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## **FRONTIERS: a 'nano-network' with European wide impact**

The European nanotechnology network Frontiers ([www.frontiers-eu.org](http://www.frontiers-eu.org)) led by the MESA+ centre for micro- and nanotechnology at the University Twente (The Netherlands) will gather in Sicily on October 24-26 for its second annual meeting. The Frontiers network of excellence is an example of a very successful vehicle created by the European Commission with the intention to strengthen the EU position in nanotechnology and life sciences.

***"It's an impressive line up of top-quality partners. They are definitely bringing together top organisations in Europe in nanotechnology research," said Otilia Saxl, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Nanotechnology.***

In just two years time Frontiers successfully pooled resources and know-how in 40 collaborative research projects amongst 192 scientists from 12 world-leading institutes in 8 different EU countries.

The recent creation of a unique *Virtual Laboratory* within the network now enables the participating researchers to share specialized (nano) tools and instrumentation on a daily basis.

The meeting in Sicily also marks the launch of a European wide, master level nanotechnology educational program that will enable for example students from Cambridge to take courses at Max Planck and visa versa.

The central aim of Frontiers is the overall European integration in bionanotechnology research. Bionanotechnology is an enabling technology and its broad and multidisciplinary nature presents the Frontiers community with a great challenge. In the area of life sciences, nanotechnology provides novel opportunities to measure and make things at the scale of processes in life; at the level of bacteria and cells to plants and to human beings. The impact of techniques for manipulating, analysing and interfacing with the biological world will be enormous and is expected to revolutionise health care and life sciences applications. The strategic research agenda of Frontiers includes topics such as drug-delivery, tissue engineering, implants, biosensors and analytical techniques to investigate matter at the nanoscale.

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