

**EARTO promotes the interests of over 300 Research and Technology Organisations in Europe**

**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS**

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## EARTO 2007 Annual Conference Munich, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> May

### *"Innovation and Competitiveness for an Enlarged Europe"*

*The EARTO 2007 Conference was an official event of  
the German EU Presidency*



*European Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik,  
former German Research Minister Edelgard Bulmahn,  
EARTO President Erkki Leppävuori and Fraunhofer  
President Hans-Jörg Bullinger*

Highlights of the EARTO 2007 annual conference were keynote speeches by European Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik and former Federal German Research Minister Edelgard Bulmahn, who currently chairs the German Federal Parliament's Committee on the Economy and Technology.

This year's conference was the biggest EARTO event yet, with a two-day programme of ple-

nary and parallel sessions, preceded by the traditional EARTO Working Group meeting the day before. Almost 200 members and guests participated in the various events.

Lars-Göran Rosengren, President and CEO of Volvo Technology, gave a candid appraisal in his scene-setting conference speech of RTOs' strengths but also of areas where they need to further professionalise their game, while Johann Wilhelm Arntz, President of the AiF, provided a pertinent reminder and overview of the innovation potential and support needs of SMEs.

The feedback from conference participants has been uniformly positive. The conference presentations are available on the EARTO website.

[More ...](#)



*Some of the almost 200 participants gathered for the  
principal plenary session of the EARTO 2007 annual  
conference*

## News from the Annual General Meeting Munich, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

### New Secretary General

The 2007 AGM saw a change in Secretary General of the Association from Hendrik Schlesing to Chris Hull, previously Advisor and Deputy Secretary General.

Hendrik had served as Secretary General almost since the creation of EARTO. Last autumn he announced his wish to reduce his activity. He will continue to serve EARTO in a reduced role for an interim period.

Chris was instrumental in bringing about the merger of EACRO and FEICRO in 1998-99, which resulted in the creation of EARTO.

He assumes his new responsibilities with enthusiasm, believing that there is still much to be done to establish RTOs as key players on the European R&D scene, to professionalise RTOs as service providers to enterprises, governments and civil society, to promote exchange and partnering among members, and to further expand EARTO membership.

### EARTO Members in Eastern and Central European Countries

The 2007 AGM took the important decision to offer new members from the EU member states and the candidate countries in eastern and central Europe an attractive subscription structure during a transitional period of four years.

This was in response to the difficulty EARTO has experienced in attracting new members from these countries, where many RTOs are under financial pressure due to on-going restructuring of the R&D landscape there.

The Secretariat is confident of being able to announce the first new member as a result of this initiative within the next few weeks.

Please help us to recruit new members from eastern and central Europe and the EU candidate countries by indicating to us RTOs there which you think could benefit from EARTO membership.

### Jan Kretzschmar Stands Down as Treasurer

The Research Director of EARTO Belgian member VITO, Jan Kretzschmar, stood down as a member of the EARTO Board and Steering Committee, and as Treasurer of the Association, on the occasion of the 2007 Annual General Meeting. This was in anticipation of his impending retirement from VITO later this year.

Jan has served on the Board since 1999 and as Treasurer since 2003.

EARTO President Erkki Leppävuori thanked Jan warmly for his good service and the Board presented him with a token gift of thanks on behalf of all of the members.

### New Members of the Executive Board

Three new members were elected to the Executive Board by the AGM in Munich.

- Italy: Mario Marchionna, ENI, replaces Claudio Valentini, also of ENI, who has changed function within that organisation.
- Iceland: Hallgrímur Jonasson, IceTec, following the admission of the first member from Iceland
- Luxembourg: Claude Wehenkel, CRP Henri Tudor, following the admission of the first member from Luxembourg.

### EARTO Welcomes Its New Members in 2007

- HLP Développement, France
- Central European Institute of Technology, Austria
- Institut St Louis, France/Germany
- EURAC, Italy
- Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor, Luxembourg
- AIMEN - Asociación de Investigación Metalúrgica del Noroeste, Spain

*Click on a name to link to the organization's web-site*

## **Commission Launches Green Paper The European Research Area: New Perspectives**

With the 7th Framework Programme finally underway, Commissioner Potočník has turned his attention to the further development of the European Research Area (ERA). He has launched a public consultation to gather opinions and ideas before formulating new proposals to support the further development of the ERA. The proposals are expected in the autumn of this year.

Many initiatives to support ERA have been taken by the EU and Member States. But there are still strong national and institutional barriers which prevent ERA from becoming a full reality.

The European Commission has now published a Green Paper on ERA reviewing progress made, where it still needs to be made, and raising questions for debate.

These questions are developed in an online consultation, to which members may wish to contribute individually.

[More ...](#)

At the EARTO 2007 Annual Conference, the Association promised Commissioner Potočník a collective contribution to his ERA consultation.

In order to prepare this, EARTO invites all interested members:

- to provide comments and suggestions about ERA for inclusion in the EARTO response
- to participate in a Task Force to prepare EARTO's response, which will probably involve a one-day meeting in Brussels and on-line reviewing of the final text

Please respond by e-mail to [hull@earto.eu](mailto:hull@earto.eu)

## **FP7 News and Resources**

### **CORDIS Guide to FP7 Support Documents**

CORDIS has created an information resource which groups together all of the key official documents and guides available to actual and potential FP7 participants. They include:

- Guide for beneficiaries
- Guide to Financial Issues
- Guide to IPR
- Checklist for the Consortium Agreement

Most of these documents are still officially drafts, awaiting final adoption by the Commission services.

Further guides are expected shortly, including:

- Negotiation guidance notes
- Reporting guide

[More ...](#)

### **EARTO FP7 Proposal Review Service**

The EARTO FP7 Proposal Review Service is available to all members who are preparing proposals as Project Coordinators.

It offers to accompany an EARTO member from the initial planning of an FP7 proposal through to submission to the Commission, including a critical review of the complete proposal prior to submission.

Members interested in using the service are invited to contact [hull@earto.org](mailto:hull@earto.org)

[More...](#)



## **DESCA Model Consortium Agreement - Version 1 Released -**

A finalised version of the DESCA Model Consortium Agreement is now available on the DESCA website. This new version also offers optional clauses for larger and smaller projects as well as for handling IPR.

[More ...](#)

DESCA has been developed by a group of FP contract experts from EARTO members together with colleagues from other European R&D organisations.

It aims to offer a reliable frame of reference which seeks to balance the interests of all of the main participant categories in FP research projects: large and small firms, universities, public research institutes and RTOs.

## **DESCA Workshop, Brussels, June 22nd**

There will be a one-day workshop to present and explain the DESCA Model Consortium Agreement in Brussels on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

[More ...](#)

## **Guide to IPR Issues When Preparing FP Proposals**

The IPR Helpdesk has published a guide on IPR issues to consider when preparing an FP7 proposal. It covers how to address and describe the consortium's plans for managing IP as well as the need for confidentiality agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between participants when exchanging information regarding the technical part of the proposal.

[More ...](#)

## **Commission Launches First Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs)**

The European Commission is now on the road to creating the first ever Europe-wide public-private partnerships to boost research and development, having adopted proposals for initiatives in two strategic industrial sectors.

The Commission presented two Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), worth approximately €5 billion, on embedded computing systems, to be known as ARTEMIS (Advanced Research and Technology for Embedded Intelligence and Systems), and on innovative medicines (Innovative Medicines Initiative).

The two JTIs will pool private sector investment with national and European public funding to create a single European-wide research programme that is driven by the needs of industry, and focused on clear joint technological and economic objectives.

[More...](#)

## **IPR in EU Projects EARTO Workshop, Brussels, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

This workshop has two objectives.

The first is to discuss the recent EU policy initiatives related to IPR, including the IPR Charter launched by the German Presidency as well as the Commission's recent Communication on Improving Knowledge Transfer.

The second is to propose improvements to the rules governing the handling of IP in EU-funded research projects. One specific proposal for discussion is that all references to royalty-free access should be removed as a matter of principle, in order to establish clearly that IP potentially has value.

Members interested in participating in the workshop are invited to e-mail [hull@earto.org](mailto:hull@earto.org)

## **FP7 Proposal Writing Workshops Brussels, June 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**

Hyperion Ltd (Sean McCarthy) is organising a three-day FP7 Advisors Course on June 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> in Brussels. The course covers:

- How to Write a Competitive Proposal for Framework 7
- How to Negotiate, Manage and Administer Framework contracts

[More ...](#)

## **Hyperion FP7 Handbook**

The comprehensive Hyperion FP7 Handbook is now available.

It offers a detailed guide to FP7, including chapters and sections on the different funding schemes, financial guidelines as well as practical advice on how to write the "impact" and "implementation" parts of a proposal.

[More ...](#)

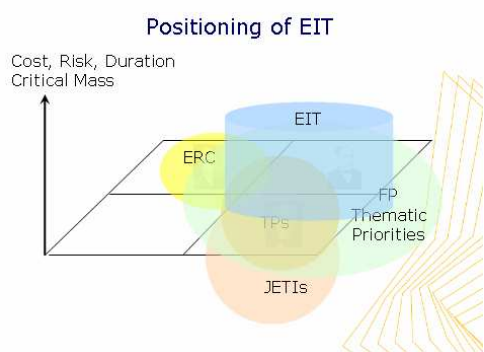


## EARTO Presentation to European Parliament Hearing on European Institute of Technology

EARTO was one of the six organizations selected to make a presentation to the Joint Hearing of the European Parliament's Industry and Research (ITRE) and Education and Culture (CULT) committees on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This was an important opportunity to influence the parliamentary debate, since it was the last formal discussion before the two committees finalize their proposals to the plenum of the Parliament.

Since many in Parliament and elsewhere seem to think that the EIT will only duplicate existing European initiatives – such as Technology Platforms or the European Research Council – EARTO's presentation emphasized the positioning of the EIT and its added value relative to such other European programmes and activities.



EARTO has consistently supported the idea of a European Institute of Technology – and has significantly influenced the Commission's thinking – because it has the potential to become an important mechanism for funding major strategic research programmes in the public interest, an area in which RTOs excel.

## DG Research SME Advisory Group to Discuss 2008 SME Work Programme

The DG Research SME Advisory Group comprises about 20 SME experts from across the European Union. Its mandate is to advise the Commission on all aspects relating to SME participation in FP7, both the SME-specific measures and in other parts of the Framework Programme.

Three of the Advisory Group members are RTOs, and EARTO Secretary General Chris Hull is the elected Chairman of the Group.

At its next meeting, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Group will discuss the Commission's proposed SME Work Programme for 2008. This is an important opportunity to influence the shaping of the implementation of the FP7 SME-specific measures in the coming year.

## University-Industry Cooperation in Europe Beats the US

A Europe-wide survey by ProTon Europe has found that European collaboration between industry and universities exceeds that of the US.

The survey compares information from European university knowledge transfer offices with technology transfer data from the American Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM).

The survey found the volume of contract research in Europe to be above that of the US for the year 2005: €2.8 billion in Europe compared to €2.1 billion in the US.

The report also found, however, that this advantage was off-set by the US's more advanced knowledge transfer, based on patents and licences.

The report says that Europe has traditionally had a collaborative approach to research, based on smaller industrial companies. They argue that this tradition has led to strong public support programmes, such as the EU's current Seventh Framework Programme. In contrast, the US has bigger companies with a stronger absorption capacity that are less dependent on collaboration.

The survey shows that almost 25% of research institutions involved in knowledge transfer with industry have no intellectual property patented. It points to the high cost of patents in Europe, where average research expenditure per patent is €4 million for filing and around €11 million per patent to extend it internationally. The result is that patent filing rates in Europe are one-fifth lower than those of the US. The report says that policy-making at both the national and EU levels should focus on creating an efficient and accessible European patent system.

The survey also found that the levels of spin-out creation in Europe were comparable to those in the US, but that the success of the spin-outs seemed to be dependent upon market conditions, context and venture capital. They are not dependent on the actions of the research organisations themselves at the stage of initial formation.

*More ...*

## Organising A Meeting in Brussels? EARTO Has the Perfect Facilities

We have fully equipped modern meeting facilities in central Brussels. Close to the Commission (just around the corner from DG Research) and Parliament, and easily accessible by public transport.

### The EARTO Meeting Room

Space for 25 people classroom style and up to 55 people cinema style.

Natural light, air-conditioning, video projector, Panaboard, whiteboard, paper boards, transparency projector, wireless Internet connection, photocopying facilities. Full catering service available.

Available by the day or half-day, at cost price to EARTO members.

A sliding sound-proofed partition permits division of the main meeting room into two separate rooms (1/3 – 2/3).

We also have a second, smaller room suitable for meetings of up to five people. It is available free of charge to EARTO members

For further information, please contact Kadija Taffah at the EARTO Secretariat: +32-2-5028698



## Recent and Upcoming Events by and with EARTO

June 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hyperion FP7 Advisors' Course	Brussels
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	EARTO Workshop on IP issues in EU Projects	Brussels
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	EARTO Steering Committee	Brussels
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	DESCA Presentation Workshop	Brussels
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	DG Research Expert Advisory Group on SMEs	Brussels
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	EARTO Workshop on New Funding/IPR Rules for SME-specific projects in FP7	Brussels
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Conference on Strategy and Role of Research and Development Organisations in Europe	Warsaw
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	DESCA Core Group	Helsinki
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	EARTO Annual Conference and related events	Munich
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	EARTO Evidence to Hearing of European Parliament Committees ITRE and CULT on the European Institute of Technology	Brussels
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	EARTO Working Group on Spin-offs	Munich
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	EARTO Working Group	Munich