

Past events

Czech EUREKA participation at the Hannover Messe



From 16-20 April this year, the Czech Association for Innovative Entrepreneurship (AIE) was present at this showcase for

industrial technology, highlighting the achievements of EUREKA, and specifically the Network's Czech participation in industrial innovation.

The organisers of the Hannover Messe claim that 'to survive and prosper in the face of global competition, companies need to constantly maintain and improve their performance potential,' adding that 'leading-edge technology plays a pivotal role in corporate competitiveness.' This sentiment is echoed by Pavel Švejda of the AIE, who adds: 'The AIE has taken part in the Hannover Messe for some years now with the aim of promoting Czech entrepreneurship, but innovation is not limited by national borders! The stand we are sharing here with EUREKA sends a clear message about the important impact of innovation on a European scale – and the achievements of EUREKA over the past 21 years.'

www.hannovermesse.de

Goodbye and welcome

Cornu replaces van der Poel as MEDEA+ Chairman



Arthur van der Poel

March 2007 saw the departure of Arthur van der Poel as chairman of the EUREKA

microelectronics Cluster MEDEA+.

Van der Poel quoted the strong global position of MEDEA+ companies, putting high-technological innovation back on the political agenda, increased openness to cross-border cooperation and maintaining high European R&D investment as some of the positive achievements of the Cluster during his three-and-a-half year tenure. But, he added, areas of concern also remain. Despite ambitious initiatives such as the Lisbon and Barcelona agenda and the proposed Joint Technology Initiatives, there is still 'more talk than action', and that the speed of decision-making, particularly on funding, is not synchronised with the needs of industry.

'Against this background, it is encouraging that the public authorities have regularly expressed their support for a successor programme of MEDEA+, to be launched later this year. I think it is proper that this launch is led by the man arriving, rather than the man leaving. And my successor Jozef Cornu will certainly lead that process very professionally. He brings not only his managerial top-level experience, but also was recently involved in the IST Advisory Group of the Commission and co-author of the Aho report. I am convinced that Jo will have a flying start and all of you will be very content with him as the new Chairman', van der Poel added.

www.medeaplus.org

New publication

A joint brochure on SME-financing

The EUREKA Secretariat has recently jointly published a compendium on private financing, the result of its long-term strategic partnership with the European Business Angel Network (EBAN). The objective of this partnership is to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) access private funding, by bridging the gap between finance seekers and providers.

By publishing this compendium, EUREKA hopes that those key players will gain a

clear understanding of private financing potential in Europe, as well as exploit this comprehensive and easy-to-use tool to meet SME project financing demands. 'There wasn't anything like this available before. This tool aims to help SMEs find a source of funding that completes public funding available with the help of EUREKA,' says Pierre Collowald, Valorisation Manager at the EUREKA Secretariat. This reference tool includes a list of national business angel funds, investment programmes, financial support initiatives and a list of non-financial instruments.

Anthony R Clarke, President of the European Business Angels Network, states the importance of this tool for both parties: 'We hope that through this publication EUREKA participants will have a greater understanding of business angels' role in supporting the growth of innovative companies. In addition, we encourage EBAN members to consider financing EUREKA R&D projects.'

www.eureka.be/venturecapital/

New website

The new Eurostars SME Programme goes online

EUREKA News readers interested in finding out more about the proposed Eurostars Programme, a new joint initiative of EUREKA and the EU, supporting the niche sector of research-performing small businesses, will be pleased to know that a website has recently been launched.



Regularly-updated information on the evolution of Eurostars can be found at www.eurostars-eureka.eu