

- **NEWS RELEASE**

## **EUREKA NETWORK RECOGNISED AS VITAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL R&D AND INNOVATION COLLABORATION**

- **Global businesses and innovators across over 45 countries can work together through the EUREKA network**
- **EUREKA celebrates 10-year anniversary of the Eurostars programme, which has invested €1.15 billion in projects**
- **European Commission Director-General of Research and Innovation, Jean-Eric Paquet celebrates the success of this joint programme**

**Brussels, 26 September 2018** - Director General of DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, Jean-Eric Paquet has spoken at the celebratory event of the EUREKA network which enables opportunities for businesses to find and work with partners in Europe and beyond.

He attended the event in Brussels which focussed on highlighting the important role EUREKA plays in facilitating and supporting international R&D and innovation collaboration and how it complements plans for Horizon Europe. Bringing together over 40 countries, EUREKA has invested €38.4 Bn to date in business-focused projects delivering economic growth. The event also celebrates the 10 year anniversary of the EUREKA Eurostars programme, a highly successful programme between EUREKA and the European Commission.

Speaking at the event Director-General Paquet said:

*"I see a promising future with the establishment of more synergies between the Union and EUREKA. I think that there is a real opportunity for EUREKA to have a role in Horizon Europe including its Innovation Pillar. I look forward to working together".*

With an exceptional 10-year track record, Eurostars has been one of the most effective instruments to support SME-led international research and innovation cooperation, both within Europe and beyond. As part of the EUREKA suite of support, Eurostars draws on the combined strengths of the largest grouping of national funding bodies and the European Commission.

### **Note to editors:**

*Since its creation in 1985, EUREKA has supported a range of companies and organisations.*

*A UK and Belgian EUREKA Eurostars project has developed a simple, effective and highly accurate blood test to detect transplant diseases. Its impact has reduced transplant costs by better targeting resources and is helping to improve patient's recovery from transplants.*

*Videntifier Technologies is an Icelandic company whose technology helps international police forces investigating child abuse and terrorist cases. They partnered with UK company Forensic Pathways and the French research institute IRISA on a EUREKA Eurostars project as the technology provider for Interpol's Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database at Interpol in June 2012.*

*The EUREKA network and European Commission are now working closely together to design the next Eurostars programme to continue supporting SMEs in growing their business through innovation. Building on demonstrated success, the next evolution of Eurostars will capitalise on EUREKA's existing programmes and aim even even higher.*

**Key facts:**

- *EUREKA has been in existence for over thirty years*
- *Involves 45 countries*
- *Supported nearly 7,000 projects*
- *Has worked with over 17,000 companies*
- *Nearly €38.4 billion already invested*

*EUREKA is a unique network which brings together the largest grouping of national ministries and innovation agencies, to support global business-focussed research and development. It aims to help businesses grow and encourages greater collaboration across borders.*

*Since EURKEA was founded in 1985, businesses involved have shown an additional annual turnover growth of 15% better than non-participants one year after the project finishing and companies in Eureka showed an additional annual employment growth of 7% compared to non-participating firms.*

*EUREKA is supported by a Secretariat based in Brussels, who are a non-profit organisation.*

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