EuroTech Endorses the EU Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures

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The EuroTech Universities Alliance endorses the EU Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures, reaffirming its commitment to making Europe's world-class research and technology capabilities more accessible to industry, particularly start-ups and SMEs, and strengthening collaboration across Research & Innovation ecosystems.

Research and technology infrastructures are essential to developing and scaling new technologies, providing the specialised facilities and expertise needed for experimentation, prototyping, testing and validation. Yet their potential remains underexploited due to limited visibility, complex access arrangements and financial and administrative barriers, particularly for SMEs and start-ups.

As leading technical universities, EuroTech partners combine research excellence, cutting-edge infrastructures and strong industrial partnerships, while fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems where deep-tech start-ups emerge and grow. From advanced laboratories and cleanrooms to pilot lines, testbeds and living labs, their infrastructures support the full continuum from frontier research to industrial innovation. **EuroTech universities are committed to making these complementary capabilities and expertise more accessible, in line with their respective access policies, including across borders, in order to accelerate innovation and strengthen Europe's technological competitiveness and societal impact.**

Making advanced capabilities accessible to industry

The **EU Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures** puts forward six voluntary principles to improve industrial access: greater visibility and availability of infrastructure services; transparency and quality; simplified contractual arrangements; secure intellectual property management; tailored support responding to companies' needs; and stronger cooperation between infrastructures and wider access to services and data across borders and sectors. **EuroTech universities are actively contributing to the implementation of these principles.** At Alliance level, this includes for instance the coordinated mapping of members' research and technology infrastructures and the development of a pilot access scheme to facilitate cross-border access.

EuroTech universities provided input to the recent **EU consultation on good practices for industrial access to infrastructures**, highlighting different access models, contractual arrangements, pricing modalities, dedicated support services for industry, strategic partnerships and long-term collaboration models. Their experiences show that **effective industrial access and sustainable infrastructure operations go beyond making equipment available**. For SMEs and start-ups in particular, access costs and administrative complexity remain important barriers, pointing to the need for targeted support and practical mechanisms to translate industrial needs into infrastructure requirements, identify relevant capabilities and expertise, facilitate cross-border access, simplify contractual conditions and ensure transparent pricing and professional support.

Strengthening Europe's connected infrastructure ecosystem

Building on its members' experience, **EuroTech aims to connect complementary infrastructure capabilities across the Alliance,** improve their visibility and strengthen cross-border accessibility and cooperation. As the EU develops its future funding and access instruments, **greater attention is needed not only to investing in those infrastructures, but also to ensuring their effective and sustainable operation and use, across the EU and associated countries**. This includes supporting the specialised expertise, professional services and cross-border connections that make infrastructures accessible, alongside financing mechanisms that enable innovative companies, particularly SMEs and start-ups, to benefit from them.

By endorsing the Charter, EuroTech reaffirms its commitment to making Europe's research and technology infrastructures more accessible and connected, building on its members' experience to strengthen cooperation across research, industry and entrepreneurial ecosystems, and facilitate access to advanced capabilities for start-ups and SMEs.

About EuroTech Universities Alliance

The EuroTech Universities Alliance is a strategic partnership of six leading universities of science and technology: the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris), Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM).

Founded in 2011, the Alliance combines complementary strengths in infrastructure, research, innovation, and education, to address societal challenges and strengthen Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and resilience. Through its Strategy 2030, EuroTech is advancing deeper cooperation, contributing scientific expertise to European policymaking and connecting research and innovation ecosystems to achieve greater collective impact.

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