

Dow Chemical partners with University of Illinois for innovation centre

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The Dow Chemical Company has partnered with the University of Illinois, US, to open a new innovation centre as part of the company's mission to solve challenging problems through research.

Located at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the Dow Innovation Center will develop data management solutions to drive value and speed up discovery in the company's research and development (R&D) organisations.

"The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is part of the Strategic University Partnership."

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Chancellor Phyllis Wise said the partnership is pushing the edges of science and technology to explore new ideas in critical areas such as coatings, energy, water and agriculture.

"Solutions to increasingly complex societal challenges brought about by an expanding global population will be found in this kind of innovative partnership," Wise added.

"The new centre will draw upon the strengths in high performance computing (HPC), informatics and computer science at the University of Illinois to enhance technology and research within Dow."

Dow has also entered into an industry partnership with the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) to advance the company's discovery processes.

Dow Global Information Research director Roy Ladd said: "With access to a highly passionate student body and NCSA's valuable resources, we are confident that we can develop innovative IT solutions that will help solve some of the most pressing challenges facing our customers and society today."

The innovation centre is scheduled to open in the spring of 2013.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is also part of the Strategic University Partnership, launched by Dow in 2011, to focus research capabilities with 11 chemistry, materials science and chemical engineering departments in the US, according to the University.

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