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San Diego's Innovation Ecosystem: A systematic Literature Review

Jukka Majava
Industrial Engineering and Management research unit, University of Oulu, Finland
jukka.majava@oulu.fi

Abstract

Many regions have searched for a recipe for creating a successful innovation ecosystem. The USA is considered a global innovation leader; especially Silicon Valley innovation ecosystem has been studied a lot. However, other innovation ecosystems, such as San Diego, a leading location in biotechnology, life sciences, and wireless technology have received less attention. Studies conducted within the last twenty years provide information on many aspects and characteristics of San Diego. In this study, a systematic literature review on San Diego's innovation ecosystem is conducted to identify the most important stakeholders and factors related to the ecosystem's success. 1228 documents from Scopus and 719 documents from Web of Science databases were retrieved, screened, and analysed to reach a final sample of twenty articles that focused specifically on the studied topic. The ecosystem's key organizational stakeholders were identified to be UC San Diego, research institutes, venture capitalists, pioneer and leading companies, and intermediary organizations, such as CONNECT. The most important individual stakeholders include scientists, entrepreneurs, angel investors, and leaders. Regarding success factors, the key political factors were identified to be research and other public funding, and government policies that fostered, for example, the actors' proximity. Key economic factors include support systems for start-ups and company acquisitions. In addition, many vital social factors, such as collaboration, social networks, and risk-taking culture were identified. Finally, the key technological factors that have contributed to San Diego's success include technology transfer, specific focus areas, and critical mass in research and development.

Keywords: Innovation ecosystem, San Diego, stakeholders, success factors, systematic literature review