Joint Hearing
The European Institute of Technology
Committee on Industry, Research & Energy
Committee on Culture and Education
May 2, 2007
Horst Soboll
Chairman of EURAB
(European Research Advisory Board)
Europe has often been seen as source and leader in innovation, research and education.

The world's first automobile and fueling station 1886.
Europe’s research and innovation policy

Lisbon Summit and Strategy 2000

"... to become the world's most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy by 2010 "

Barcelona Target 2002

Increase EU investment in research, technological development and innovation to 3% of GDP (⅔ private, ⅓ public sector)
Contribution to the Lisbon objectives: economic growth, employment creation, environmental protection, social challenges: fight poverty, improve human health and quality of life (GSM, remote working, safe roads, etc.)
Felix Bloch and Edward Purcell first demonstration of nuclear magnetic resonance in 1946.

Physics in 1952

Medicine in 2003

Paul Lauterbur and Peter Mansfield demonstration of NMR imaging in early 70ties

SOURCE: NOBELPRIZE.ORG
EIT - Mission and Goals

- To perform postgraduate education and research and convert them into commercial opportunity
- To develop research and innovation management skills
- To attract researchers and students worldwide
- To show that new organizational and governance models can work

Jan Figel, EC, DG Edu, March 2006
European Institute of Technology

How to strengthen the knowledge triangle?

How to attract private funds?

How to generate brand, image, reputation?

What to do now?
The greatest risk for research and innovation is to stop taking risks!
Most learning, especially most organizational learning, occurs through trial and error. Error is clearly not in short supply.

Trial, on the other hand, is quite scarce, especially in some organizations.

People mistakenly believe that one way to successfully avoid error is to avoid trial. We need more trial.

(Seth Godin)
Lisbon has had the chance to recognize great visions twice in the past

- 1484  Christoph Columbus was rejected by Lisbon with his idea to find a sea passage to India. In 1492 he discovered America for another nation.

- 1517  Ferdinand Magellan requested more money from the Lisbon authorities and was turned down. He went on to be the first man ever to sail around the earth - under the Spanish flag.

- 2010  Europe fails to meet the Lisbon targets.

Where will Europe’s brightest heads turn to? Let’s seize the opportunity this time!