Invitation to the Launch of

Inventing Europe: Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present
European Science Foundation EUROCORES Programme

and Call for Papers for the

Third Plenary Conference of the *Tensions of Europe* Network

7-10 June 2007
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

!! EXTENDED DEADLINE: January 22, 2007 !!
Deadline: January 5, 2007

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands are jointly organizing the Launch Conference of the ESF EUROCORES Programme *Inventing Europe* in conjunction with the Third Plenary Conference of the *Tensions of Europe* Network (ToE). The ESF EUROCORES Programme *Inventing Europe* and ToE strive, through collaborative research and coordinating efforts, to promote studies of the interplay between technical change and European history. Instead of focusing on national histories, the emphasis of both initiatives is on *transnational* technological developments that have shaped and are shaping Europe. For scholars interested in the role of technology in European history this event will provide a unique opportunity not only to present and discuss current and envisaged new research, but also to create new networks and plan coordinated activities for some years to come.

We encourage scholars from all disciplines who study subjects related to the areas below to submit abstracts for the research sessions and roundtables organised by the *Tensions of Europe* network. These areas are drawn from the *Inventing Europe* themes (see http://www.esf.org/inventingeurope) and the *Tensions of Europe* Intellectual Agenda (see www.histech.nl/tensions).

Overall Theme of the Conference

The conference seeks contributions that will treat technological change as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. Four general areas to be explored are:

- Building Europe through Infrastructures, or, how Europe has been shaped by the material links of transnational infrastructure
- Constructing European Ways of Knowing, or, how Europe became articulated through efforts to unite knowledge and practices on a European scale
- Consuming Europe, or, how actors reworked consumer goods and artefacts for local, regional, national, European, and global use
- Europe in the Global World, or, how Europe has been created through colonial, ex-colonial, trans-Atlantic, and other global exchanges
- Synthetic methodological or historiographical explorations of the role of technology in transnational European history

Sessions formats

The Program Committee welcomes proposals that address the overall conference themes in the following two formats:

- Research sessions with three papers based on original research, and an invited commentator. Because the conference encourages debate, appropriate time for discussion should be allocated to the commentators as well as the members of the audience. The papers will be pre-circulated to all conference participants. Conference participants are expected to have read the papers thus presentations should be brief.
- Roundtable sessions with an open agenda or one paper to start-off the discussion. The sessions will host no more than six discussants including the organizer and the chair. The organizer is responsible for preparing a dialogue paper to stimulate debate, and if relevant, supplementary material. Ideally, the dialogue paper will be a brief piece that poses a number of historical problems and/or questions related to the conference theme that will be addressed in the debate. While the organizer should propose discussants, the Program Committee may make additional suggestions. The chair may decide either to limit the conversation to invited roundtable discussants or to allow the audience to ask questions and enter the debate.

Research sessions will be allotted a minimum time slot of one and a half hours, and roundtable discussions one hour.

Deadlines and Time-line

The deadline for session and roundtable proposals is JANUARY 22, 2007. The session abstracts (maximum 600 words) should be submitted by the organizers together with the abstracts for the individual presentations (maximum 500 words each). To propose a roundtable, please submit a list of invited participants and an abstract (maximum 600 words). *When giving the proposal a digital file name, please include the organizer's last name, and either RS for research session or RT for round table.* The abstracts should be sent to the Program Committee by email to **TOE@tue.nl** . Please direct queries to the Program Committee Coordinator, Donna C. Mehos (d.c.mehos@tue.nl).

The Program Committee will inform the session organizers about its decisions no later than **March 1, 2007**. Tensions of Europe is seeking travel funding for those who have no opportunity to participate otherwise. Costs of InventingEurope participants will be borne by ESF. More information will become available at the conference website www.histech.nl/tensions.

Papers and roundtable discussion texts must be submitted to the Program Committee by **May 1, 2007** because they will be distributed to all conference participants before the conference on a CD and made available on the website.

Note for scholars who proposed a project to the InventingEurope EUROCORES programme:

At the conference, researchers funded by *Inventing Europe* will present their Collaborative Research Projects (CRP) in plenary sessions under a format that encourages debate. Additional EUROCORES Programme-related working meetings will aim at structuring future *Inventing Europe* networking activities such as intra-CRP meetings, plenary CRP meetings, and Scientific Committee meetings (see programme for details). This conference provides the additional opportunity to respond to this call to propose research and roundtable sessions with colleagues outside of CRPs--ToE network participants and others. For more information, contact Rüdiger Klein (inventingeurope@esf.org).

For the ESF EUROCORES Programme *Inventing Europe,*

Rüdiger Klein, Programme Coordinator; ESF Department Head Humanities

and

For the Program Committee for the Third Plenary Conference of *Tensions of Europe*,

Johan Schot, Chair, Eindhoven University of Technology
Donna C. Mehos, Coordinator, Eindhoven University of Technology
Mikael Hård, Darmstadt University of Technology
Per Högselius, Lund University
Dagmara Jajesniak-Quast, Centre for Research in Contemporary History, Potsdam
Tom Misa, Charles Babbage Institute and University of Minnesota