

PRESS RELEASE

Frank Treppe Elected New President of EARTO and Antti Vasara Vice-President of EARTO - European Association of Research and Technology Organisations

The Hague, 19th April 2016



The EARTO Executive Board has elected Frank Treppe President of EARTO. He has taken on his seat today after receiving unanimous support from EARTO General Assembly Members.

Frank Treppe is an associate member of the board and the Director Corporate Strategy and International Affairs of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in Germany. Fraunhofer is the leading and largest Research and Technology Organisation (RTO) in Germany.

Frank Treppe has served in various managing positions at different Fraunhofer Institutes and companies in Germany and in the United States. Mr. Treppe was in charge of the incorporation and operation of Fraunhofer USA. As Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Fraunhofer USA, he initiated the launch of 6 Fraunhofer research centers.

Today, Mr. Treppe has a wide range of domestic and international responsibilities. He is Chairman of Fraunhofer UK and Fraunhofer Chile and member of the Supervisory Board of Fraunhofer Austria and Fraunhofer Sweden. In October 2014, he also took over the responsibilities as President of Fraunhofer USA. In addition, he serves as evaluator in the technology programs of the European Commission, and he is member of Steering Committees for several international large-scale technology projects.

Frank Treppe succeeds Maria Khorsand, former CEO of SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, who has served as President of EARTO for almost two years. After his election, Frank Treppe thanked Maria Khorsand for her dedication to EARTO during her presidency and especially for having so successfully raised the profile of the European RTO community.

Frank Treppe said he is honored to serve as the voice of the 350 European Research and Technology Organisations members of EARTO at a time of great challenges. He also expressed his strong conviction that EARTO will remain a valued partner for EU RD&I policy-makers in the next years to come with a wide range of important topics for RTOs coming up on the EU agenda.

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The EARTO Executive Board has welcomed the nomination of Antti Vasara as Vice-President of EARTO. He has taken on his seat today after receiving unanimous support from EARTO General Assembly Members.

D.Tech Antti Vasara is the President and CEO of VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. In applied research VTT is the leading and largest multitechnology Research and Technology Organization (RTO) in Finland.

Antti Vasara is a technology industry executive with close to 20 years of P&L and general management experience from international companies as well as board of director experience from several public and private companies in Finland, Canada and the UK.

Prior to joining VTT, Antti Vasara has held several management positions in both public and private companies in Finland and internationally. He was EVP of R&D services business area at Tieto Corporation. He worked for 9 years at Nokia in various P&L and product responsible roles leading business units, R&D units, sales & marketing units as well as Nokia's corporate strategy. Before Nokia, he was the CEO of SmartTrust Ltd, a leading provider of service management software to mobile operators. He has also worked as management consultant at McKinsey & Company.

Today, Dr. Vasara is member of the board of several organizations such as Comptel, Nexeon Ltd. and Espoo Marketing Oy. He is angel investor in IndoorAtlas and NearMe Services.

He said: "I am honored to serve and support the voice of 350 European Research and Technology Organisations together with EARTO President Frank Treppe, in order to further raise the level, appreciation and impact of research, development and innovation in Europe." He also expressed his strong conviction that EARTO will remain a key partner for EU RD&I policy-makers in the future with key issues coming up on EU agenda.

Notes to Editors

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

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](#)