Technology Platforms and Future Research on CORDIS

CORDIS, the EU Community Research and Development Information Service on www.cordis.lu, has launched a new service which features emerging European technology platforms, representing one of the six objectives in the EU strategy for the future of European research policy beyond the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6).

What are technology platforms?

These pan-European technology initiatives bring together companies, research institutions, the financial world and regulatory authorities at European level to define a common research agenda and mobilise a critical mass of – national and European – public and private resources.

Technology platforms aim to define a common vision, and medium to long-term agenda for strategic areas of research, and then bring together public-private partnerships for their implementation.

The core is the setting up of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), which defines priorities in the medium to long-term, including measures for enhanced networking and clustering of the European R&D capacity.

Some technological sectors have already seen the various stakeholders organise themselves within this framework. The new CORDIS service contains background documents on all technology platforms launched and planned so far, featuring their policy objectives, state of play and the radical changes they will bring for EU competitiveness in sectors including hydrogen and fuel cells, nanoelectronics and aeronautics.

The involvement of EUREKA Clusters

While EUREKA is not participating in the ETPs first phase as a single stakeholder, industrialists participating in EUREKA Clusters are providing input for the next FP. Companies participating in MEDEA+, ITEA, CELTIC and NEWMEDFASTER are aiming to define a synergy between their Cluster roadmap and the future FP.

The Commission has included the technology platforms in its Guidelines for the EU Policy for Research. It plans to develop and intensively support emerging technology platforms in the run up to FP7. The aim is also to explore, within the existing technology platforms, those technological fields which most merit support, with substantial Community funding under FP7 through use of a new mechanism of Joint Technology Initiatives.

The implementation of these initiatives will be carried out with the support of the EU research programmes, the Structural Funds, national, regional and private research funding, the European Investment Bank and the EUREKA Initiative.

› www.cordis.lu/fp7/
www.cordis.lu/technology-platforms/

Towards common software standards in European cars

Each year, the ITEA Achievement Award highlights a highly successful project in the field of embedded and distributed software. In 2004, the winner is the EAST-EEA (Electronics Architecture and Software Technology – Embedded Electronic Architecture) project.

With 80% of a car's functions operated by software-driven 'smart' devices and more on the way, this timely project brings together 23 partners (industrialists, suppliers and researchers) – from four European countries to design a common software architecture and language. The project has a volume of 250 man-years, a budget of €40 million, and is an outstanding example of public-private financing. A 'spin-off' private partnership, AUTOSAR, will act as a certification body for the technology developed, which will be applied to all European cars manufactured from 2009 onwards.