

Press Release

Brussels, 17 December 2014

EARTO, the voice of 350 Research and Technology Organisations, would like to congratulate its members for their strong participation in the two recently announced EIT KICs on Health and Raw Materials.

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) [announced](#) on 9 December 2014 two new Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), health and raw materials, due to start in 2015. KIC Health will be managed by [InnoLife](#), a consortium of some 50 partners, including 4 EARTO members: [CEA](#), [RISE Research Institute of Sweden AB](#) and [RWTH Aachen](#). KIC Raw Materials, won by [RawMatTERS](#) consortium, has a very strong RTO presence with 12 EARTO members: [CEA](#), [Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft](#), [IMEC](#), [RISE Research Institute of Sweden AB](#), [RWTH Aachen](#), [Tecnalia Research & Innovation](#), [TNO](#), [Trento RISE](#), [VITO](#) and [VTT Research Centre of Finland](#).

The idea for the KIC Raw Materials was initiated in 2012 by a group of actors including EARTO members CEA, Fraunhofer, VTT and VITO. Today, the KIC is constituted of some 120 partners from industry, RTOs and universities. RawMatTERS is coordinated by [Helmholtz](#) and is planned to last for seven years (renewable), create some 10,000 jobs and turn the challenge of raw materials dependence into a strategic strength for Europe. EARTO, with members in all existing KICs, is glad to so many of them contributing to the two new initiatives!

Notes to Editors

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[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 ecosystems, 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 €23 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](#).