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INFORMING AT THE CROSSROADS OF DESIGN SCIENCE RESEARCH, ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: A PLATFORM ECOSYSTEM ROADMAP

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ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose	Developing Digital Platform Ecosystems (DPE) to transform conventional Knowledge Management Systems (KM/KMS) scenarios promises significant benefits for individuals, institutions, as well as emerging knowledge economies.
Background	The academic entrepreneurship project presented is aiming for such a KMS-DPE configuration. Having consolidated this author's own and external research findings, realization is currently commencing with a start-up in a business incubator.
Methodology	Design science research applying mixed one-sample case study and illustrative scenario approach focusing on conceptual analysis and entrepreneurship.
Contribution	Although (academic) entrepreneurship is a young research area with recently growing interest, publications focusing on this transitional stage between maturing research and projected commercial viability of digital technologies are rare.
Findings	A roadmap looking beyond the immediate early-start-up perspective is outlined by integrating recent development-stage-related DPE-research and by addressing stakeholders diverse informing needs essential for system realization.
Recommendations for Practitioners and Researchers	As this transdisciplinary perspective combines KM, informing, design science, and entrepreneurial research spaces, it may assist other researchers and practitioners facing similar circumstances and/or start-up opportunities.

The full paper was previously published as the following and is being presented at this conference:

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Impact on Society	The article advances the understanding of how DPE communities may serve members with highly diverse skills and ambitions better to gainfully utilize the platform's resources and generative potential in their personal and local settings.
Future Research	As the entrepreneurial agenda will complement (not substitute) the academic research, research priorities have been highlighted aligned to three future stages.
Keywords	digital platform ecosystem, knowledge management system, digital academic entrepreneurship, design science research, informing science, start-up

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Ulrich Schmitt studied Management & Industrial Engineering (TU Berlin), Computer Applications (Cranfield: MSc, University Basle: PhD), and Science & Research Management (Speyer: PGC). His professional career started as IT & Management Consultant (London, Basle), commenced as Professor and Vice President at two Independent German Universities, Vice Rector (Namibia), and Dean of the Graduate School (Botswana). Currently, he is a Professor Extraordinaire at University of Stellenbosch, Business School and Founder of the Knowcations® Start-up in Port Louis, Mauritius.
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