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【55】 From Bits to Atoms: Fablabs as a useful bridge from physical inspired ideas to real products

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The Center for Rapid Innovation is the Fablab of the business incubator Werkstätte Wattens has been very much inspired by the Fab Central at MIT's Media Lab. As a high technology digital fabrication laboratory, our goal is to sustainable enable students, start-ups, established companies as well as common people (makers) alike an access to state of the art rapid prototyping technology.

Cases indicate the importance of building up an innovative ecosystem, an open environment, a place for experimentation and failing fast, and a singularity-like spot that attracts highly talented people to explore technologies –from prototyping over proof of concept to pilot series. We discuss the required tools and processes for such a successful transformation and suggest Fablabs as a well suited environment to enable the spiral innovation process needed for technology driven innovation.

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