

## Cabinet approves €50 million for three technology universities

On 24 February the Dutch cabinet approved a proposal from the three universities of technology in the Netherlands – Delft, Eindhoven and Twente – to federate. And €50 million is being made available in five annual instalments to combine their research at five centres of excellence. These will help pave the way for the establishment of the Federation of Dutch Universities of Technology (3TU Federation) itself, which is scheduled for 1 April 2007.

Under the plans now approved, 30 new senior professors are to be appointed over the next five years to reinforce research in the five main areas of academic collaboration between the three universities. Seventy-five sitting professors join the centres of excellence immediately. They and their research groups are amongst the world leaders in their respective fields, as confirmed by recent inspection results and other objective criteria. Implementation of these plans will sharpen the focus and increase the critical mass of Dutch research in the disciplines concerned, thus reinforcing its international position.

The new centres of excellence cover the following areas.

- High-tech systems and materials.
- Technologies for sustainable energy
- ICT services and applications (Netherlands Institute for Research on ICT).
- Fluid and solid mechanics.
- Applications of nanotechnology.

More information: <http://www.tue.nl/3tufederatie>

Recruitment of the 30 new professors will begin shortly with advertisements in the leading international scientific journals, *Science* and *Nature*. The intention is that they be appointed to permanent chairs. After the initial five year period those positions will be funded by the three universities themselves, partly from income generated externally.

On behalf of the future Federation of Dutch Universities of Technology,  
G. J. van Luijk  
Chair, Committee of Presidents

For more information, please contact:

Karen Collet, Public Relations Officer, Delft University of Technology (tel. +31 15 278 5408; e-mail [k.collet@tudelft.nl](mailto:k.collet@tudelft.nl));

Maarten van der Sanden, Research Information Officer, Delft University of Technology (tel. +31 15 278 5454, e-mail [m.c.a.vandersanden@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.c.a.vandersanden@tudelft.nl)); or,

Ben Donders, Co-ordinator university policy TU/e (tel. +31 40 247 4472, e-mail [b.c.donders@tue.nl](mailto:b.c.donders@tue.nl)).