

# Experts meeting experts

*At the Technical University of Eindhoven*

*High Tech NL Young Professionals are used to meeting at one of the member companies' locations to exchange knowledge and experiences. Members have requested that we also organize a meet and greet with knowledge institutes active in the field of High Tech Systems & Materials. Seven knowledge institutes were invited to the Technical University of Eindhoven which hosted this meeting to enhance the program by presenting itself and its High Tech System Centre.*



## **Top research**

Some 35 Young Professionals signed up for the event which took place on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Several students of the EIT ICT Labs were our special guests. Seven knowledge institutes participated in the highly interactive program: M2I (Materials Innovation Institute, Delft), NLR (Nationaal Lucht- en ruimtevaart Laboratorium, Amsterdam), TNO, Holst Centre, Fontys Centre of Expertise HTSM, ESI (Embedded Systems Institute) and of course the Technical University of Eindhoven, which focussed on the recently developed High Tech Systems Centre. Together, they stand for top research in various fields of science and application.



*35 Young Professionals subscribed*

## **Breakthrough research programs**

Ir Harold Weffers (PDEng) represented the Technical University of Eindhoven as the coordinator of external cooperation. The community of companies and knowledge

institutes of High Tech NL are undoubtedly the stakeholders of the Technical University of Eindhoven as well. Some of the participants had finished their master's program or even gotten their PhD at this campus, so they felt at home immediately. Mr Weffers presented the university's excellent reputation worldwide. As he puts it, Eindhoven University focuses on educating multidisciplinary engineers, developing breakthrough research programs and driving the regional economy, especially in the field of high-tech systems.



*Mr Harold Weffer: Regional engine*

With a staff of 3000 FTEs, 250 professors and 9000 students, Eindhoven University is relatively small. In comparison, Harvard University has a bigger turn over than all the Dutch universities combined! On the other hand, Eindhoven University publishes an impressive amount of scientific articles. Moreover, the Brainport community of high tech companies has an annual R&D turnover of 1.9 billion euros!

## **Seven Pitches**

After asking many important questions about the presentation the group was divided into seven small groups. The representatives of the

knowledge institutes took a position at their discussion tables. Each group joined a representative who gave a five minute presentation. Then participants had the opportunity to ask questions and find out if and how they could cooperate. After 20 minutes the groups were asked to change tables so that everybody could benefit from some time with the experts. After three rounds the participants could take a break. It was difficult to stop discussing the topics, which proves that the program was highly appreciated.



*Discussion carousel: an effective setup!*

### **Cooperation as a key to success**

Before starting the last round, Frank Steeghs, one of the most loyal participants of the High Tech NL Young Professional program and an employee of ACE, presented a special project he has been highly involved with. The project involved the famous soccer-playing robots that participate every year in the RobotCup, of which the Netherlands became world champion in 2014. The main objective of the project was to reduce the production costs of the robots (without sacrificing performance)



*Changing places*

so that more teams could participate in the RobotCup. Each team needs five robots to play in the match and one spare. The project team succeeded in reducing the total costs from €25,000 per robot to €7,000. The key to this project's success was absolute commitment and strong cooperation between four companies and knowledge institutes with complementary expertise in hardware, software, electronics, production and assembly. The exposure of this project is important, especially on primary and secondary schools to promote technical studies and future careers.

### **Study tour to knowledge region Hamburg**

After choosing randomly a last discussion table by each of the participants we wrapped up this meeting. This was another successful step in our program, especially because we slightly changed the concept by inviting external experts and interacting with them in small groups. The concept was found to be very beneficial, even by the participants of EIT ICT Labs, who at the start slightly doubted how useful it would be for them. "We were not aware of the existence of such interesting research and knowledge institutes. They might help us during our study programs and future careers".



*Who forgot his arm?*

Thank you Harold Weffers and thank you experts of the knowledge institutes for contributing to this interesting afternoon!

Our next activity will be the international study trip to the Hamburg knowledge region on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

Be our guest!

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Jos van Erp  
Program Director High Tech NL



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