Linköping Science Park (SE): A hub for knowledge sharing

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LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY

LINKÖPING SCIENCE PARK

Some facts about Linköping Science Park (LSP):

- Established in 1984
- Hosts more than 600 companies in diverse industry sectors, employing approximately 14.000 people
- Support for start-ups and scale-ups
- Strong university connection
- Encompasses multiple innovation areas and entrepreneurial ecosystems
- Municipally owned
- The tech industry in region, with LSP as a driving force, grew by 427% between 2000 and 2021, the highest growth rate in Sweden

The growth and development of LSP has not been a 'linear' process

- The "real estate crisis" in the early 1990s slowed LSP's development, and led the property owner to consider renting out to companies outside LSP's vision, challenging its tech-driven focus
- The burst of the IT bubble in the early 2000s, which significantly affected many tech companies in the park
- The global financial crisis of 2008, which led to reduced investments and increased uncertainty for innovation-driven firms

Best practices at LSP

- **IndX** - industry–start-up collaboration platform involving scouting, pitch events, and the development of funded pilot projects in areas such as AI, automation, and sustainability.
- **Swedish scale-ups** - a regional growth initiative supporting companies in eastern central Sweden to reach a turnover of approximately €8.5 million by sharing networks, knowledge, and capital across regional borders.
- **Soft transit and soft landing** - support services and initiatives designed to help start-ups, scale-ups, and international companies smoothly enter, establish, and grow within the regional innovation ecosystem
- **The shadow board** - a student-led advisory group established to provide fresh perspectives on workplace expectations and to bridge the gap between university students and the park's leadership, thereby supporting talent attraction and retention

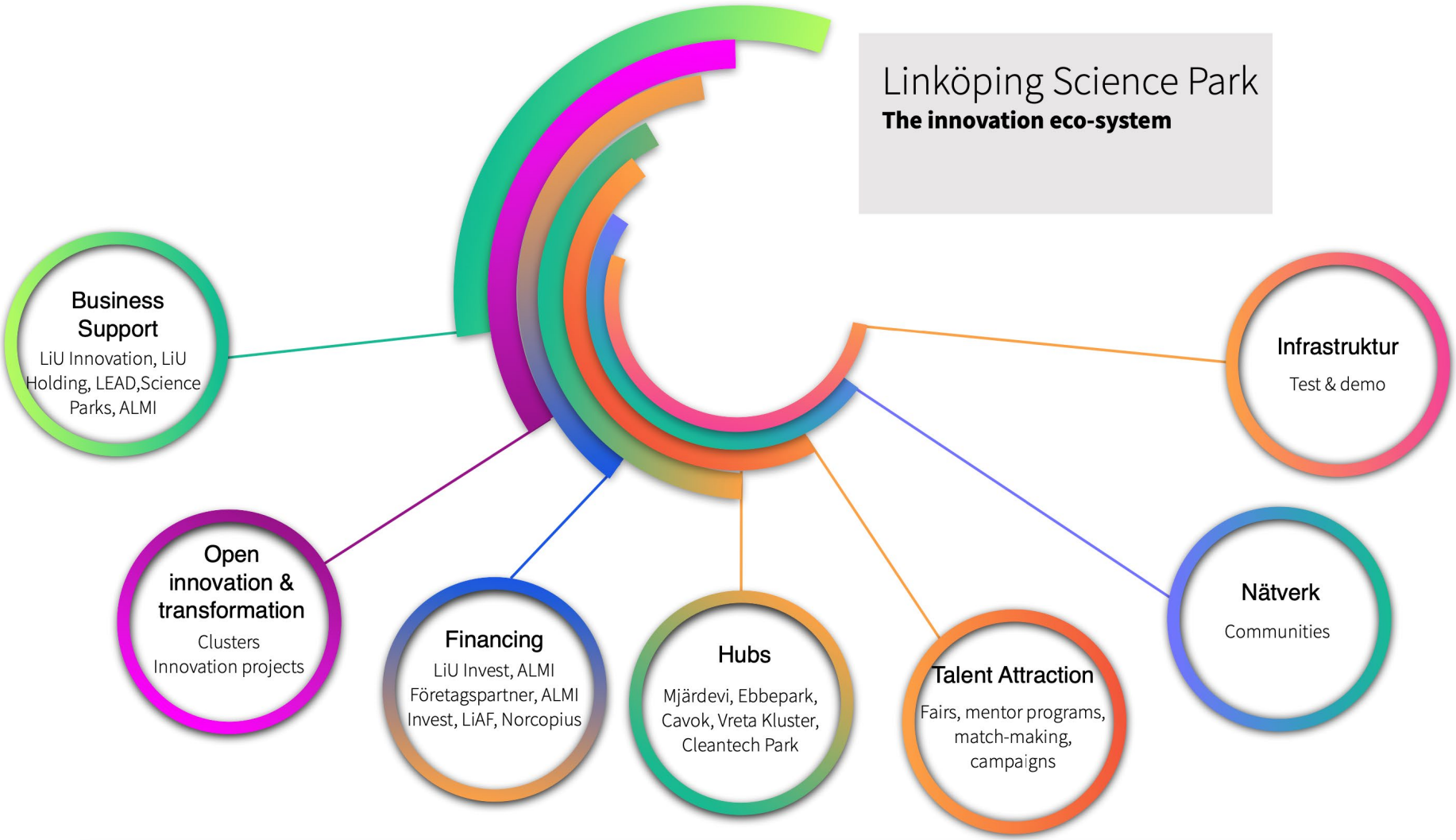
Collaboration with academia – a 'Dyadic relationship'

- **Student collaboration and talent development** - thesis and recruitment fairs, Science Pop Up Expo, career workshops for international students, and initiatives connecting students with companies through matching events and projects

- **Entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development** - supports student initiatives, partnerships with the innovation office, the business incubator, and the Scaleups programme for knowledge-intensive growth firms

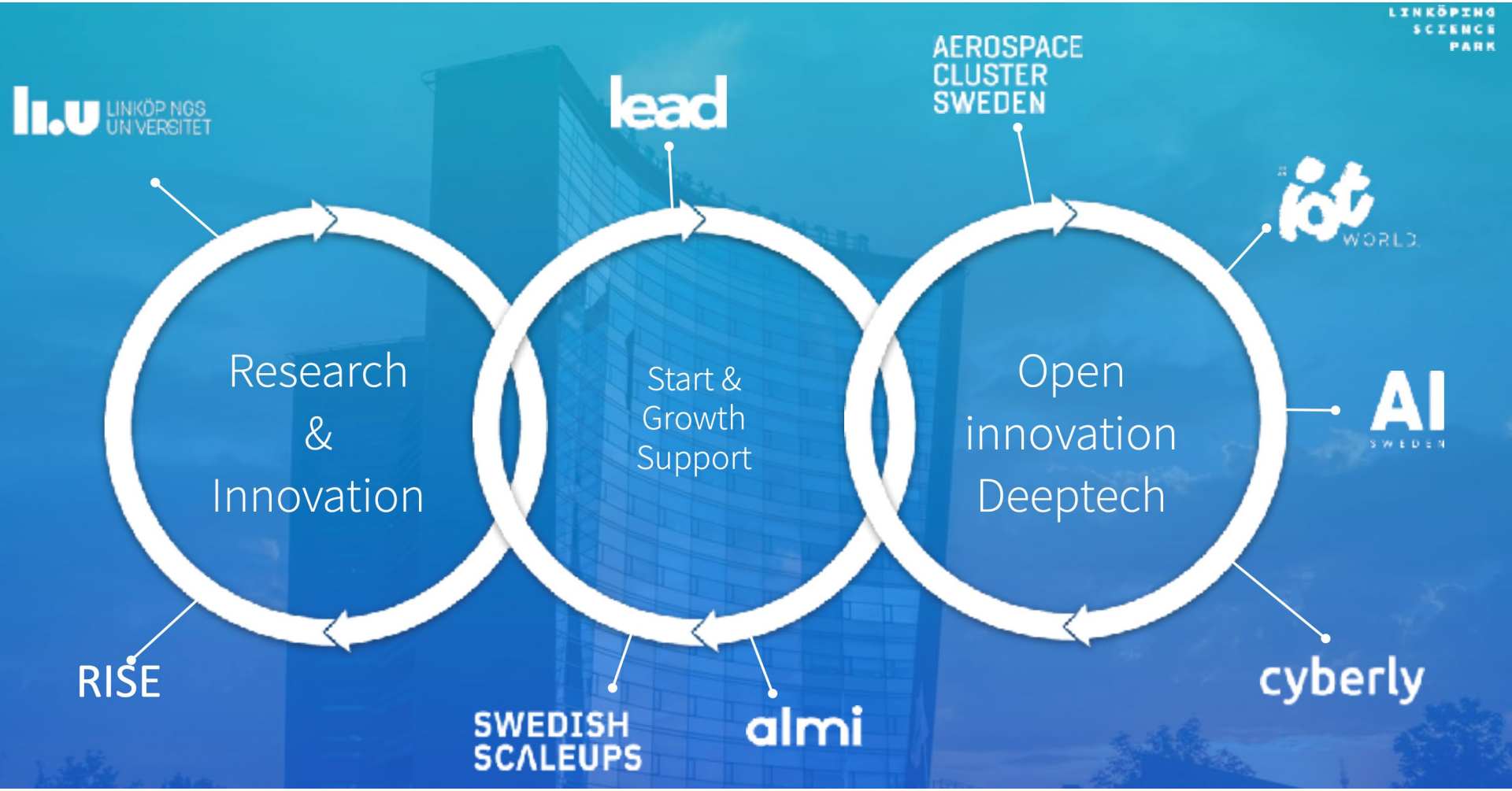
- **Lifelong learning and open innovation** - coordinates visual intelligence technologies and lifelong learning efforts, including the 'Digital Competence for Business Competitiveness' project with university-led modules.

LSP's innovation eco-system (1)



LSP and its innovation eco-system (2)

LSP and its innovation eco-system (3)



Opportunities through international science park networks

- **Membership in global networks** - join organisations like IASP to expand international collaboration, share best practices, and access global expertise.
- **Collaborative innovation and staff exchange** - participate in benchmarking visits, staff exchange programmes, and innovation challenges to foster cross-border partnerships and knowledge transfer.
- **International events and training** - joint panels, co-develop training modules, and present in English to promote professional development and global knowledge sharing.
- **Increased visibility and market access** - strengthen local competitiveness by learning from diverse ecosystems, while opening pathways to new technologies, markets, and funding opportunities.

Three recent papers on SP's and university collaborations

- Löfsten, H., & Klofsten, M. (2024). Exploring dyadic relationships between Science Parks and universities: bridging theory and practice. *Journal of Technology Transfer*, 49(5), 1914-1934.

- Löfsten, H., Klofsten, M., & Cadorin, E. (2020). Science Parks and talent attraction management: university students as a strategic resource for innovation and entrepreneurship*. European Planning Studies*, 28(12), 2465-2488.

- Germain, E., Klofsten, M., Löfsten, H., & Mian, S. (2023). Science parks as key players in entrepreneurial ecosystems. *R&D Management*, *53*(4), 603-619.