Press Release

*12 years of ITEA* – a record of long-term success

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ITEA, the EUREKA Cluster on software-intensive systems and services has been an outstanding success as testified by the new ‘*12 years of ITEA: Achievements & results of the EUREKA programmes ITEA and ITEA 2’* book just published. The publication shows the vital role that these programmes have played in building a major resource to maintain and grow Europe’s industry through innovation and the mastering of software-intensive systems. It also outlines the need for ITEA 3.

This industry-driven research programme has built an open and growing community with a positive and structured vision of the future. Established within the EUREKA multi-governmental research initiative with financial support at national level from EUREKA members, ITEA has obtained consistent and effective research results that have led to fast – and long-term – commercial exploitation. Moreover, participation has shown a good balance between industry, academia and research organisations with large and unique SME participation.

Significant successes have been registered in areas such as the effective use of high-performance computing, near-field communication devices for access and ticketing, and global standardisation of safer and more comfortable automotive operation. Impact has been equally high in areas such as healthcare and wellbeing with applications ranging from faster and more effective diagnosis and treatment in hospitals to remote monitoring systems that help elderly and handicapped citizens stay in their own homes for longer.

Software developments within ITEA have played a major role in the entertainment industry. This goes from ensuring the whole video production chain from studio and outside broadcast venue to the TV in the home has been able to provide ever higher levels of quality and definition – through full 1080 high definition TV to the imminent widespread availability of 3D TV – to the development of digital cinema equipment that has put one European supplier at the forefront of a global revolution in film distribution and projection.

Developments in new algorithms and associated systems are also ensuring our security from improved public safety at sporting events to anti-terrorist protection in railway stations, airports and other public venues.

Developments in ITEA have not only boosted product development but also the technology required to make such development possible. ITEA results in software engineering such as product line methodology, agile software-design methods, model-based approaches and more effective and efficient testing have enabled Europe to increase its competitiveness in this key domain.

However, while information and communications technologies are important and pervasive, Europe is still lagging the USA and Asia in its R&D investment. Innovation is the heart of new business. There are a wide range of social and economic challenges that must be addressed and the best use must be made of new and developing software technologies. ITEA 3 is therefore essential to maintain Europe’s position in the global market and to keep its differentiators. This will require the continuing good and close co-operation between industry and the public authorities across Europe.

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*Editorial notes:*

The document *12 years of ITEA* can be downloaded (in PDF) free of charge on the [ITEA website](http://itea3.org/article/12-years-of-itea.html).

**About ITEA**

ITEA 2 (Information Technology for European Advancement) stimulates and supports innovative and pre-competitive R&D projects that will contribute research excellence to Europe’s competitive Software-Intensive Systems and Services (SiSS) sector. SiSS are a vital growth engine for Europe’s economy and a key driver of innovation in Europe’s most competitive industries – such as automotive, aerospace, communications, healthcare and consumer electronics. ITEA 2 and its predecessor ITEA have a proven track record with major achievements and results in these industries.

ITEA 2 founding partners are: Airbus, Alcatel-Lucent, Barco, Bosch, Bull, Daimler, European Federation of High Tech SMEs, Italtel, Nokia, Philips, Siemens, Technicolor, Telefonica, Telvent and Thales.

As a EUREKA Cluster programme, our approach is intergovernmental, bottom-up and industry-driven – allowing a project idea to attract funding from all participating countries. All member countries in the EUREKA framework give financial support to ITEA 2 projects. ITEA 2 is open to partners from large industrial companies and SMEs, as well as research institutes and universities.

The current set of more than 100 projects (ITEA + ITEA 2), with more than 1000 partners from 30 countries, has established a solid basis for further development. Many of these have led to the creation of completely new products.

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