Introduction of an agile project management method for complex R&D projects in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry

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Agile project management (APM) is a project management structure recommended for complex tasks. It has its origins in the automotive industry and is nowadays widely applied in the IT sector. Within a well-defined APM structure, teams focus on goals and have enough room for creativity at the same time. Main advantages over traditional project management tools are the reduction of development time, a higher quality of the products as well as a higher team satisfaction. However, APM methods like SCRUM or Kanban merely meet the needs of software development and do not comply with the requirements of development projects in the chemical or pharmaceutical industry.

DexLeChem is a spin-off from the cluster of excellence UniCat and offers development services to the chemical and pharmaceutical industry. Over the last 5 years, the startup has developed and further adjusted a new APM methodology which is applicable in complex R&D projects. This system enabled DexLeChem to exceed the customer requirements already in its very 1st project and was also implemented within a big pharma company leading to outstanding results. In the Einstein lecture, DexLeChem CEO Sonja Jost will give first insights of the developed APM structure and show a case study performed in industry.