

## Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

### “BILAT-USA” AND “LINK2US”

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## IN THIS ISSUE



This issue of the E-newsletter highlights three upcoming BILAT-USA and Link2US project events taking place in June 2011 in Budapest, Brussels, and Braganca. In addition key European Research Area (ERA) and U.S. Science and Technology (S&T) news are mentioned, including a new EU unifying patent system, the launch of the first EU Innovation partnership, and a newly formed U.S. led international panel looking at U.S. federal and international human research policies.

## EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) NEWS



### First European Innovation Partnership Launched

The European Commission (EC) has launched its first European Innovation Partnership, choosing to focus on the theme of Active and Healthy Ageing. Active and Healthy Ageing was chosen, as it is a societal challenge common to all European countries, and is viewed as an area where Europe has considerable potential for global leadership. Within this theme, three policy areas have been identified as a particular focus: prevention and health promotion, integrated care, and independent living of elderly people. Overall, the overarching target of this partnership will be to increase the average healthy lifespan in the European Union by 2 years, by 2020.

[Details](#)

### Creation of EU Unitary Patent System Approved

On 10 March 2011, European Union (EU) Competition ministers authorized a proposal for EU Member States (MS) to create a unitary patent system. The proposal was adopted by all MS except Spain and Italy, and means that future patents will be automatically valid throughout all EU MS. Ministers hope that this new system will foster economic growth. The official languages of the new patent system will be English, French and German, and Spain and Italy will have the chance to opt-in to the system. Over the next few weeks, the European Commission will release further details regarding moving forward on the systems creation.

[Details](#)

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## European Research Area Committee (ERAC) presents opinion on the 2011 Annual Growth Survey

As part of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the European Commission presented its first Annual Growth Survey (AGS), marking the start of the European semester, and is the main input for the Spring European Council meeting at the end of March.

In order for the EU to emerge from the crisis and lay the foundation for sustainable growth, the AGS sets out broad policy orientations, i.e. returning to macroeconomic stability, achieving higher levels of employment through labor market reforms, and increasing the growth potential.

While the AGS rightly places strong emphasis on urgent fiscal consolidation and addressing macro-economic imbalances, ERAC is of the opinion that the EU's policy response must go beyond crisis management and short-term fiscal challenges. Research and innovation are critical growth drivers and given the relatively long lead times to reap the impacts of investments and reforms in this area, action must be taken now.

[Details](#)

## Mapping ERA-NETs across Europe

A report, prepared by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), presents the first mapping of the active ERA-NETs across Europe. ERA-NETs are moving from a major interest in networking and building relations with international peers towards a more strategic approach. The scheme is seen as a valuable tool by programme managers and owners across Europe to foster transnational collaboration.

[Details](#)

## Europe 2020: Competitive or Complacent?

In this study a comprehensive, up-to-date look is offered on how the EU is connected to other continents, and what those ties mean for Europe's competitiveness in a G20 world. The EU's global links in goods, services, money, energy, people and ideas are explained and how they affect relations between the EU and other world regions. EU's strengths and weaknesses are assessed, and four scenarios for the EU's future are offered.

[Details](#)

## U.S. S&T NEWS

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### U.S. DOE Launches Quadrennial Review of Energy

U.S. Energy Secretary Dr. Steven Chu announced during a Senate Budget Committee hearing that the U.S. Department of Energy is developing a Quadrennial Energy Review. The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) previously suggested such a review in a report released last year entitled *Report to the President on Accelerating the Pace of Change in Energy Technologies through an Integrated Federal Energy Policy*.

[Details](#)

### U.S. Presidential Commission Seeks Comments on Human Research Protection

The U.S. Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues has issued a request for public comments in March 2011, regarding international standards related to the issue of human subjects in federally supported research. The Commission stated that it is seeking comments on the following issues: "the existing standards for protecting human subjects, domestically and internationally; how the current system of global research works in practice; and the ethical and social justice issues that emerge from the current research system." Comments are due by 2 May 2011.

The Commission has also announced the appointment of an International Research Panel to consider the effectiveness of current federal rules and international standards governing research involving human subjects. The Panel, which plans to meet three times, will submit a report to the Commission covering the following matters: (a) the dominant norms, and competing alternatives, driving the ethics of medical research in different global regions outside of the U.S.; (b) the conflicts, if any, between U.S. norms and international standards; (c) the challenges facing researchers conducting U.S.-funded research in global settings; and (d) how best to address any major differences in regional norms for medical research.

[Details](#)

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## 2011 BIO International Convention

The BIO International Convention is the largest global event for the biotechnology industry and will take place 27-30 June 2011 in Washington D.C. The event features keynotes and sessions from key policymakers, scientists, CEOs, and celebrities. It also offers networking and partnering event opportunities, and features the BIO Business Forum (One-on-One Partnering opportunities). Previous speakers have included President George W. Bush, President Bill Clinton, and General Colin Powell, among others. Last year, over 15,000+ biotech leaders, innovators and decision makers from 65 countries attended the event. This year the event will again feature the BIO Exhibition, conveniently organized into Product Focus Zones, regional and country Pavilions, and free Interactive Theaters.

[Details](#)

## U.S. NIH to Determine Health Impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) has launched the Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study, an investigation of 55,000 Gulf oil spill cleanup workers and volunteers that will last up to 10 years, in order to learn of the spill's effects on human health.

[Details](#)

## 2010 Annual Report on U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement

Prepared by the first U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordination (IPEC), the 2010 Annual report includes actions and concrete steps on implementation of the Joint Strategic Plan on Intellectual Property Enforcement.

[Details](#)

## Transatlantic Economy 2011

The Transatlantic Economy 2011 annual report offers the most up-to-date survey of European-sourced jobs, trade, and investment for each of the fifty U.S. states and U.S.-sourced jobs, trade, and investment for all EU member states and other European economies. Continued high levels of innovation will be essential for the U.S. and Europe to recover from the economic crisis and to prosper in today's highly competitive and connected global economy. The prosperity of Americans and Europeans will increasingly be dependent on the strength of their knowledge links to each other and to other global hubs of innovation and ideas.

[Details](#)

**BILAT-USA E-NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2011****COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Reader

The BILAT-USA project, together with its complementary project Link2US, is half-way through its foreseen duration. Several successful project events, such as the *EU-U.S. Symposium on Large Scale Research Infrastructures* in Rome on 1 October 2010 or the *Symposium on Transatlantic EU-U.S. Cooperation on Innovation and Technology Transfer* in Vienna on 22 March 2011, have gathered funding organizations, stakeholders and researchers boosting knowledge and commitment on both sides to improve transatlantic Science & Technology cooperation.

We are experiencing exciting times right now with respect to shaping the future European research, technology and innovation activities. The European Commission has published the Green Paper, proposing major changes to EU research and innovation funding, aiming at making participation easier and increase scientific and economic impact. Furthermore a public consultation on these issues has been launched and I encourage you to participate in order to contribute details are included in this newsletter.

Enjoy reading!

For continuous updated information please visit our website at  
<http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/Bilat-USA>

**Dr. Sabine Herlitschka**  
*Coordinator of BILAT-USA Project*

For questions and comments, please contact us at [bilat-usa@ffg.at](mailto:bilat-usa@ffg.at)

**TRANS-ATLANTIC**  
**NEWS****U.S. businesses call for 'IQ alliance' with Europe**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the EU is calling for simpler visa procedures to make it easier for scientists and researchers to move between Europe and America. The economic relationship between the EU and the U.S. is one of the deepest relationships and the U.S. and Europe remain each other's most important markets.

[Details](#)

**Opportunities for Health Research in Third Countries**

On 9 June 2011 the European Commission's (EC) Access4EU programme will hold a session in Brussels, Belgium, to link EU and Third Country Health researchers. With international cooperation in Health research being key to creating a European knowledge-based economy, the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) provides numerous opportunities for researchers in and outside Europe, to promote the possibilities of doing research under Third

Country RTD programmes. As a result, six Access4EU projects, that focus on Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Russia, and the U.S., will come together to provide participants of the Health info day on 9 and 10 June with an overview of the opportunities in Health research that exist outside Europe. EU researchers will thus not only have the opportunity to understand the importance of International Cooperation under FP7, but also to learn about the access possibilities for Third Country RTD programmes.

[Details](#)

**Half time – Highway – Interim Evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme from Different Perspectives**

A Conference on the Interim Evaluation of FP7 was organised under the aegis of Hungarian EU Presidency, in Budapest, on 24-25 February 2011. By discussing the interim evaluation of FP7 from different perspectives, the conference's goal was to draw up recommendations for further implementation of the FP7 as well as for the "Common Strategic Framework" starting in 2014. Three main issues were highlighted during the Conference. In particular, discussions were held regarding problems involved with integrating new Member

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States' (EU12) involvement in FP7; strengthening participation in FP7 of industrial players, especially of SMEs; and efficient implementation of FP7 focusing on simplification of the administrative procedures.

[Details](#)

### **EC Releases Green Paper on a New Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation**

In February 2011 the European Commission (EC) presented a Green Paper, proposing major changes to EU research and innovation funding. The overall goals are to make participation easier, increase scientific and economic impact and provide better value for money. Overall, the main changes that are foreseen are: bringing together the current Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) into a Common Strategic Framework. In general the Common Strategic Framework offers a large potential for making EU funding more attractive and easy to access for participants, as well as possibilities for administrative simplifications.

A public consultation has been launched on the Green Paper, seeking the views of all interested individuals and organisations on these proposed changes and on the specific questions set out in the Green Paper. The deadline for contributions is Friday 20 May 2011.

[Details](#)

### **Recent Report Highlights the Number and Terms of Foreign Participation Within U.S., EU and Japanese R&D Funding Programmes.**

Technology Policy International, an International Consultancy with Representatives in Boston, Washington, and Silicon Valley, has released a new report entitled, *National Preferences in Publicly-Supported R&D Programs*. The report focuses on the question of if foreign firms are participating in U.S., EU, and Japanese R&D programmes (publicly funded) and what terms firms must adhere to when applying for and participating in such programmes.

The study underlying the report was commissioned by the Washington, D.C., office of Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). Please note that the opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of NEDO or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

[Details](#)

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

On 23 and 24 March 2011 the BILAT-USA and Link2US projects held their second Project Management Board (PMB) meetings in Vienna together with the second Advisory Board Meeting. The PMB members discussed the progress made in the last 18 months and focused on the action plans for the next 6 months period. The Advisory Group welcomed its new member, Dr. Jan Anderson, Chief Executive Advisor at University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Science, Research and Innovation and Chair of the EARMA (European Association for Research Managers and Administrators).

### **BILAT-USA to Hold Workshop at EuroNano Forum 2011**

On 1 June 2011 the BILAT-USA project will hold a workshop under the auspices of the EuroNanoForum, 2011, in Budapest, Hungary. The main purpose of the event is to bring U.S. and EU researchers and technology transfer firms together in order to support exchange of ideas and to facilitate formation of new partnerships. Participants will receive information about the nanotechnology research in the EU and in the U.S. as well as about possibilities for cooperation. Current projects will also be represented in order to demonstrate existing collaborations. In addition, a brokerage event will be organised to open the possibilities for future transatlantic collaborations. A programme agenda is still being finalized and will be made available soon.

[Details](#)

### **Release of the report on "U.S. Participation in the Framework Programme"**

The BILAT-USA project has released a new report outlining U.S. participation in the Framework Programme. The report's goal was to assess U.S. participation in the Sixth (2002-2006) and Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) for Research and Technological Development, the European Union's main instrument for funding research in Europe. Analytical data on each different programme/ priority/ action have been provided. The analysis is based on data provided by the European Commission/Directorate General for Research. Report updates will be done twice during the project lifetime.

[Details](#)

## U.S. IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: SPOTLIGHT ON THE CAPACITIES PROGRAMME

### About

The Capacities Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) covers a range of areas, one of which is fully dedicated to International Cooperation. The aim of the International Cooperation area is to foster international cooperation through a set of strategic initiatives with Third Countries

The activities supported within the International Cooperation area of the Capacities Programme have three major objectives:

- To strengthen bi-regional and bilateral dialogues in scientific cooperation and assist in joint identification of topics for collaboration under thematic programmes;
- To network different stakeholders (such as universities, industry, government, civil society and donors) in order to strengthen research capacity. This activity will target countries which have an S&T cooperation agreement with the European Community or are in the process of negotiating one. Examples include the development of information facilities in Third Countries to assist in identifying and building research partnerships between different types of research actors.
- To facilitate the development and implementation of a coherent European-level approach towards international S&T cooperation.

### U.S. Participation

From January 2007 to December 2009, 103 U.S. organisations took part in 90 proposals within the Capacities Programme. Out of this group, 18 U.S. participants signed a Grant Agreement, 17 as participants, 1 as coordinator (Link2US Project). The result is a success rate of 18.9% for the whole Capacities Programme. U.S. participation in the Capacities Programme is dominated by Higher Education Institutions (HES), with a share of 55.6% (10 participants'

total). The total amount that the EC contributed to projects involving U.S. participants funded under the Capacities Programme is 63 Mio €. 1.54% of this amount was received by the U.S. participants (977.027€).

## PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

### Enhancing EU – U.S. Collaboration in Aeronautics Research for mutual benefit

**Acronym:** COOPERATEUS

**Website:** <http://www.cooperateus.org>

**Coordinated by:** ASD AeroSpace and Defence, Industries Association of Europe, Belgium

**Objectives:** The overarching aim of the COOPERATEUS project is to pave the way for a fruitful and extended collaboration of EU and U.S. Aeronautics research stakeholders in next EU R&D initiatives and similar ones in the U.S. on common themes with the largest possible participation of all aeronautics sectors' stakeholders.

Main objectives are to

- Improve the U.S.-EU public acceptance of Air Transport, consistent with environmental effects
- Address the global 'Grand Challenges' facing Aeronautics worldwide
- Enhance the U.S.-EU Air Transport Standards (safety, competitiveness versus new entrants)

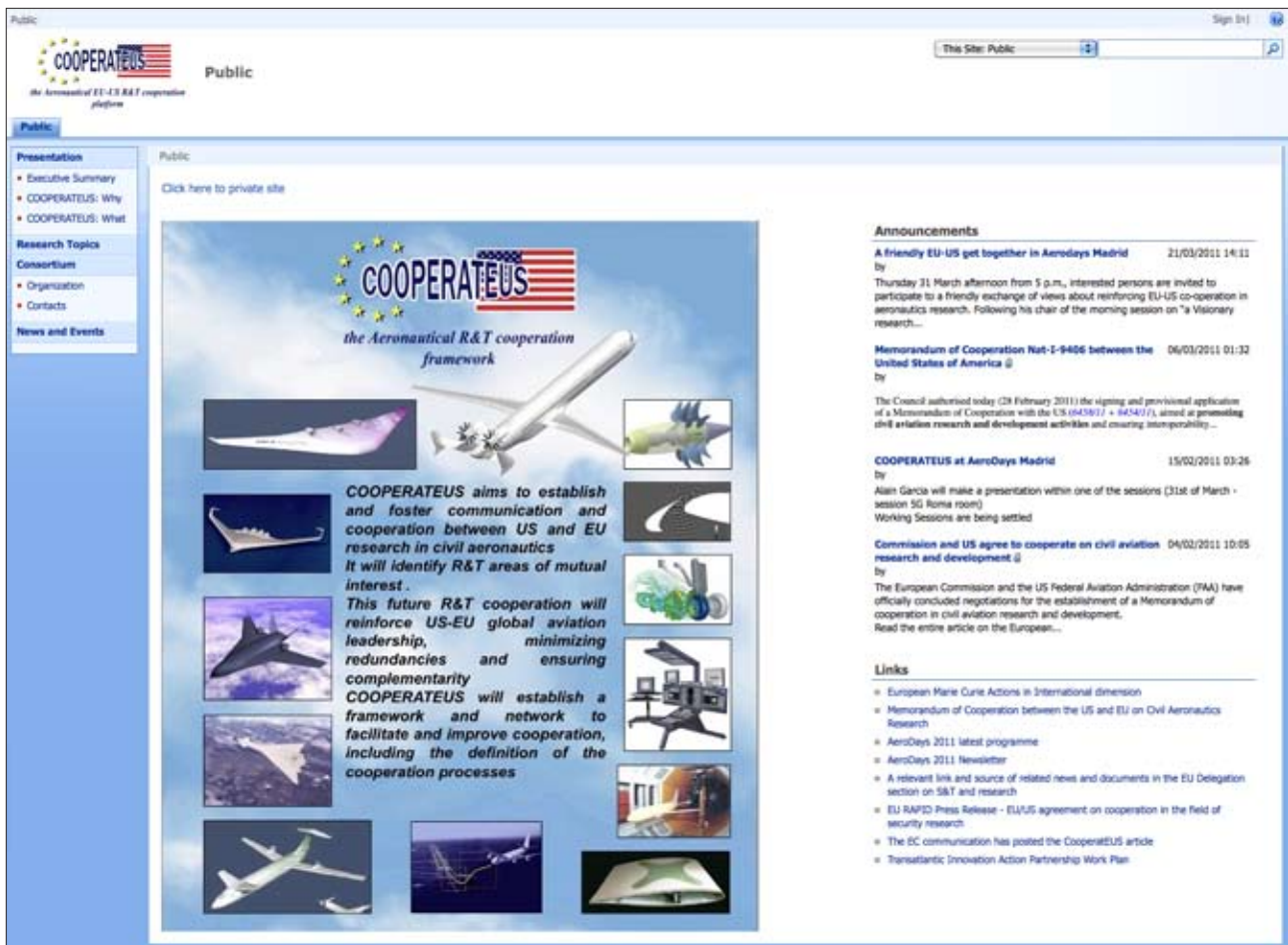
The project is providing the following benefits:

- Save Time: Select the best ongoing collaboration path to maximize the probability of approval
- Save Money: Avoid redundant activity and direct action accomplishment
- Avoid Blockage: Early prevention of potential hurdles or blockages
- Get Fair Access: By gaining maximum leverage from EU-U.S. funding mechanisms

**Major Activities:** COOPERATEUS will

- Establish a framework, database and network to facilitate and improve cooperation among willing stakeholder participants.
- Provide a platform for communication and forward-thinking through EU-U.S. events and networking.
- Propose the processes governing such EU-U.S. cooperation.
- Identify areas of mutual interest and ensure reciprocity
- Develop common R&T roadmaps for future cooperation projects to be proposed to European and U.S. decision-makers

**Partners:** The COOPERATEUS consortium is composed of 11 European partners from 6 countries. Partners represent all European aeronautics sector stakeholders. Airbus, Alenia Aeronautica and Dassault Aviation represent the aircraft and airframe integration, SNECMA the engine sector, Thales the on board systems, NLR the research centres, EASN the academia, and CDTI as focal point of Member States interest in aeronautics. Two consultancy organizations -AirRT and TK -with expertise in the international market and EU-U.S. relationship complete the consortium.



**LINK2US E-NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2011**

## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Link2US Project's fifth E-newsletter. The Link2US project is excited to announce the release of its report and upcoming workshop both focusing on key issues in EU-based institution/researcher participation in U.S. federal funding programmes.

This month Link2US and its sister project BILAT-USA held its second project management board meeting in Vienna, Austria. During the meeting we welcomed a new Advisory Board member, Dr. Jan Anderson, Chief Executive Advisor at University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Science, Research and Innovation and Chair of the EARMA (European Association for Research Managers and Administrators).

Stay tuned next month as we release more details about our upcoming workshop and awareness raising activities.

Enjoy!

For continuous updated information please visit our website at <http://www.EuUsScienceTechnology.eu/Link2US>

**Dr. Tom Wang**  
Coordinator of Link2US

For questions and comments, please contact us at [Link2US@aaas.org](mailto:Link2US@aaas.org)

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**New Report Released Identifying Key Issues to Participation in NIH Funding Programmes**

A new report by the Link2US project has been released, looking at key issues EU-based researchers/institutions face when applying to and participating in the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding programmes. NIH is the largest U.S. programme in which there is direct funding of EU-based researchers/institutions.

The report, *European Participation in U.S. Federal Science & Technology Research Funding Programmes: Survey of Researchers and Institutions on National Institutes of Health Grant Funding*, surveyed researchers and institutions in the EU, through their grant administrators, who received direct NIH awards during U.S. fiscal years 2003-2010.

[Details](#)

**Workshop on Issues in EU Participation in U.S. Federal S&T Research Funding Programmes**

The Link2US consortium is organizing a workshop as part of the The European Association for Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) 2011 Conference held in Braganca, Portugal. The event will focus on identifying and navigating

obstacles in U.S. funding programmes for grant administrators/managers. In addition, the session will feature a discussion to elucidate policy areas that should be addressed by U.S. and EU authorities for improved cooperation.

Topics to be addressed include:

- An overview of the results from the report on the issues that exist for EU researcher participation in U.S. programmes;
- U.S. programmes open to EU-researchers/institutions and discussion of key issues for foreign participation;
- Experience of EU-grant administrators/managers in addressing participation issues.

Stay tuned for more information, including the workshop agenda.

[Details](#)



## BILAT-USA AND LINK2US UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Title	Place	Organizer/ Project	Venue	Link
1 June 2011	EU-U.S. Nanotechnology Workshop	Budapest, Hungary	BILAT-USA	EuNanoForum	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
9 June 2011	Access4EU Information Session	Brussels, Belgium	Link2US Project	EU Health Infoday	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
23 June 2011	Workshop on Issues in EU Participation in U.S. Federal S&T Research Programmes	Braganca, Portugal	Link2US Project	EARMA Annual Meeting	<a href="#">Click Here</a>

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## IMPRESSUM

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