

## Eurostars Programme archive of news coverage

### **30-10-2007: Bizz-Innoveren over de grens (Innovating across borders)**

Innoveren? Dat doe je dus niet knus in Holland, maar samen met een buitenlandse innovatiepartner. *(Innovate? You don't need to go it alone in Holland, but together with a foreign innovation partner)*

### **30-10-07: Nieuwsbrief KMOPME # 126**

UNIZO over Europees EUREKA Eurostars Programma voor O&O-steun aan KMO's *(UNIZO on the European EUREKA Eurostars Programme, giving support to SMEs)*

### **20-10-07: De Standaard-Europa steunt onderzoek in kmo's (Europe support SME Research)**

Janez Potocnik, Europees commissaris voor Wetenschap en Onderzoek, heeft in Brussel officieel het EUREKA Eurostars Programma gepresenteerd. *(Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research, officially opened the EUREKA Eurostars Programme in Brussels).*

### **18-10-07: Research Europe-Eurostars launch**

Europe must make it easier for SMEs to be strong drivers of innovation, Janez Potocnik, the Research Commissioner said at the launch of the Eurostars Programme for research-intensive SMEs on 2 October.

### **15-10-07: De Vlaamse Ondernemer-EUREKA Eurostars programma: 800 miljoen euro voor high-tech KMO-onderzoek (The EUREKA Eurostars Programme: 800 million euro for hi-tech SME research)**

Europees Commissaris voor Wetenschap and Onderzoek Janez Potocnik heeft het EUREKA Eurostars programma officieel ingehuldigd. *(European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potocnik officially launched the EUREKA Eurostars Programme)*

### **09-10-07: Vraag en Aanbod-De Eurostars onder de KMOs (Eurostars for SMEs)**

Vorige week opende Janez Potocnik, Europees Commissaris voor Wetenschap and Onderzoek, in Brussel officieel het EUREKA Eurostars programma. *(Last week, European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potocnik officially launched the EUREKA Eurostars Programme).*

### **09-10-07: PME Newsletter-L'UE et EUREKA lancent le programme Eurostars pour les PME actives dans la recherche (EU and EUREKA launch the Eurostars Programme for research-performing SMEs).**

L'Europe vient de franchir « un nouveau pas dans la réalisation de l'Espace européen de la recherche, au bénéfice cette fois des PME », selon les termes du commissaire européen en charge de la science et de la recherche, Janez Potocnik. *(Europe has just made 'the step in building a European Research Area, by helping SMEs', according to Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research).*

### **09-10-07: KMO Nieuwsbrief-UNIZO over Europees EUREKA Eurostars Programme (UNIZO on the European EUREKA Eurostars Programme)**

Vandaag lanceerde de Europeese Commissie het EUREKA Eurostars Programma, waarmee Europa onderzoek en ontwikkeling bij hightech KMO's wil financieren. *(Today, the European Commission launched the EUREKA Eurostars Programme, so Europe is can finance high-tech SMEs in their research).*

**09-10-07: O1net - L'Europe débloque 400 millions d'euros pour les PME innovantes**

(Europe sets aside 400 million euro for innovative SMEs)

La Commission européenne a donné le coup d'envoi de son programme Eurostars. Date de clôture des candidatures: 8 février 2008... *(The European Commission has launched its Eurostars Programme. Cut-off date for applicants is 8 February 2008...)*

**09-10-07: Nieuwsbrief KMOPME # 124**

De KMO-markt is de grootste markt van België. 99% van de ondernemingen met minder dan 250 werknemers zijn KMO's... *(The SME market is the largest in Belgium. 99% of businesses with less than 250 employees are SMEs...)*

**03-10-07: De Tijd - Eurostars wil succesverhalen van hightech-kmo's steunen** *(Eurostars wants to support hi-tech-SME success stories)*

Kleine en middelgrote ondernemingen die actief zijn in hightech onderzoek, kunnen binnenkort rekenen op bijkomend Europees geld. *(Small and medium-sized enterprises that perform hi-tech research will soon be able to count on European money...)*

**03-10-07: Cordis news - EU and EUREKA launch Eurostars Programme for research-performing SMEs**

Europe has taken 'another step in the realisation of the European Research Area, this time to the benefit of SMEs [small and medium sized enterprises]', according to EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik, who helped to launch EUREKA's Eurostars programme on 2 October.

**03-10-07: De Pers - Subsidie EUREKA-programma moet Europa opstuwen tot wereldwijde innovatiekoploper.**

Nu op te halen: 800 miljoen (EUREKA programme funding to make Europe a worldwide innovation leader. 800 million euro up for grabs)  
Bij de EU wordt de afgelopen jaren kwistig gestrooid met hightech subsidies. Maar alleen de slimste jongetjes van de klas maken een kans op de jackpot... *(Over the last years, the European Union has been very generous with hi-tech subsidies. But, only the smartest boys of the class have had a chance to win the jackpot...)*

**03-10-07: Jornal de Negocios - Programa Eurostars mobiliza 800 milhões para promover inovação nas PME.** *(Eurostars Programme mobilises 800 million euro to promote SME innovation)*

A Comissão Europeia lançou o programa Eurostars, que prevê destinar cerca de 800 milhões de euros para fomentar o investimento em investigação e desenvolvimento (I&D) em pequenas e médias empresas da UE. *(The European Commission launched the Eurostars Programme that predicts to dedicate around 800 million euro to foster the investment in R&D in EU SMEs).*

**02-10-07: UNIZO press release: UNIZO over Europees Eureka Eurostars-Programma voor O&O-steun aan KMO's** *(UNIZO on the European EUREKA Eurostars Programme that provides R&D support to SMEs)*

Vandaag lanceerde de Europese Commissie het EUREKA Eurostars-Programma, waarmee Europa onderzoek en ontwikkeling bij hightech KMO's wil financieren... *(The European Commission has launched the EUREKA Eurostars Programme today, to finance Europe's R&D-performing SMEs...)*

**02-10-07: KanaalZ television** report on the EUREKA Eurostars launch

**02-10-07: CanalZ television** report the EUREKA Eurostars launch

**02-10-07: Clippings from Slovenian media** - EUREKA Eurostars Programme launch

**30-09-07: Innovation** - Eurostars: un programme dédié au PME (*Eurostars: a programme dedicated to SMEs*)

La Commission européenne a avalisé le tout premier programme de financement consacré au PME réalisant des activités de R&D: Eurostars (*programme conjoint de l'UE et EUREKA*)...  
(*The European Commission has launched the first funding programme dedicated to R&D-performing SMEs: Eurostars (a joint programme between the EU and EUREKA)*...

**27-09-07: BioPharmaceutiques** - European SMEs are invited to take the Eurostars...

Yet another R&D funding programme from the European Union! This time, however, the new "Eurostars" joint initiative from the European Commission and member states is specifically dedicated to R&D activities in SMEs: a first!

**13-09-07: Cordis News** - Commission adopts Eurostars programme for R&D-performing SMEs

The European Commission has endorsed the first-ever dedicated funding programme for research and innovation performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)...

**13-09-07: EU Business** - Commission adopts Eurostars programme for R&D-performing SMEs.

The European Commission has endorsed the first-ever dedicated funding programme for research and innovation performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)...

13-09-07: Lab Technologist.com - New funding drive for 'Eurostars'

The European Commission has named research-performing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as 'the entrepreneurial stars of Europe', and hopes to raise €800m of extra funds for them...

**12-09-07: EU news alert** - Fast-track to competitive business: European Commission proposes Joint Programme with Member States for research-intensive small companies  
R&D-performing Small and Medium-sized companies (SMEs) are the entrepreneurial stars of Europe. Responding to their specific needs, the Commission has adopted today Eurostars, a new Joint Programme with 27 EUREKA countries to finance R&D partnerships with research-performing SMEs.

**10-09-07: EUROPA** - Big step for small business

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent the engine room of Europe's growth. They account for 99% of businesses and provide 75 million jobs within the European Union...

**26-07-07: Research Europe** - Article 169s will flounder without firm member state commitment, says report

Member states need to make a stronger commitment to any future programmes that combine EU and national funds and avoid earmarking funding for their own priorities...

**12-07-07: Research Europe** - Industry wins stake in 'more open' ERA debate  
Portugal plans to extend talks beyond Green Paper to Aho...

**April 07: Het Financiële Dagblad** - Nieuwe subsidie voor high-tech-mkb (New funding for hi-tech SMEs)  
Aanpak voorkomt dat concerns en instellingen met geld aan de haal gaan... (Approach prevents concerns and institutions to take one's heels with money)

**29-03-07: Research Europe** - Borg stresses importance of SMEs to R&D  
EUREKA's Eurostars Programme Manager Luuk Borg has stressed the vital role SMEs play in developing future European competitiveness and productivity...

**16-03-07: L'Echo** - L'innovation au coeur du business (Innovation at the heart of business)  
La première journée de l'European Business Summit a été notamment l'occasion de discuter de l'avenir de la R&D européenne... (The opening day of the European Business Summit was seen as an opportunity to discuss the future of European R&D...)


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## EU and EUREKA launch Eurostars programme for research-performing SMEs

[Date: 2007-10-03]

Europe has taken 'another step in the realisation of the European Research Area, this time to the benefit of SMEs [small and medium sized enterprises]', according to EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik, who helped to launch EUREKA's Eurostars programme on 2 October.



The programme will provide financial support, from both EU and the EUREKA member country funds, to Europe's young and innovative companies, described by Mr Potocnik as the 'lifeblood' of Europe's economy. The programme is aimed specifically at a niche market of research and innovation-performing businesses that fulfil the EU-adopted definition of an SME, are based in a country participating in Eurostars, and that invest 10% or more of their annual turnover in research.

'SMEs are the driving motor of the European economy because they are flexible. They can adapt quickly to the needs of the market,' said the Commissioner.

Importantly, the initiative has been welcomed by the SME community. Speaking at the launch, chairman of the European Federation of high-tech SMEs, Emmanuel Leprince, spoke of his 'high expectations' for the programme. He also talked of a 'glass ceiling' that is preventing most SMEs from reaching their full potential. Eurostars will help these young companies, so often considered by investors as the 'dangerous option', to get a foot on the ladder.

The attraction of Eurostars is that it is designed specifically for SMEs involved in research, said Mr Leprince. 'The Commission tackles red tape, regulations, standards etc. These are all important issues, but they are not the specific problems of SMEs,' he explained.

Some SME representatives would however like to see the criteria for participation widened so that more companies can benefit. Ullrich Schröder, research and development (R&D) advisor at the European craft and SME employers' organisation (UEAPME), said that the number of SMEs investing 10% or over in research is quite small, and that the

barrier should be lowered to 5% in line with the definition of a high-tech SME used by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Representing the Slovenian Presidency of EUREKA, Ales Mihelic, General Director of the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, conceded that 10% is quite high, but pointed out that EUREKA has made it easier for more companies to participate by saying that they can also invest 10% of their full-time equivalent (FTE) in R&D.

Mr Potocnik highlighted how Eurostars will complement existing EU initiatives intended to support SMEs conducting research. Under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) the Commission set the target of having SMEs make up 15% of project participants. This target proved difficult to meet in some areas however. Under FP7, the Commission has simplified administrative procedures, increased the funding of SME projects from 50% to 75% of the project's cost, and introduced the guarantee fund. All of these measures are intended to make it easier for SMEs to participate in FP7.

But as the Commissioner pointed out, 'In FP7 Cooperation projects, SMEs aren't usually leading the projects.' Eurostars will enable SMEs to do just that, benefitting from €100 million in Commission funding and €300 million from 22 EU Member States and five countries associated to FP7. This capital is expected to attract a further €400 million in private investment.

'Eurostars fills a gap that was existing, using tools that were on our market but not used in this combination,' said Mr Potocnik. The Commission's participation comes under Article 169 of the EU Treaty, which allows for the participation of the Community in research programmes run jointly by a number of EU Member States.

The Commissioner referred to these new and closer links between EUREKA and the framework programmes as a marriage. Alluding to questions over the Commission's commitment to funding Eurostars beyond its initial six-year timeframe, he said: 'As we all know, in a marriage, it is not enough to say 'yes' only at the beginning. You have to show that you mean it constantly.'

The imagery continued as the Commissioner concluded his speech, claiming that he was happy to be the best man at this marriage, and wishing Eurostars a long and happy life, with lots of healthy SMEs.

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For further information, please visit:  
<http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu>

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**News**

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**Commission adopts EUROSTARS programme for R&D performing SMEs**

[Date: 2007-09-13]

The European Commission has endorsed the first ever dedicated funding programme for research and innovation performing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

The EUROSTARS programme will aim to stimulate European entrepreneurship by funding companies engaged in research and development (R&D) and supporting their bids to lead international collaborative R&D and innovation projects.

As a joint programme bringing together the EU and the intergovernmental EUREKA initiative, EUROSTARS will begin its funding activities in 2007 with a budget of €800 million over its first six years.

In addition to an EU contribution of €100 million, 22 EU Member states and five countries associated to the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will jointly contribute another €300 million. In turn, the private sector will mobilise up to €400 million to support European R&D performing SMEs.

Through EUROSTARS, the participating countries will pool their national programmes and research funding in favour of SMEs, resulting in a better and more efficient use of funds.

'EUROSTARS brings a new level of cooperation and integration between Community and national research programmes,' said EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik.

'Creating strong links between public and private funding, EUROSTARS will give a boost to R&D performing SMEs, allowing them to collaborate with the best research teams in Europe, and to transform new ideas into successful businesses. It is an illustration of the European Research Area at work,' he added.

As SMEs provide 75 million jobs and account for 99% of all businesses in Europe, they are seen as playing a crucial role in the bid to meet the targets of the renewed Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs.

The EUROSTARS programme will offer funding to those SMEs with less than 250 employees who invest at least 10% of their annual turnover in R&D activities. These activities will have to involve multi-partner, multi-national projects which are led by SMEs, but open to other types of participants such as universities, research organisations and large companies. They will also have to target market-oriented research and development, aimed at short to medium term commercial results.

The EUROSTARS Programme will be officially launched in Brussels on 2 October and will have a first application cut-off date of 3 December 2007.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/tiles/main.html>

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