

PRESS RELEASE

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Turkey increases participation in Celtic Cluster Strong Turkish commitment at EUREKA meeting in Istanbul

Istanbul. Turkey is increasing its research activities in Celtic, the EUREKA Cluster for research on end-to-end telecommunications. This is the main result of a Celtic meeting in Istanbul.

From 12 to 13 November 2008, Turkish EUREKA representatives from TUBITAK, Turkcell, and other national telecoms companies met in Istanbul with Celtic representatives from 12 European manufacturers and operators to discuss public financial support for telecommunication research projects to be launched in 2009.

Turkey has become very active in Celtic and is already involved in 4 running Celtic projects. In addition, 4 Turkish companies have applied for another 3 projects of the currently discussed new project call. The work contributed from Turkey in the last three calls puts Turkey in the tenth rank of all 26 participating countries. Another strong indication of growing commitment is that Turkcell, Turkey's largest mobile network operator, joined the Celtic Core Group in June 2008. The Core Group has now 13 members from 10 countries.

"We are very happy to be a part of the team that has been contributing to the establishment of strategy and future in the field of R&D in European Telecommunications. Just like leading companies such as Telefonica, France Telecom, Alcatel Lucent, Ericsson, Nokia, Siemens Networks, Turkcell is also contributing to shape EU's R&D policies. Turkcell's rapidly progressing position in the field of technology and innovation creates opportunities both for Turkcell Group Companies and Turkish R&D corporations. We believe that we will see the benefits of that in the coming years" said Cenk Bayrakdar Chief Service and Product Development Officer at Turkcell.

Celtic has been very successful in terms of numbers and volume of the accepted projects. Within the one-billion-euro programme, 58 projects have already been started since 2003, from with 27 are finished and 31 are currently running. There are about 500 companies from 26 countries involved in Celtic projects, almost one third of them are small and medium-sized enterprises. He is convinced: "These industry-driven projects will help Europe to stay on top of the technological development in ICT."

About Celtic

Celtic is a EUREKA Cluster, which initiates and runs privately and publicly funded R&D projects in the field of telecommunications. The initiative is supported by most of the major European players in communication technologies. Celtic projects focus on telecoms networks, applications, and services based on a complete-system approach. Celtic is the only European R&D programme fully dedicated to complete system-integrated telecommunications solutions. The size of the Celtic budget is in the range of 1 billion euro. Celtic is open to any kind of project

participation from all EUREKA countries. So far, 29 countries are participating in Celtic. It is operated and supported by the following major players in telecommunications: Alcatel Lucent, BT, Deutsche Telekom, Ericsson, Eurescom, France Telecom, Italtel, Nokia Siemens Networks, RAD Data Communications, Telefónica, Telenor, Thomson and Turkcell. Celtic *website*: www.celtic-initiative.org

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