

Hellenic Days of Research & Technology Athens, 10-11 May 2006

« *The industrial and construction partners take initiatives* »

John Goodall
FIEC



Construction Statistics (EU 22: 2004)

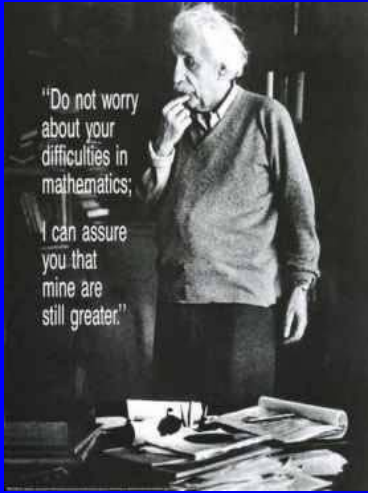
- Europe's largest industrial employer
- 28,5% Industrial employment
- 7,2% Total employment
- 2,6 Million enterprises
- 9,9% GDP
- 50,8% Gross fixed capital formation



Inventions + Innovations + R&D

- *Invention* : an inspiration or an idea
- *Innovation* : a new idea or method in the way that something is done or made; bringing ideas to market and turning them into €
- *Research & Development* : ways and means for turning inventions into innovations and then into « reality »





"Do not worry about your difficulties in mathematics; I can assure you that mine are still greater."

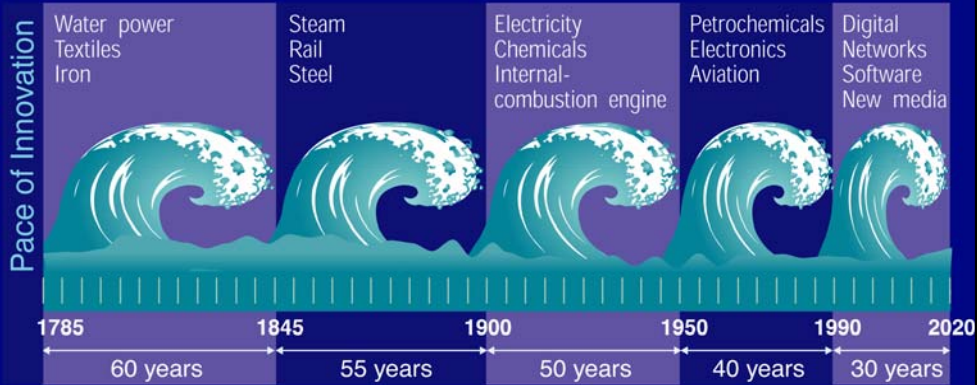
"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

"The only really valuable thing is intuition."

"The secret to creativity is knowing how to hide your sources."



Time Scales of Technological "Revolutions"



Research & Development in Construction

Is undertaken in various ways by different players in the sector:

- *New materials and products (sometimes linked to standardisation)*
- *New plant and mechanical equipment*
- *New construction and management techniques*



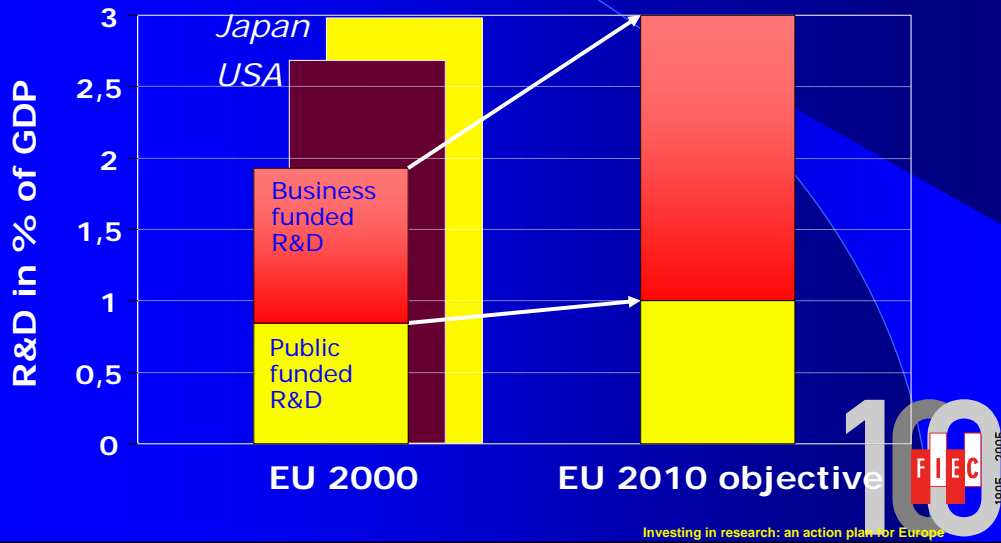
R&D: Small and large contractors

- Most construction firms, *especially SMEs* can be described as :
 - « **Technology Followers** »
- *Large firms* in order to become large and maintain their size and market advantage tend to be :
 - « **Technology Leaders** »
- This explains why so much pure construction R&D is undertaken by **large contractors** but also by a small number of :
 - « **Technology oriented SMEs** » in niche markets





The gap... and the objective



European Bodies in Construction Research

- ECCREDI
- ENBRI
- ENCORD
- ECTP



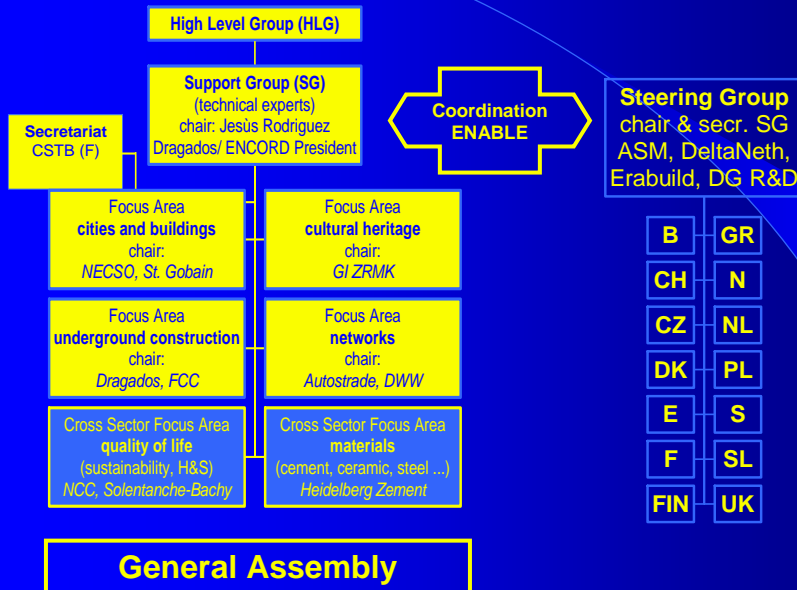
European Construction Technology Platform

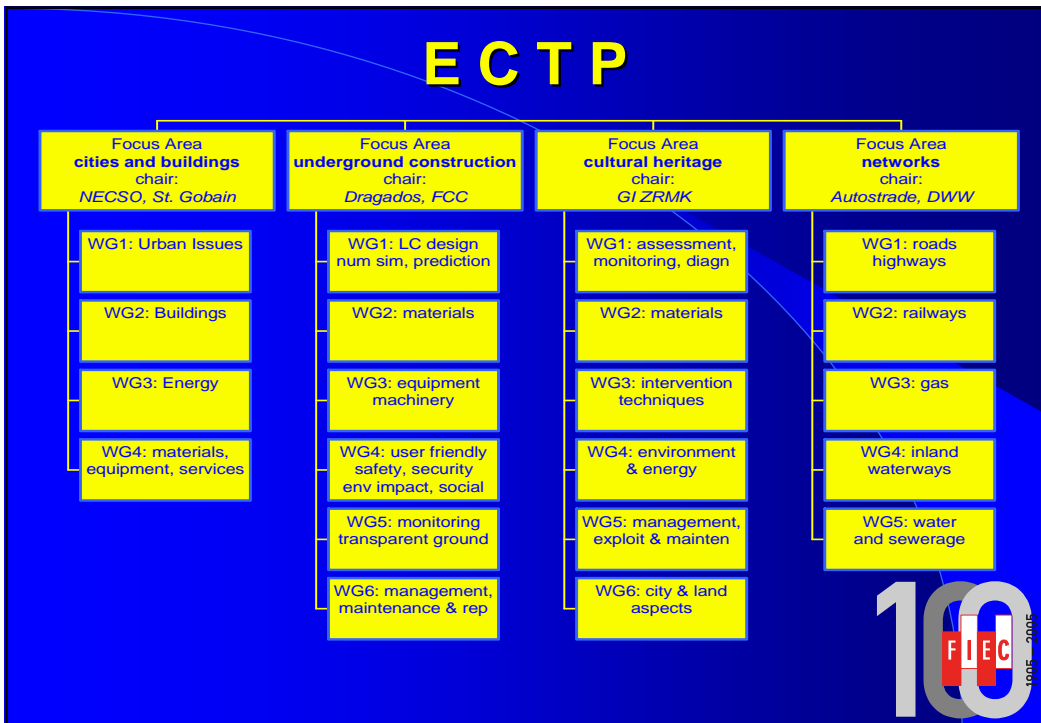
- ETP-Idea launched by Commissioner Busquin
 - No EU financing (except *Enable* for NTPs)
 - No official recognition by EU Commission
- ETPs = private initiative



ECTP

NTP





ECTP

Initial Actions 2004-2006

- "Terms of Reference"
- "Vision 2030"
- "Strategic Research Agenda "
- Joint Technology Initiative
"The cities below the cities"

R&D and SMEs

- Very few SMEs are interested in R&D, BUT
- Most SMEs occasionally call for technical assistance
- National Technical Research Institutes who understand their needs are best placed to assist them and,
- Occasionally carry out R&D actions on their behalf



SMEs and the EU Framework Programme

- As much as 15% of funding is reserved for SMEs

Typical instruments are:

- Cooperative research (CRAFT)
- Collective research
- Specific support actions

<http://sme.cordis.lu/research/fp6>



Some conclusions

- European R&D is not for everyone
- Calls for lots of determination
- But since a minimum of 2 actors from 2 different member states are necessarily involved, it can be interesting
- Most large firms should consider participating
- And why not innovative SMEs as well?
- Help is available from National Contact Points for SMEs



WWW. FIEC .ORG

