



Fact sheet

Holding

What does the UvA Ventures Holding BV do?

- *New ventures*
Makes knowledge from the university available to the market and society (knowledge transfer, or 'valorisation') by participating in and facilitating spin-off companies founded on the basis of scientific research. The aim is to enable the UvA to sell its participation in these companies at a profit in due course.
- *Contract research and contract teaching*
Carried out by companies closely allied to the UvA that supply services to the business sector and civil society organisations on a contract basis, for example UvA minds BV, Kohnstamm Instituut UvA BV and ITTA UvA BV.
- *Services*
Commercial activities originally established to facilitate the university, its employees and its students, for example ProActief UvA BV and UvA Talen BV. Services also encompasses the management of three former university properties.

Why was the holding company created?

The holding company was established in 1992 to consolidate commercially oriented activities that fall outside, but are nonetheless related to, the university's core responsibilities within an organisation governed by private law. This created an explicitly separate entity vis-à-vis education and research so as to exclude any possibility of confusion with, or improper use, of public funds.

Who owns the holding company?

The UvA is the sole shareholder. The holding company has a board of directors that is responsible for organisational and executive management, as well as a supervisory board. All of its subsidiaries are private limited companies, in which the holding company owns 100% of the shares. Several of the subsidiaries and the new ventures also have outside shareholders.

What does the holding company earn in profits and what is done with these funds?

Approximately €13 million in total over the past five years. These were reinvested in teaching, research and valorisation at the UvA. Income from patents, spin-offs and divestments also accrues to the university. The UvA Ventures Holding BV is included in the UvA's consolidated annual statement of accounts. The holding company's annual statement of accounts is made publicly available by the Chamber of Commerce.

What do the holding company's property management activities involve?

After completing what was its final real estate development project in 2003, the holding company now engages solely in property management. It manages three former university properties and Hotel Résidence le Coin, which provides long and short-stay lodging and workspaces, mainly for guest and visiting lecturers and researchers.

Why does the holding company invest in start-ups?

The UvA believes it has a duty to create social and economic value from its teaching and research (valorisation) and therefore encourages entrepreneurship among its students and academic staff. By contributing to the success of enterprises created with UvA knowledge, the UvA Ventures Holding BV can contribute to the economic growth of the Amsterdam area and, by the same token, improve regional employment prospects for its graduates.