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**Hedmark Kunnskapspark AS** works to stimulate the development of knowledge-based industry in Hedmark, Norway’s largest county. The largest shareholders of Hedmark Kunnskapspark is Hedmark County Council and SIVA, but the organization has additional public owners and private investors. The Board consists of individuals from various parts of the county and with knowledge and experience from relevant industries and governmental institutions. To effectively cover a large geographical area, Hedmark Kunnskapspark has offices located in the county’s two largest cities; Hamar and Kongsvinger. Ten highly qualified and dedicated employees work in key areas to support the growth of the local industry. Hedmark Kunnskapspark provides free of charge advisory services on business development, financing, IPR and incubation. In addition we organize networking and match-making events to facilitate the exchange of competence and to promote value-creating partnerships.

Although Hedmark Kunnskapspark works with all types of knowledge-based companies, we have identified 5 areas where we believe there is particularly high growth potential; biotechnology, computer gaming, local food and adventure based tourism, business incubation and the restructuring program for the municipality of Kongsvinger.

**Biotechnology for breeding and food production**

Hedmark represents one of Norway’s largest agricultural areas and has more forest than any other counties. The need for livestock with improved properties has stimulated the growth of competence within breeding and agricultural production in the Hamar region. More traditional phenotypic selection is gradually being replaced with genotypic selection, and the demand for new technology is high. The network of XX organizations working with technologies for breeding and production of farm animals, aquaculture and plant cultivation is called Heidner. This year, Heidner was awarded the prestigious Arena status by Innovation Norway. The Arena program secures a minimum 2-year funding for developing the network and industry further. The Arena programme offers both specialist and financial support for long term development of regional business clusters. The objective of the development processes is to strengthen the clusters innovative ability by establishing a stronger and more dynamic interaction between the industry, R&D institutions, universities and the public sector.

The starting point is a clearly expressed potential for greater value creation. Arena is a national programme owned by Innovation Norway, SIVA and the Research Council of Norway.

For more information on Heidner and business opportunities with Heidner’s member organizations, please **contact Dr. Karianne Eide Longva at +47 971 62 042 or karianne@kph.no**

**Computer gaming**

Hamar is Norway’s leading region for development of computer games for learning, simulating and entertainment. Currently, xx companies and organizations are part of our gaming network (link til bedriftene). It is not a coincidence that this region has become so strong in the gaming. Since 2005, Hedmark University College has offered a strong B.Sc program in gaming, and the program has become very popular. Also, Norsk Tipping, the monopolistic state-owned company providing money games, has its head office located in Hamar. This attracts valuable gaming competence to the region. For more information on collaboration or investment opportunities within the Hamar gaming network, please contact Mr. Bjørn Oustad (+47 932 49 966 or bjorn@hkp.no) or Mr. Øyvind Nordstrand (+ 47 481 78 222 or oyvind@hkp.no).

**Local food and adventure based tourism**

Hedmark is blessed with great forests, lakes, rivers and rich soil for farming. The excellent access to a wide-range of healthy raw material has shaped a strong tradition for tasty local food. Combined with the beautiful and varied landscapes of Hedmark makes the area ideal for all year round adventure based experiences – stimulating all senses. Hedmark Kunnskapspark works with exciting companies and organizations that seek to develop food or experiences with roots in Hedmark’s traditions but with a modern touch or hints of inspirations gathered from foreign cultures. Business incubation

Incubation are specific programs designed to support the successful development of entrepreneurial companies. This occurs through an array of business support resources and services, developed and orchestrated by incubator management. The service and support are offered both in the incubator and through its network of contacts. Hedmark Kunnskapspark has two “physical” incubators, one located on Hamar and the other in Kongsvinger. We can offer small aspiring companies office space to rent at very reasonable prices due to subsidizing arrangements through SIVA.

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