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# THE EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEUR OF TOMORROW – NO LONGER AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

## NEWS ALERT

Brussels, 29 June 2015

### EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES OF CONNECTING EU ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEMS

Universities play a central role in nurturing the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, especially if they work together. This role needs to be more broadly recognized, supported, and leveraged. This is the call issued by the EuroTech Universities Alliance, a strategic partnership of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e), and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) – all of which have a solid track record in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Today, the EuroTech Universities Alliance, a European partnership dedicated to producing new knowledge and translating it into action for the benefit of society, convened a High Level Event in Brussels and released a policy paper [‘Nurturing the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow’](#).

In his keynote speech, Patrick Aebischer, President of EPFL and current President of the EuroTech Universities Alliance, explained: "As a unique collaborative framework, the Alliance increases the offer of entrepreneurship activities and improves access to international networking for our students and staff. By working together, we develop novel approaches to support business creation and an entrepreneurial culture in Europe, including through our joint [European Venture Programme](#) and [TECHNOLOGIST magazine and website](#)."

Moderated by innovation expert Daria Tataj, the panel debate following Aebischer's speech resulted in a lively discussion, with panellists representing a range of key actors from university management and the European Commission as well as company founders. Matthias Meyer, founder of BMW Start-up Garage, stressed that geographical proximity is key for creating university-industry pathways that take early-stage ideas to market. "Our co-development scheme," he said, "builds on our close ties with TUM for mutual benefit – the young entrepreneurs have the fantastic opportunity of market and network access, and we can tap into the young creative potential that is just around the corner."

According to Adam Hartmann, co-founder of DTU spin out Eupry, his business benefited greatly from the 'entrepreneurial ecosystem' at DTU. "This was decisive for the development of the company", he said, "not only in terms of inspiration, but also in terms of hands-on help in accessing expertise, learning more on intellectual property matters and meeting other entrepreneurs."



Through their activities across four key fields (entrepreneurship education and training; promoting entrepreneurship culture and careers; supporting internationalization; and facilitating access to finance), leading Universities of Science & Technology play a strategic role in addressing Europe's well-known deficit of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial mind-sets.

#### **ABOUT THE EUROTECH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE:**

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of four leading Universities of Science & Technology in Europe: DTU (Technical University of Denmark), EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), TU/e (Eindhoven University of Technology) and TUM (Technical University of Munich). Together the EuroTech Universities are committed to finding technical solutions which address the major challenges of modern society. Their intensive collaboration across research, education and innovation support the EU's goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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The policy paper is available for download on the Alliance website: [www.eurotech-universities.eu](http://www.eurotech-universities.eu)

TECHNOLOGIST website: [www.technologist.eu](http://www.technologist.eu)

EuroTech Universities European Venture Programme: <http://eurotech-universities.eu/innovation-and-entrepreneurship/#european+venture+programme>