



## Coordinating energy research for a low Carbon Europe

# The EERA Newsletter

## February 2014

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### EERA ExCo Editorial

The EERA Executive Committee (ExCo) is made up of representatives from 15 of the biggest contributors to EERA. Each newsletter an ExCo representative will contribute with the editorial.

For this newsletter, ExCo member from ECN, CEO **Paul Korting**, has penned the contribution outlining the creation of the Netherlands Energy Research Alliance (NERA) which will help strengthen national energy research and its coordination with Europe.



**The Energy research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN)** has been a proponent of the alignment and harmonization of research at the European level from the very beginning. We believe that increased cross-border collaboration between energy research organisations throughout Europe will very much contribute to the strengthening of the European knowledge position, which will also be of great benefit for the European industry. But sometimes one needs to start at one's own doorstep to promote the European idea.

Back in 2008, ECN was one of the founding fathers of the European Energy Research Alliance. Our intention at that time was, and still is today, to become a driving force for stronger alignment of research. Ton Hoff, the former CEO of ECN, was elected first chairman of EERA and he dedicated much of his personal time and effort to the establishment of the Alliance. But the world around EERA and ECN has not been standing still. Within the Netherlands, the way in which energy R&D is structured has changed recently. Among others, the field of energy has seen the birth of the so-called Top consortia for Knowledge and Innovation (TKIs). These consortia, which bring together the most important stakeholders from research, industry and academia, jointly determine the research roadmap on which basis competitive calls are issued. The top consortia in the Netherlands can be compared to the initiatives between industry, research and the European Commission such as SPIRE or the Bio-based industries initiative (BBI).

In response to the new developments at the national and European level, we decided to establish a new umbrella organization, **the Netherlands Energy Research Alliance (NERA)**, which was founded in October 2013. Initially NERA consists of 6 representatives from **ECN, TNO, FOM, Delft University of Technology, Technical University of Eindhoven** and **the University of Twente**. Through the creation of NERA, we have formed a powerful new body to represent the interests of the largest and most influential organisations in energy research in the Netherlands. The main objective of NERA will be to create a favourable environment for public national research organisations and for our cooperation with industry, namely in the Dutch TKIs and in EERA. NERA is also officially recognized by our main contact at the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, who is also the national representative in the SET-Plan steering group.

The creation of NERA also represents a turning point in the history of EERA. In the near future, NERA intends to participate in the next call for selection of the EERA Executive Committee. This also means that ECN will no longer be an individual member of the Executive Committee. Nevertheless, the NERA and its members are confident that a good result will be achieved in the next selection procedure, which will enable us to continue representing the Dutch position in the EERA ExCo.

Here at ECN, we are certain that the formation of NERA as a strong national representative of energy research organisations will not be the last development to be seen and other countries might still follow. Let us all continue to work on the idea of a common Europe, even if this requires us to first finish our homework at the member state level.



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**Annual Congress 2014 of the European Energy Research Alliance**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**The Hotel, Boulevard de Waterloo 38, 1000 Brussels**

Invited speakers include high level representatives from the European Commission, Member states and Industry. This year's congress will feature a dedicated session on the state of play of the **SET-Plan** integrated roadmap.



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### The Stake- holder

EERA is committed to strengthening collaboration not only within the EERA community, but with other stakeholder organisations in relation to the SET-Plan. For this newsletter we have therefore invited Dr. Graeme Sweeney, Chairman of the [Zero Emissions Platform \(ZEP\)](#), to elaborate on the unique cooperation between ZEP and EERA which has had such a positive impact on the development of CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage (CCS) in Europe.



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### Strong support for CCS in EU 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework\*

On 22 January 2014, the European Commission published its much-anticipated Communication, “A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030” – and it was good news for CCS. Not only did the Commission demonstrate its commitment to this essential technology, it recognised its critical role in decarbonising energy-intensive industries, for which “increased R&D efforts and commercial demonstration...[are] essential over the next decade.” ZEP would also like to have seen an ambitious milestone for CCS, but welcomes the proposal to extend NER300 funding to low-carbon technologies in industrial processes.

Such recognition is in no small part due to the intense efforts and cooperation between ZEP and the EERA. Indeed, we have much in common: we share a strong belief in the critical need for CCS to decarbonise Europe cost-effectively – within a portfolio of low-carbon energy technologies. We share a clear vision for its route to market. We even share members: the research community is a key stakeholder group within ZEP and many representatives are also members of EERA. While ZEP has a focus on applied research, piloting and large-scale demonstration, EERA focuses on the trajectory from basic to applied research and piloting. In short, our activities are totally complementary.

For example, when ZEP developed its long-term R&D plan, “Recommendations for research to support the deployment of CCS in Europe beyond 2020”, it became the platform for EERA’s own Joint Programme on CCS (CCS-JP). For Horizon 2020, we worked together to demonstrate the need for strong, continued support for CCS R&D in order to enable wide deployment by 2030; and we collaborated on the Implementation Plans of the CCS European Industrial Initiative (EII) for both 2010-12 and 2013-15.<sup>1</sup> Now we are intensely involved in the Integrated Roadmap currently being developed under the SET-Plan. The conclusion: ZEP and EERA are not only fundamentally aligned in their views, but continue to learn from one another. The result: policymakers can rely on an R&D agenda that is broadly supported – via EERA and ZEP – by all stakeholder groups in Europe.

*Founded in 2005, ZEP is focused on CCS as a critical technology for achieving Europe’s energy, climate and societal goals. A coalition of over 200 members from 19 countries – representing academics, scientists, European utilities, petroleum companies, equipment suppliers and environmental NGOs – ZEP serves as an advisor to the European Commission on the research, demonstration and deployment of CCS.*

\*Please note that the views expressed in the invited article are the views of the writer and does not necessarily represent the views of EERA.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://setis.ec.europa.eu/set-plan-implementation/european-industrial-initiatives-eiis/eii-implementation-plans>



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## From the EERA Joint Programmes

The following is a selection of news from the EERA Joint Programmes. The Joint Programmes are the cornerstone of EERA's activities. This is where researchers from the more than 150 research organizations participating in EERA meet to coordinate activities, exchange knowledge and strengthen their networks.

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### **EERA JP Smart Cities establishes a City Advisory Board**

The EERA JP on Smart Cities "City Advisory Board" consists of senior urban planners, city managers and urban projects leaders with a strong expertise in Smart Cities related areas. The Board's main purpose is to intensify knowledge exchange between the EERA JP on Smart Cities and their key-stakeholders, the cities. Being newly introduced as an important element of the JP's organizational structure, the Board shall act as a forum to express cities needs and to enable knowledge transfer with the overall goal to jointly accelerate and shape the smart cities transformation process.

For more information about the EERA Joint Programme for Smart Cities, please visit <http://www.eera-sc.eu/>

### **New Joint Programme Coordinator for EERA JP Bioenergy**

Juan Carrasco has been elected as the new Joint Programme Coordinator of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) Joint Programme for Bioenergy.

From January 2014 onwards, Juan who is based at CIEMAT in Spain takes over from Kai Sipilä of VTT, Finland who has successfully led this Joint Programme since 2010.



EERA would like to thank Kai Sipilä for his work in coordinating the EERA JP Bioenergy.

### **New Joint Programme Manager for EERA JP Energy Storage**

Dr. Eberhard Diegele (KIT) has taken over the Joint Programme Coordinator responsibility from Prof. Hans Jürgen Seifert (KIT). Eberhard Diegele's role as Joint Programme Coordinator was agreed by the JP Steering Committee in the last meeting at KIT.

EERA would like to take the opportunity to thank Prof. Hans Jürgen Seifert for his work in setting up the EERA JP Energy Storage and for his efforts in coordinating the JP.



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## From the EERA Secretariat

The EERA Secretariat is responsible for the daily operation of EERA activities in Brussels and the support of activities in the EERA ExCo and the Joint Programmes. This section of the newsletter reflects on going and planned activities in the EERA secretariat. For this newsletter, our colleague Guillaume Milot from CEA has written the contribution.



2014 is set to be an important year for EERA. Not only will EERA establish itself as a legal entity, we will also see the SET-Plan Integrated roadmap as well as the start of important new EERA projects.

### The 5 EERA IRPs are starting

In EERA we are really happy to observe the 5 Integrated Research Programmes (IRPs) officially starting their activities. The [ELECTRA IRP](#) (JP Smart Grids) held their Kickoff meeting in December. The other three will hold their Kick off meetings in February and March: [CHEETAH IRP](#) (JP PV), [STAGE STE IRP](#) (JP CSP), [IRPWIND](#) (JP Wind). The [MATISSE IRP](#) (JP Materials for Nuclear) is launched – funded by the Euratom Framework Programme.

Combining traditional FP7 collaborative projects with Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) to increase coordination activities, all 5 IRPs benefit from a funding of nearly 10M € from FP7.

The EERA team wishes good luck and a fruitful research to the IRP participants.

### The 4<sup>th</sup> EERA Annual Congress

This year, the Congress will take place on **9<sup>th</sup> April 2014** at [The Hotel](#), Boulevard de Waterloo 38, **1000 Brussels**. The Congress which traditionally brings together around 300 participants is a yearly opportunity to discuss the state of renewable energy in Europe as well as discuss the progress and challenges of EERA. This 2014 Congress is already promising to be a special one since it shall witness the last official steps for establishing the EERA legal entity. During the Congress, the EERA will also organize conjointly with the European Commission a special session on the status on the SET-Plan integrated roadmap. Confirmed speakers include **Marie Geoghegan-Quinn**, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation and **Marie Donnelly**, Director C: Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency.

### The EERA goes east initiative

Since its establishment 5 years ago, the EERA has created a strong network of cooperation between research organisations. All members of the JPs are selected based on research excellence. Geographical outreach is however cemented mostly within the Western European member countries. As an official part of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) EERA recognises the importance of strengthening and interfacing with the research communities in EU12 member states and accession countries.

As part of this, the **EERA organized a lunch seminar on 12<sup>th</sup> February from 9h30 to 13h00, with colleagues from EU-12 countries. The aim of the meeting was to address** the current status and opportunities for connectivity to EERA for research stakeholders from new member states and accession countries.



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### **EERA to present best practice at workshop on Joint Programming Initiative**

The High Level Working group for the Joint Programming Initiatives is organising a workshop on March 12 to discuss best practice. EERA has been invited to present our work in the EERA Joint Programmes as an example of best practice. The main objective of the workshop is to develop a common understanding of the concept of alignment and possible recommendations for best practice models for alignment in Joint programming. The event foresees the participation of JPIs and their advising scientists, GPC members and observers, and Member States representatives involved in national research programming.

The event takes place on March 12 in Brussels.