

## Press release

### The Eibar town council, BIC Gipuzkoa and IK4-TEKNIKER will set up a new technological incubator in the Bajo Deba district

- ▶▶ *The Eibar town council and IK4-TEKNIKER sign an agreement to set up a company incubator at the technology centre's headquarters*
- ▶▶ *The Eibar town council will provide the funding required to refurbish the new facilities to be opened in March 2017*
- ▶▶ *BIC Gipuzkoa will provide support through its knowledge and expertise*

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(Eibar, Basque Country. 9 December, 2016).- In an increasingly competitive industrial environment it is imperative to further innovation, foster the creation of high-technology companies and develop new business models.

It is within this context that the [Eibar town council](#) and [IK4-TEKNIKER](#) have signed an agreement whose goal is to set up an incubator for technologically advanced firms at the technology centre's headquarters in Eibar (Gipuzkoa).

The aim of the compromise reached by both organisations, also supported by the [BIC Gipuzkoa](#) centre for innovative businesses, is to foster the development of emerging companies in the Bajo Deba district

The agreement was initialled this morning by the mayor of Eibar, Miguel De los Toyos and by the Managing Director of IK4-TEKNIKER, Alejandro Bengoa. Marisa Arriola, the Managing Director of BIC Gipuzkoa, was also present at the event that took place at the technology centre's headquarters.

The document stipulates a payment of 200,00 euros by the Eibar town council to refurbish facilities that will be inaugurated in March 2017.

### **A home for innovation**

Under the management of BIC Gipuzkoa, the new incubator will offer space to emerging technological companies already working in fields that are not only strategic in terms of local industrial development but also deliver high added value required with regard to terms of advanced manufacturing, energy, bioengineering or digitisation.

The technological incubator, that will occupy level -2 of the IK4-TEKNIKER building, will be sufficiently large to accommodate a maximum of six new start-ups. In addition to the space already occupied by BIC Gipuzkoa, [Atten2](#), a company specialised in developing, manufacturing and marketing online optical sensors, is one of the firms that will be moving to the new facilities.

### **Committed to the environment**

The agreement clearly depicts the level of commitment of all three parties as regards boosting competitiveness in an area traditionally associated with the industrial sector so it can become a landmark representing the economic development of Gipuzkoa.

In the words of Miguel De los Toyos, “the three organisations have been working on this project for over a year and the political agreement reached by PSE-EE and EAJ-PNV has made it possible to secure the necessary funding in 2016”. De los Toyos also underscores that one of the main goals for the Town Council is related “to creating an innovative and competitive business fabric that is able to create new quality jobs and build innovative environments in which new business initiatives can be launched”.

“IK4-TEKNIKER hopes that the project will make it easier to generate spin-offs and businesses born as an extension to the technology centre itself. Another goal is “to allow advanced technologies to be transferred to the business fabric of our geographic area”, as stated by Bengoa after signing the agreement.

BIC Gipuzkoa, a centre supported by the [Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa](#) and [SPRI](#), will have its own space at the new facilities from where it will be able to meet the specific needs of entrepreneurs.

Marisa Arriola states that “our organisation will provide its knowledge and expertise as well as public support instruments to to foster entrepreneurship, intra-entrepreneurship, diversification and open innovation in Eibar”.

Likewise, BIC Gipuzkoa also believes that by supporting investments related to R&D&I and boosting internationalisation and new economic sectors or furthering open innovation, it will be possible to develop new strategies to better position the territory “in order to address the complexities related to current global economic dynamics more appropriately”.

The joining of forces between the Eibar town Council, BIC Gipuzkoa and IK4-TEKNIKER also intends to further the development and consolidation of the Gipuzkoa Technology Park.

#### **Concerning IK4-TEKNIKER**

With more than 30 years of experience in applied technology research that has been transferred to companies, IK4-TEKNIKER has achieved a high degree of specialisation in four major areas (Advanced Manufacturing, Surface Engineering, Product Engineering and ICTs). This means that its cutting edge know-how has been made available to customers to meet their requirements.

#### **Concerning BIC Gipuzkoa**

The BIC Gipuzkoa Centre for Business and Innovation, an organisation jointly owned by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa and SPRI, has more than 20 years of experience as a facilitator in the creation of innovative businesses. It is, in fact, a landmark organisation in terms of the territory’s entrepreneurship ecosystem and has established a network of alliances with universities, businesses, technology centres, public and private institutions to speed up the transformation of ideas into business projects.

### Further information

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