

AmCham.Pl QUARTERLY

The official magazine of the American Chamber of Commerce
in Poland



4/2020

VOL III, No. 4 • ISSN 2545-322X

FOCUS:

The Greatest Contemporary Innovators Project

EVER SINCE ITS INCEPTION 30 YEARS AGO, ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL FUNCTIONS OF AMCHAM HAS BEEN TO MAINTAIN PLATFORMS FOR SHARING PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS. THERE ARE SEVERAL SUCH PLATFORMS, INCLUDING AMCHAM MONTHLY MEETINGS, THE AMCHAM COMMITTEES, AND ONLINE EXPERT DISCUSSIONS.

IN THIS DISPATCH WE WRITE ABOUT A NEW ONLINE MENTORING PROGRAM FROM **THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ARP**, WHICH OFFERS FRESH IDEAS ON INNOVATION AND BUSINESS FROM WORLD LEADING PRACTITIONERS.

FOCUS

The Greatest Contemporary Innovators Project

MEET SUCCESSFUL INNOVATORS

A NEW ONLINE MENTORING PROGRAM FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, ARP, OFFERS FRESH IDEAS ON INNOVATION AND BUSINESS FROM SOME OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PRACTITIONERS

As the world is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is a common expectation that the reality after the pandemic will include positive perspectives for growth. It is a universal expectation that the world will be very different from the one we used to know. There is hope it will be filled with innovative thinkers with new ideas that will help battle the negative effects of the crisis.

INSPIRATION FROM SUCCESS

The need to make a better world after the pandemic was why Paweł Pacek and Bartosz Sokoliński, both directors at the government-run Industrial Development Agency (ARP), came up with the idea for WEinnovators.club and "The Greatest Contemporary Innovators" project. They compiled a list of experts who had been involved in some of the most innovative projects and behind the success of some of the most innovative companies. The experts have a variety of perspectives and come from academic, business, and technological backgrounds. After compiling the list, Pacek and Sokoliński invited the experts to speak online about their experience and current work and share insights on different aspects of innovation and their visions of the future.

The response was positive, and that was how the ARP's Greatest Contemporary Innovators Project came into being. It is dedicated to students, startup founders, academic lecturers, and corporate professionals in Poland as well as other European countries.

"It's no secret that the center of global innovation is located in the US," said Pacek. "Our aim is to not only introduce new technologies to the local market but also to inspire people to develop new business ideas and management theories," Pacek said.

TOP EXPERTS

More than half of the speakers at WEinnovators.club come from the USA. That is why, Pacek noted, the series of webinars became an ambassador of American business and science in Poland and Europe. "We are extremely proud to present lecturers from the most renowned American universities as well as representatives of the most innovative companies," Pacek said. "So far, we have had 26 webinars with icons including Prof. Rita McGrath, Alexander Osterwalder, Prof. Sir Andrew Likierman, Dr. Luc Julia, Paul Misener, Prof. Vivek Wadhwa, Dr. David Hanson, and many others!" Each webinar is hosted by an expert from Poland, who moderates

the Q&A session that takes place after the presentation.

PARTICIPATE ONLINE!

Each conference is streamed live on YouTube (on the WEinnovators.club channel) and Facebook (Sieć Otwartych Innowacji). The recording of each webinar is posted on

WEinnovators.club. Those who want to be updated on upcoming events can subscribe to a newsletter on the website as well.

There are two speakers scheduled to present before the winter break: on December 9, Prof. Mark Esposito from Harvard University will share his thoughts on recent innovations, and on January 13, the speaker will be Eric Schurenberg, CEO, Mansueto Ventures—the publisher of *Inc. Magazine* and *FastCompany*. Anyone can take part in each online session, and the organizers are open to new speakers, including from the American business community in Poland. AmCham members who would like to submit their speaker candidates should contact Paweł Pacek at pawel.pacek@arp.pl.