



## **Orgalime Position Paper on Framework Programme 7:**

### **The role of production technologies in the research theme “NMP” of the specific programme “Cooperation” – COM (2006) 364 final**

**Brussels, 5 September 2006**

Orgalime represents the interests of the European mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking industries at the level of the EU. Our membership includes 35 national trade federations representing some 130,000 companies in 24 European countries. These industries, which include mainly SMEs, employ some 10 million people and account for around €1,598 billion of output.

Orgalime regrets very much that, as in the past Framework Programmes (FP) but also in FP7, within the specific programme “Cooperation”, new Production Technologies have been combined with Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies and Materials into one research theme. We fear that there are only very limited synergies between Production Technologies on the one hand and Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies and Materials on the other and would like to stress that Production Technologies are “an area of their own”; research within that field should cover, besides important technological issues, a number of crucial items, such as adaptable production systems and networks, high performance, reliable and serviceable production systems, new industrial models and strategies, etc. The area of production technologies is one where the EU leads the world and maintaining technological leadership in technologies which are at the core of all other manufacturing processes is essential in the light of the EU’s growth and jobs agenda.

The characteristics of businesses in this area are high technology content, flexible short series production, a high degree of automation and products with complexity and variation. Research within Production Technology for the future must hence combine knowledge from many areas to be able to develop the technological infrastructure of manufacturing industries and by no means from Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies and Materials only.

When deciding on the allocation of €3500 million that has been devoted to the research theme “Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies (NMP)”, we therefore urge the Commission to establish a healthy balance between the different sub-themes of NMP. Considering the importance Production Technologies have for the European industry, it is essential that sufficient funding be reserved in advance specifically for this sub-theme.

In order to realise the potential of this topic for Europe and to attribute the necessary visibility and importance, facilitating access especially for SMEs, we urge the Commission to concentrate such key enabling technologies under one distinct heading. If these enabling technologies were made more visible, distinct and tangible, innovative engineering companies would be more inclined to participate in European projects.

**ORGALIME** THE EUROPEAN ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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