THE PLACE OF SMALL BUSINESS AND SCIENCE INTEGRATION IN THE INNOVATION ECONOMY

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Abstract: *The article analyzes the importance of integrating small businesses with the science sector in the innovative economy. The study examines the mechanisms of cooperation with research institutes, universities and technoparks, the startup ecosystem and their effectiveness in the production of innovative products. It also examines the opportunities for small businesses in Uzbekistan to use scientific developments and the prospects for innovative development.*

Keywords: *Small business, science and technology integration, innovative economy, startups, technoparks, scientific developments, innovative products, university-industry cooperation.*

Introduction

In the conditions of the modern global economy, innovation is considered a key factor in ensuring the economic stability and increasing the competitiveness of each country. In this regard, the innovative potential and activities of small business entities are of particular importance. Small business is a flexible, agile and creative part of the economic system, which has the ability to quickly introduce new technologies, produce innovative products and offer services that meet market requirements. However, since small business has its own independent research base and limited resources, it needs to integrate with the science sector for the effective implementation of innovation processes.

The science sector, in turn, plays a key role in creating new knowledge, developing technological solutions and implementing them in practice. Universities, research institutes, technoparks and innovation centers expand the opportunities for small businesses to use scientific developments and raise their products to a competitive level. Thus, the integration of small businesses and the science sector serves as an important strategic mechanism for the effective formation of an innovative economy.

The innovative development of small businesses depends on several factors, one of which is the introduction of new technologies and best practices in cooperation with research institutions. Knowledge and technology transfer is carried out through the management of innovation processes, the development of startup projects, incubation and acceleration programs. At the same time, the state's economic policy, financial and institutional support mechanisms are also one of the important conditions for connecting small businesses with science. Through the effective organization of this

cooperation, it is possible to create new jobs, stimulate economic growth, and produce products with high added value.

Also, the integration of science and business serves to develop creative and knowledge-based areas of the economy. This process is of direct importance in increasing the competitiveness of small businesses, introducing new technologies, commercializing startup projects, and ensuring the country's global competitiveness. In modern conditions, the startup ecosystem, technoparks, innovation clusters, and university laboratories play an important role in supporting the innovative activities of small businesses.

In Uzbekistan, the development of small business and science integration is being encouraged by the state through economic modernization, innovation policy, and digital transformation strategies. To this end, research, grants, incubation centers, technology transfer, and university-industry cooperation projects are being implemented. These processes expand the opportunities for small businesses to produce innovative products, modernize services, effectively use scientific developments, and enter the global market.

Therefore, the integration of small businesses with the science sector is of significant scientific and practical importance not only for increasing economic efficiency, but also for expanding the country's innovative potential, developing startups and high-tech enterprises, strengthening scientific and technical cooperation, and accelerating economic modernization processes.

Main part

Small business, as a flexible and rapidly dividing part of any economic system, plays a key role in innovative development. It can quickly respond to market demands, implement new technologies, develop startup projects, and play a leading role in creating products with high added value. However, since small business has a limited independent research base, it needs close ties with the science sector to effectively implement innovation processes. The science sector is the main tool for creating new knowledge, developing technological solutions, and implementing them in practice. Universities, research institutes, technoparks, and innovation centers expand the opportunities for small businesses to use scientific developments and raise their products to a competitive level. At the same time, the integration of science and business increases the economic efficiency of small businesses, develops the startup ecosystem, creates jobs, and strengthens the country's global competitiveness.

There are effective mechanisms for implementing the integration of small business and science. University-industry cooperation provides small businesses with access to scientific laboratories, pilot projects, and scientific personnel. Innovation clusters and technoparks provide small businesses with technological infrastructure, scientific and technical resources, and a platform for the development of startups. Through the commercialization of scientific developments, enterprises create new products, launch them on the market, and create high added value. Grants, incubation,

and acceleration programs provide financial and institutional support to small businesses, greatly assisting in the promotion of startups and innovative projects. Thus, through the close cooperation of science and small businesses, the process of creating innovative products and launching them on the market is effectively organized.

Startups and innovative products act as the main drivers of small businesses. Scientific laboratories, universities and technoparks provide a scientific and research base for startups, allowing them to achieve high results with minimal resources. By implementing scientific developments, small businesses produce products that meet market requirements, introduce technological innovations and increase their competitiveness. At the same time, scientific and technical cooperation reduces the risks of startups and small businesses, allows them to test new technologies and commercialize them.

In Uzbekistan, the integration of small business and science is supported by the state's economic modernization and innovative development strategies. Grants, technoparks, incubation centers, and university-industry cooperation projects serve to expand the innovative potential of small businesses, develop startup projects, and effectively use scientific developments. This creates new jobs, produces high-tech products, and increases the country's global economic competitiveness.

The integration process shapes small business not only as a means of obtaining economic benefits, but also as a system that expands innovative potential and plays an important role in the development of a knowledge-based economy. In this process, startups, research institutes, universities and technology parks work together to create innovative products, implement scientific developments and provide small businesses with modern technologies on the path to digital transformation. At the same time, the integration of science and business ensures sustainable economic growth, develops the startup ecosystem, increases export potential and strengthens the country on the global innovation map.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the integration of small business and the science sector is an important strategic factor for the sustainable development of an innovative economy. Small business entities, with their flexibility, quick decision-making ability and innovative potential, become the main drivers of the economic system. At the same time, the science sector serves as a key resource for creating new knowledge, developing technological solutions and implementing them in practice. Through close cooperation of small business with research institutes, universities, technoparks and innovation centers, the opportunity to create innovative products, develop startup projects and create high added value increases.

Research shows that university-industry cooperation, technoparks, innovation clusters, incubation and acceleration programs expand the opportunities for small businesses to use scientific developments and strengthen their market competitiveness. Startups and innovative products provide the most effective result of

the process of integration with science, guaranteeing adaptation to market requirements, creating new jobs and increasing the country's economic competitiveness. At the same time, institutional, financial and political support mechanisms created by the state make this process more effective.

In Uzbekistan, the development of small business and science integration is being implemented through economic modernization, innovation policy, digital transformation, and startup ecosystem development strategies. This process expands the opportunities for small businesses to produce innovative products, effectively use scientific developments, and enter the global market. Therefore, the seamless integration of small business and the science sector directly contributes to the sustainable growth of the country's economy, the development of startups and high-tech enterprises, the formation of an innovative ecosystem, and increasing competitiveness.

In general, the integration of small business with science allows not only to increase economic efficiency, but also to expand the country's innovative potential, develop a knowledge-based economy and take a strong place in the global innovation arena. Therefore, the prospects for developing and improving this process are considered an integral part of Uzbekistan's long-term economic development strategy.

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