

## Production Technology – the key to securing success throughout the world

Production technology plays a key role in all industrialized countries. Over 20 per cent of all machines manufactured in Germany are made by North Rhine-Westphalia's 1600 or so mechanical engineering companies, most of which are small and medium-sized firms. Those impressive figures illustrate that production technology is one of North Rhine-Westphalia's typical innovative strengths. The industry's sales totalled over 36 billion Euros in 2006. With exports accounting for 60 per cent of that turnover, the industry is a strongly export-oriented sector. The bulk of those exports, i.e. 57 per cent, went to countries in Europe. That enduring success in export business, which has been achieved in the face of fierce global competition, is chiefly attributable to the fact that the production technology sector is in the vanguard of technological innovation.

The outstanding international position of North Rhine-Westphalia's production technology sector is largely based on intensive interaction between industry and research. Companies engaged in this branch of industry cooperate with universities and public and private research institutions to a far greater extent than other business enterprises. A high standard of excellence and competence in production technology can be found at many universities and research facilities, for instance in Aachen, Dortmund and Bochum. As a prime location for research, North Rhine-Westphalia provides stimuli and impetus at both the German and the European levels.

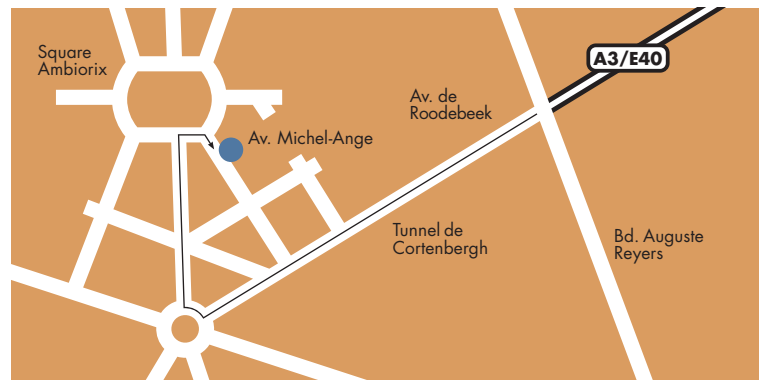
Our production technology firms are spread across the entire state. North Rhine-Westphalia is home to a great number of highly competitive and successful medium-sized companies, e.g. manufacturers of plastics processing machines, and numerous world market leaders, or "hidden champions", engaged in specialized sectors of industry and niche ventures.

The EU's 7th Research Framework Programme provides an excellent opportunity for promoting broad-based cooperation between industry and researchers in the field of production technology.

Today's "platform meeting" is designed to contribute towards fostering mutual understanding between the relevant stakeholders throughout the European Research Area.

**Innovation** play a key role for the EU, its member states and regions. They are the back bone for the EU to remain competitive, to ensure economic growth, to create jobs and wealth.

**NRW: Ideas and Innovation** is a series of events in Brussels addressed to European decision-makers. It will present outstanding innovations developed in North Rhine-Westphalia and will give the opportunity for a political dialogue between policy makers, innovative companies and those engaged in research at the European level.



### Location

Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union  
Avenue Michel-Ange 8, B-1000 Brussels  
Near METRO Schuman  
Phone +32 27 39 1775  
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[www.europa.nrw.de](http://www.europa.nrw.de)



**NRW: Ideas and Innovation.**  
Production Technology – the key to securing success throughout the world.  
Brussels, March 1, 2007. Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.



### Invitation

## NRW: Ideas and Innovation.

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### Programme

#### 12:00 am Arrival of participants

#### 12:15 am Introduction and welcoming address /host

**Dr. Reinhold Festge**, Chairman of the Regional Association North Rhine-Westphalia of the VDMA, the German Engineering Federation

**Christa Thoben**, Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

**Christos Tokamanis**, Head of Unit G.2: New generation products, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research

**Werner Witte**, Bültmann Maschinenfabrik Neuenrade

**Götz Matthäus**, CEO of Thermico Dortmund

#### 1:30 pm Luncheon and get-together

### Contact

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### North Rhine-Westphalia in the Heart of Europe

Geographically central position in Europe – 18 million people – GDP 489 billion (21,8% of German GDP) – economic hub of Europe – region with the highest density of universities and research institutions in Europe – more than half a million students enrolled in 58 universities – 11 Max Planck Institutes – 14 Fraunhofer Institutes – two independent research facilities: the Research Centre Jülich and the German Aerospace Centre.

[www.innovation.nrw.de](http://www.innovation.nrw.de)



1:30 pm