

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**MARIA KHORSAND ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF EARTO (EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS)**



The EARTO Executive Board elected Maria Khorsand President of EARTO. She has taken on her seat on 9<sup>th</sup> May after receiving unanimous support from EARTO General Assembly Members.

Maria Khorsand is the CEO of SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden. SP is the leading and largest technical research institute in Sweden.

Maria Khorsand has a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science from the California State University, Fullerton. She has held a variety of executive positions at Ericsson, among others as President of Ericsson Technology Licensing, where she worked for seventeen years before becoming President of OMX Technology and finally President of Dell Sweden before joining SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden in 2007 as CEO.

She is member of the Board of several organisations such as Beijer Electronics, SOS Alarm Sweden, and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Maria Khorsand is Chair of the Swedish Coordination Council for Smart Grids and Vice-Chair of the Section for Research and Education within the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

Maria Khorsand succeeds Jan Mengelers, former President of TNO, who has served as President of EARTO for the past two years. After her election, Maria Khorsand thanked Jan Mengelers for his dedication to EARTO during his presidency and especially for having so successfully raised the profile of the European RTO community.

The handover took place during the successful [2014 EARTO Annual Conference](#) jointly organized with Forschung Austria. Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn addressed the audience as well as Director General of DG Research and Innovation, Robert-Jan Smits.

She said she is honored to serve as the voice of 350 European Research and Technology Organisations at a time of great challenges and expressed her strong conviction that EARTO will remain a key partner for EU RD&I policy-makers in Europe in the next years to come with key issues coming up soon on EU agenda.

**END**

For further information, please contact Muriel Attané, *Secretary General*, EARTO, +32 (0)2 502 86 98

## Notes to Editors

**Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs)** have a distinct mission and a key role in the knowledge and innovation economy: they produce, integrate and transfer science and technology to help resolve the grand challenges of society and support Europe's industrial competitiveness. RTOs occupy nodal positions within innovation eco-systems, bringing together key players across the whole innovation chain, from fundamental to technological research, from product and process development to prototyping and demonstration, and on to full-scale implementation in the public and private sectors.

**EARTO** is the European trade association of the research and technology organisations (RTOs), a non-profit organisation founded in 1999. EARTO groups over 350 RTOs with a combined staff of 150,000, an annual turnover of €15 billion, special equipment and facilities to a value of many € billions and more than 100,000 customers from the public and private sectors annually. [EARTO Corporate Video](#)