

Foreword

Innovating in Europe



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With its long history, Europe is a powerhouse of science, springing from talented people in many international caliber academic institutions. However this core scientific strength does not convert enough into a business advantage for the region, with products and services able to capture global market share. As industrial competition intensifies to invent answers to tomorrow's consumer requests and social needs, Europe needs to rejuvenate its wealth creation machine in order to sustain its progressive social model and keep the European dream alive.

Faced with a difficult economic period, when imbalanced public budgets cannot be called to the rescue, European entrepreneurs will have to embrace a more open approach to innovation where they can leverage not only academic discoveries but also the capabilities of partners along the value chain. Given the cultural diversity within Europe, this is both a challenge to overcome existing barriers to cooperation and an opportunity to bring to market unique solutions.

In order to support innovation while respecting its budget constraints, the European Union has decided to improve its approach for its next research & technology program, called HORIZON 2020, with the following evolutions:

- emphasize applied research and pre-competitive development work to commute strong

fundamental research into economic value

- focus on key enabling technologies that have the capabilities to transform whole industries (a pan European panel of experts has identified five key enabling technologies as advanced materials, nano-technology, micro-and nano-electronics, biotechnology and photonics).

An important feature of the HORIZON 2020 program will be the use of Public Private Partnership (PPP) as the main channel of the effort. It is expected that the PPPs will enhance the European Union competitiveness and industrial leadership, with commitment of private and public funds under a lean business oriented structure with an open governance. The volume of the HORIZON 2020 framework as presently proposed by the European Commission to the member states is 80 B€ over 2014-2020.

This ambitious innovation drive from the European Union creates a favorable environment for the R&D efforts of HORIBA companies in Europe. This issue of Readout has been organized around our existing business segments, Medical, Automotive Test Systems, Process & Environment, Semiconductor and Scientific, with several papers involving our academic partners. It presents a sample of already active projects that will give us the legitimacy to take an active role in the next period, including the HORIZON 2020 program.

HORIBA in Europe will continue to champion open innovation as a way to bring our best contribution to society.