

INNOVATION

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

JULY - AUGUST 2007

Joint Technology Initiatives: Public and private sector join forces for research

The Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), the first ever Europe-wide public-private R&D partnerships, were recently presented by the European Commission. JTIs launch a new funding approach for large scale research projects, combining industry resources, Member States and Commission resources. The aim is to achieve greater strategic focus by supporting common ambitious research agendas in areas that are crucial for competitiveness and growth, assembling and coordinating at European level a critical mass of research.

The first three JTIs, that are expected to operate in the early 2008, are the embedded computing systems JTI ARTEMIS, the Innovative Medicines Initiative IMI and the Nanoelectronics JTI ENIAC. Others to follow are: Aeronautics and Air Transport (Clean Skies), Hydrogen & Fuel Cells (FCH), Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). JTIs arise primarily from the work of European Technology Platforms (ETPs), which were launched in 2003, and concern the implementation of ETPs Strategic Research Agendas. Technology Platform initiatives are also under development in Greece, in areas such as: Industrial security, Biofuels, Textiles, Food, Energy.



European Technology Platforms
<http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms>

FP7 - Joint Technology Initiatives
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html#4

"Aristarchos" turns to Space again

The first space images from the new Greek telescope are now available to the scientific community. "Aristarchos", the 2.3-meter Ritchey-Chrétien type reflecting telescope, named in honour of the ancient Greek astronomer, is the most sophisticated observation instrument of the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the National Observatory of Athens (IAA-NOA). Located at the new observatory at Chelmos, Kalavrita, "Aristarchos" is the largest telescope in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, and the second largest in mainland Europe.

"Aristarchos" is located at "Neraidorachi", the top of mount Chelmos, at an altitude of 2,340 m where observation at infrared wavelengths is also possible. This is one of the darkest regions in Europe and does not pose visibility problems due to light pollution, as the surrounding mountains (Panachaiko, Zeria etc.) obscure all large cities. The new telescope is equipped with observation instruments of cutting-edge technology. It contains single CCD and wide-field (AWFC) cameras, a triple high-speed CCD camera (ULTRACAM) as well as high-resolution (MES) and medium-resolution (ATS) spectrometers. The system can be remotely controlled through the network, from the Institute's offices in Athens, or from other associated Institutes, in Greece and abroad.



"Aristarchos"
<http://www.astro.noa.gr/helmos/>

Interview with Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman of the One Laptop per Child non-profit association

The innovative features and the capabilities of the "cheap laptop" are presented by Professor Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman of the One Laptop per Child non-profit association, in an interview given to the our magazine. He refers to the disbelief that he encountered when he first proposed the idea, but also to the support of developing countries' governments when the idea became an actual product. The laptop was designed to bring learning opportunities to the most remote and poorest children of the world, and can be transformed into a mobile school, a portable learning and teaching environment.

The OLPC (One Laptop Per Child) Greece initiative are already adjusting the software and the content to the Greek education system. More than 500 volunteers are involved, including teachers, IT programmers and translators. At a pilot stage, the laptop will be disseminated to thousands of pupils, while the long-run aim is to cover the needs of all pupils in primary and secondary education.



Nicholas Negroponte
<http://web.media.mit.edu/~nicholas>

One laptop per child
<http://www.laptop.org/>

IRC Hellenic: Forthcoming Brokerage events

MEDICA 2007: On the occasion of MEDICA 2007, the global meeting point for the medical sector, the IRC Network organises an international Partnering Event, on 15-16 November in Duesseldorf, Germany. The event aims at providing both the business and science sector with assistance to find partners in Europe for product development, manufacturing and licensing agreements, joint ventures or similar partnerships. EKT, Coordinator of the IRC Hellenic, supports the event.

Future Fish Eurasia Brokerage Event 2007: In order to increase collaboration between the Turkish and European Fishery industries, IRC EGE in collaboration with the Fish Thematic Group will organise the "Future Fish Eurasia Brokerage Event – 2007" on 26 October 2007, during the Future Fish Eurasia 2007 fair. EKT, Coordinator of IRC Hellenic, supports the event.

EurekaBuild 2007: The workshop and brokerage event "Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies for Construction Applications" is organised on 5-6 November 2007 in Valencia, within the framework of the European Construction Technology Platform. CERECO, partner of IRC Hellenic, will participate in the event.



IRC Hellenic
<http://www.hirc.gr>

MEDICA 2007
<http://www.medica.de>

Future Fish Eurasia 2007
<http://www.future-fish.com/aken.asp>

EurekaBuild 2007
<http://gesprecons.aidico.es:8090/EurekaBuild/faces/eurekabuild.jsp>