among them Germany, USA, China, etc.) participate in the project. The unique feature of InnoCentive consists first of all in the fact that it is the first on-line organization that bases its activities on the modern stimulation system. It proposes companies looking for solution of the most complicated scientific problems an access to the best researchers of the world. Examples of problems that are met now by the leading world pharmaceutical companies are published on the site *www.innocentive.com.*.

At the opening of the conference the Deputy Rector of the University Prof. V.N. Troyan outlined the outstanding possibility both for our Professors and young scientists to apply their rich potential and to share with international scientific community their interesting ideas. Academician A.I. Rusanov, Vice-President of the Mendeleev Russian Chemical Society, also stressed the point that the project "obviously will accelerate the progress of Russian science as a whole." K.N. Zelenin, Academician of the Military Medical Academy, reported new suggestions on the participation of St. Petersburg scientists in InnoCentive programs.

In the course of the conference the scientists of St. Petersburg were able to meet the founders of the InnoCentive project and to make acquaintance with Russian and foreign researchers who already had experience in successful solution of a number of problems.

Dr. J. Panetta, Chief Researcher of InnoCentive, remarked that the scientific potential of Russian scientists is very high, and their involvement into the InnoCentive project would significantly extend the boarders of the world scientific community and increase the efficiency in solving complex problems. The Chairman of the administration of Innocentive, Dr. A. Bingham, believes that the activity of the forum in Russia may result in revolutionary changes in the existing Russian research & development system. He said: "Everybody knows that Russia is rich in scientific talents but the financing of science is too poor, and, therefore, the scientists cannot completely show their potential. Innocentive in its turn proposes an excellent solution of this problem."

The detailed information on financial, legal, and business conditions of the work in the framework of the InnoCentive project was outlined in the reports of the Vice-President in Marketing A. Husein and Executive Director of the Company D. Carrol.

Further lectures were delivered by active participants of this project. Dr. K. Schmid reported on the development of an original synthesis of triazolone, an important product used in pharmaceutical industry, that was done with participation of InnoCentive. Russian scientist V.N. Belov gave detailed information on the successful development of a new synthetic procedure for an important semiproduct applied in drug production. Another Russian scientist, K.V. Kudryavtsev, also shared his experience of participation as chemist in the solution of problems formulated by InnoCentive.

At the conference red lectures also the Correspond-

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ing Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor S.G. Inge-Vechtomov ("Contribution of Molecular Biology to Human Health and Ecology in the North-Western Russia"), and Professor A.F. Khlebnikov ("Modern Organic Synthesis and New Synthetic Developments at the St. Petersburg University"). Professor B.A. Ivin (Saint-Petersburg Pharmaceutical Academy) told about new trends in preparation of biologically active compounds, and Professor V.A. Ostrovskii (St. Petersburg Institute of Technology) delivered a report on advances in tetrazole chemistry in Russia, summing up the most recent results concerning this important class of biologically active compounds.

The conference was the first step to including scientists of St. Petersburg and Russia into the international community joined by the world-wide web and solving urgent synthetic problems of chemistry and biology.