Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years the interaction between scientists has evolved from personally written documents to one another into an electronic communication, whereby the information is shared instantaneously with any number of people all over the world. Technology today makes it even possible to execute at distance experiments in each other laboratories. This must have consequences for the way we perform our sciences. It allows us as scientists to enlarge the scope of our research, be it in a virtual way. It allows us to address our research question in a broader context. However there is a condition: We agree to share success or failure.

In Delft we adopted this approach, when we established our Delft Research Centers, where we go beyond the interest of one particular Faculty. There is no time to go into the details today, but in this way we enlarged our research potential.
In the same manner we established a network of cooperation in the Netherlands with our colleagues the Technical Universities in Eindhoven and Twente. This 3TU network creates the possibility to have common Master studies on the one hand and complementary Msc directions on the other. In this way we are in the situation that we can offer our students a complete palette of all technical directions.
On the European level the University of Delft forms an academic network with ETH in Switzerland; Imperial College in England; RWTH in Germany and our youngest member, Paris Tech in France. This so-called IDEA league network has a six-year track-record of collaboration between the four first-mentioned universities.

All the partners are leading institutes for engineering and technology within its respective country (source: THES World University Rankings, 2004 and 2005). These IDEA partners share a common culture of first class research that is science led and technology driven. Building on this, our agenda is shaped by the needs and demands of society and industry. Given our experience and expertise we offer our highly successful partnership as a strong building block of the European Institute of Technology.

For the appropriate connection with industry it is a prerequisite that the intellectual property right is uniform throughout the European countries; that we are unanimous.
Further I strongly advise that a substantial amount of money is used for our students to study in Europe. They are the knowledge workers of tomorrow and they do not know what is impossible yet.

Then we have first class research, education and technology transfer. Ladies and Gentlemen I thank you for your attention.