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## **Idea4Azoty – Grupa Azoty’s innovative accelerator. A programme combining crowdsourcing, networking and startups.**

**Grupa Azoty has launched the Idea4Azoty programme, a platform for exchanging highly innovative ideas. Regardless of their stage, submitted projects stand a chance of receiving full support – from subsidies of up to PLN 20m to infrastructure and consultancy services. The accelerator programme is the first initiative of this type on the Polish market. Its beneficiaries will include not only the chemical industry, but also providers of new technologies and services in such areas as environmental protection, agriculture, engineering and biotechnology. The programme was officially launched on November 17th 2017, during the second edition of the 590 Congress in Rzeszów.**

“Our long-standing cooperation with universities, research institutes and technology providers has allowed us to perfectly identify the needs of these communities. Now, in order to meet their expectations, we are launching Idea4Azoty, a programme that I believe will facilitate the flow of information and effectively reduce the time it takes to develop innovative and implementable solutions. I hope that this new development in the chemical industry will give rise to modern technological, product and service solutions, dedicated not only to the industry in which Grupa Azoty operates, but also to related sectors,” said Grzegorz Kądziałowski, Vice President of the Grupa Azoty Management Board, in an opening speech.

The programme is addressed to academic and research institutions, as well as innovators, operating individually or in consortia. Depending on project stage, the programme offers subsidies of up to PLN 20m per project, mentoring, infrastructural support, legal advisory services and the opportunity to implement the most unique

and innovative solutions appropriate for Grupa Azoty's business areas.

Specialist research on new products from the chemical industry will be conducted at the Research and Development Centre in Tarnów, currently under construction. Equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, the Centre will be the main provider of infrastructure and advisory services for the programme participants.

You can apply for the programme at [www.idea4azoty.pl](http://www.idea4azoty.pl). Projects are selected in a two-stage assessment process, carried out on an ongoing basis. Grupa Azoty wants to be not only a beneficiary of national projects for development and education, but also their active participant, or even a leader. The new Research and Development Centre will mainly focus on advanced materials, modern fertilizer products and technologies, as well as environment-friendly products. In line with the updated Growth Strategy, by 2020 the expenditure on research, development and innovation (R&D&I) will reach 1% of Grupa Azoty S.A.'s revenue.

The Grupa Azoty Group is the undisputed leader of the fertilizer and chemical market in Poland and one of its key players in Europe. It is the second largest EU-based manufacturer of nitrogen and compound fertilizers, and its other products, including melamine, caprolactam, polyamide, oxo alcohols and titanium white, enjoy an equally strong standing in the chemical sector, with a wide range of applications in various industries. In May 2017, the Group announced its updated strategy until 2020. The key development areas include finalising the Group's consolidation, reinforcing its leadership in agricultural solutions in Europe, strengthening the second operating pillar through expansion of the non-fertilizer business, and generating and implementing innovations to accelerate growth in the chemical sector.

Additional information:

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