

Call for abstracts

to be presented at the 2nd European Conference on Corporate R&D
CONCORD-2010, 3rd – 4th of March 2010, Seville (Spain)

Corporate R&D – An engine for growth, a challenge for European policy

The European Commission and the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation invite submissions of abstracts to be presented at the Second European Conference on Corporate R&D (CONCORD-2010), focussing on ***Corporate R&D – An engine for growth, a challenge for European policy***.

The Conference will be organised by the JRC's Institute for Prospective Technological Studies ([IPTS](#)) and the Spanish Centre for Development of Industrial Technology ([CDTI](#)) under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council. It also forms part of the Industrial Research Monitoring Analysis (IRMA) activities of the European Commission's Directorates Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)) and Research ([RTD](#)).

Rationale for the Conference

Following the first Conference on corporate R&D [[CONCORD-2007](#)] on *Knowledge for Growth: Role and Dynamics of Corporate R&D*, the European Commission together with the Spanish authorities decided to organise a second Conference, to be held in March 2010, on *Corporate R&D – An engine for growth, a challenge for European policy*. This Conference aims to link science and policy making by being structured around a series of policy relevant questions, bringing together the community of researchers, practitioners, industrialists and relevant policy makers, and thereby seeks to understand the policy implications of scientific findings.

The Conference will be held over two days; with the first day constituting a forum for a more technical and academic discourse and the second devoted to the policy dimension of corporate R&D, based on the most policy relevant outcomes of the first day.

Conference topics

The Conference will address the dynamics of R&D, innovation, competitiveness and economic growth. For the Academic Forum these topics will be streamlined into a few thematic strands based on the response of the research community and the abstracts submitted. To illustrate the core issues of each of the Conference strands, some relevant research questions are outlined below. The impact of the current economic and financial crisis on R&D and innovation, sectoral specifics or particularities e.g. in terms of SME's and NTBF's are seen as cross-cutting issues relevant to all the strands.

❖ **Impact of R&D on firm productivity and market performance**

R&D and innovation have been increasingly evoked as essential elements to foster competitiveness, economic growth, and employment during times of economic prosperity as well as in recessions.

The following questions could be addressed:

- How may research and innovation policies leverage corporate R&D investments and lead to further enhanced productivity, competitiveness and business performance?
- Is there a role for European policy in targeting certain industrial sectors and/or specific technologies? What instruments are indicated?
- How can the effectiveness of companies' R&D efforts be improved?

❖ **Globalising economies & internationalisation of corporate R&D**

Investments in R&D by EU companies have been increasing steadily and they are equivalent to the investments of similar companies operating in the same sectors in the rest of the world. Yet, an increasing share of the EU companies' R&D activities is conducted outside the EU, corresponding to the increasing globalisation of business operations. The externalisation of knowledge creation outside the EU might have undesirable effects, e.g. weakening the rationale for a strong public R&D base and making the returns on public investment in high education uncertain.

Furthermore, as globalisation could cause a transfer of public funds across countries, it is important to understand if there should be better coordination of policy support for corporate R&D in the EU.

The following questions could be addressed:

- How do European businesses benefit from foreign knowledge located both at home and abroad? How can knowledge spillover benefits be maximised?
- How much of European-based firms' R&D is conducted outside Europe? What is the net effect for Europe and what can be an appropriate policy response at EU level?
- How can Europe be made more attractive for foreign direct investments in R&D?
- Can European policy increase European firms' and regions' capability to benefit from knowledge developed abroad?

❖ **The link between corporate R&D, innovation, and employment**

Process innovations often lead to changes in work organisation and adjustments in employment levels (depending e.g. on price and cost structure in the given market, the product life-cycle, and the maturity of the sector). R&D and innovation may create new jobs based on new qualifications and possibly provide new niches for employment. In turn, exploitation of the newly generated knowledge and the entrepreneurial spirit may provide opportunities for the launch of new businesses, eventually NTBF, and for self-employment.

The following questions could be addressed:

- To what extent does knowledge-intensive innovation create, displace, or reduce employment? Is there a gain in terms of employment quality?
- What are the future skill needs of R&D-intensive companies in Europe?
- What is needed in terms of policy measures and public support to R&D and innovation activities in order to stimulate the creation of new and better jobs?

The Programme Committee of the Conference is seeking to receive new and original contributions. All submissions will undergo a double peer-review process. Young researchers and scholars are particularly encouraged to participate.

Please visit [<http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/concord-2010/>] for further information.

Programme Committee

The Committee will support the preparation of the Conference and the diffusion of its results. In particular, Committee members will review and select submitted papers, and ensure the scientific excellence and policy relevance of the selected contributions. They will also be asked to act as chairs, moderators, and/or rapporteurs.

Representatives of the European Commission

- Mr Peter Kind (Director of JRC-IPTS)
- Mr Isi Saragossi (Director of DG RTD's Directorate C - European Research Area: Knowledge-based Economy)
- Mr Jean-Noël Durvy (Director of DG ENTR's Directorate D - Innovation Policy)
- Mr Pietro Moncada Paternò Castello (DG JRC-IPTS), co-ordinator of the Committee

Representatives of the Spanish Presidency

- Mr Maurici Lucena (CDTI, Director)
- Mr Juan José Moreno (Office of Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurial Development, Ministry of Science and Innovation)
- Mrs Montserrat Torné (Office of International Cooperation and Institutional Relations, Ministry of Science and Innovation)

Representatives of main European industrial associations (t.b.c.)

- BUSINESS EUROPA
- Electronics and ICT Association [EICTA]
- European Chemical Industry Council [CEFIC]
- European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations [EFPIA]
- European Industrial Research Management Association [EIRMA]

Representatives from the academic world

- Prof. David Audretsch (Max Planck Institute of Economics, Jena - DE)
- Prof. Wesley Cohen (Duke University, Boston - US)
- Prof. Jan Fagerberg (Oslo University - NO)
- Prof. Elena Huergo (Complutense University of Madrid - ES)
- Prof. Jacques Mairesse (CREST / INSEE, Paris - FR)
- Prof. Franco Malerba (Bocconi University, Milano - IT)
- Prof. Pierre Mohnen (UNU - MERIT, Maastricht - NL)
- Prof. Robert Solow (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge - US)
- Prof. Nick Von Tunzelmann (University of Sussex - UK)
- Prof. Wim Vanhaverbeke (University of Hasselt - BE)
- Prof. Reinhilde Veugelers (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - BE)
- Prof. Marco Vivarelli (Catholic University of Piacenza - IT)

Submission requirements

Authors whose abstracts have been selected for presentation at the Conference will be asked to submit a full paper as well as a MS PowerPoint presentation (templates will be provided). Please carefully review the following instructions concerning abstracts and papers since incomplete submissions will not be considered. Each submission must include the following:

- An extended abstract of 500-1000 words to be submitted by 20th July.
- Contributions should clearly indicate the Conference topic (strand) selected.
- Submissions may report original research, project development / evaluation, practical applications or position papers. The abstract must outline specific objective(s) of the study or the project, methods and results should be stated, but tables, diagrams, and footnotes should be avoided at this stage.
- Abstracts will be evaluated on three criteria: relevance to the Conference topic and the thematic strand selected, originality, and scientific quality.
- For submission of abstracts please use the electronic submission form available at the Conference website (<http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/concord-2010/call.html>).
- For any submission of papers, posters, and presentations applying the templates with the formatting rules will be required (provided in due time).
- If an abstract is accepted for presentation you will be required to submit your electronic presentation and full paper by December 1st, 2009. Please note that the full version of the contributed paper should not exceed 8000 words, A4 size, 1,5 line spacing, font size 12 point 'times new roman' letter type, including tables, diagrams, and references. Detailed instructions for authors will be made available on the Conference website (<http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/concord-2010>) after finalising the selection of contributed papers and the notification of acceptance (September 15th, 2009).
- All invited presenters are requested to confirm their attendance to the Conference by short notice (within one month after notification of acceptance). In case of no confirmation the organisers will disregard the paper and remove it from the programme. All presenters are requested to formally register to the Conference.
- Full paper submission must be accompanied with signed copyright permission form. This form will be provided to the authors of accepted papers by DG JRC-IPTS.

Presentation of papers and discussions

The three thematic strands of the first day of the Conference (academic Forum) will be scheduled in separate parallel sessions. Each presenter will have 20 minutes to show insights and conclusions. After presenting the papers, each session will have a moderator responding to the presentation and setting the tone of the discussion. A prominent rapporteur will make a synthesis of the main conclusions achieved during the discussions.

Publication of best papers

All accepted papers and posters will be included in the Conference website. In addition, a limited number of papers will be selected for publication in one or more international peer-reviewed journal(s). The final acceptance for publication in the special issue(s) will be contingent on the further refinement of the papers presented at the Conference.

Deadlines

20 th July 2009	Submissions of abstracts (Reminder to be sent on June 15 th)
15 th September 2009	Notification of acceptance of abstracts, Call to submit full papers, Invitation for poster submission, Opening of registration
1 st November 2009	Notification of acceptance of poster presentation
1 st December 2009	Submission of full papers & electronic presentations
1 st February 2010	Deadline for registration,
20 th February 2010	Final Conference programme
3 rd -4 th March 2010	Conference in Seville, Spain

Sponsored Participation

A number of participants will be eligible for support to attend the Conference. Priority will be given to young scholars and researchers with outstanding contributions and limited resources to attend the Conference. You are kindly requested to check the Conference website for sponsor guidelines and the submission of applications.

Language

All contributions need to be in English, the official language of the Conference.

Contact

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