

Portugal and EUREKA call on Europe to showcase innovation successes

Lisbon, 4 March 2009 – The Portuguese Innovation Agency ADI, which until July this year is also hosting the EUREKA Chairmanship, today announced the 2009 edition of Innovation Days, a major international event promoting the successes of market-oriented R&D projects. The three-day event will take place at Lisbon's international fairground from 18 through 20 June 2009.

'Innovation Days is an exciting event – both for those exhibiting and those attending,' said Lino Fernandes, President of the ADI. 'For visitors, it's an unprecedented opportunity to see the latest innovations reaching the marketplace in every possible technological area. For exhibitors, Innovation Days is a great venue for networking, boosting business success and making new partnerships.'

Some 20,000 visitors are expected to attend this fourth edition of the event, drawn by a lively interactive exhibition of R&D project results, open-air demonstrations of new technologies and a parallel programme of conferences, workshops and brokerage sessions, enabling the international valorisation of the results on show and stimulating new project ideas.

'This year, for the first time, Innovation Days will include EUREKA World, an area within the showground dedicated to the results of EUREKA, the European support network for industrial innovators,' adds Fernandes.

'It will also be the venue for the EUREKA Innovation Days Awards Ceremony, where we're expecting the attendance of research and science ministers from across Europe and beyond, along with other high-level guests from the world of innovation.'

Last year's event showcased 556 projects, involved 700 different organisations and attracted 13,000 visitors.

More information at www.innovationdays.eu

2009 Innovation Days is part of the official calendar of events for the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (<http://create2009.europa.eu/>).

About ADI : the Portuguese Innovation Agency (Agência de Inovação) is essentially dedicated to the promotion of innovation and technological development with a view to facilitating closer ties between research activities and the Portuguese business sector. www.adi.pt

About EUREKA: EUREKA is a European public network, present in 40 countries, with an international secretariat in Brussels, Belgium. EUREKA's mission is to support the innovative endeavours of R&D-performing businesses and organisations. The result of such endeavours is for the benefit of European society at large, encouraging economic growth, creating jobs and improving our quality of life. In 2007, in cooperation with the European Community and national administrations, EUREKA launched the Eurostars Programme, an ambitious funding initiative aimed at R&D-performing SMEs.

About Innovation Days: Portugal has already hosted three editions of Innovations Days to showcase applied R&D project results, to encourage their economic exploitation and to encourage new partnerships and synergies between entrepreneurs, researchers and investors. As 2008-2009 Chair of EUREKA, Portugal has decided to expand the event to attract exhibitors, public and media from Europe and beyond. This aims to meet the Portuguese EUREKA Chairmanship objective of raising the visibility of the EUREKA label and promoting the importance of trans-frontier R&D for European competitiveness.

PR-2009/03

4 March 2009

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EUREKA is a pan-European network for market-oriented, industrial R&D

Created as an intergovernmental Initiative in 1985, EUREKA aims to enhance European competitiveness through its support to businesses, research centres and universities who carry out pan-European projects to develop innovative products, processes and services.