

## Update.

In this newsletter: the establishment of the Applied Mathematics Institute (AMI), an interview with Peter Apers about the Netherlands Institute of Research on ICT (NIRICT), the graduate programme at Ethics and Technology, the prospects for joint 3TU Masters degrees, and lots more.



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



## Interview with... Peter Apers

**Professor Peter Apers (UT) is Director of Research at the Centre of Competence NIRICT (Netherlands Institute of Research on ICT). NIRICT has already come a long way in his short existence. Apers explains:**

### What has the CoC NIRICT achieved so far?

Even though we are still in the start-up phase, we have gained footholds at national and international level. As NIRICT has its own research agenda, the topics for the first national ICT Innovation Platforms (IIPs) went without saying. Peta-Media, a European Network of Excellence, was the first European proposal in which NIRICT acted as partner-initiator. NIRICT Chairs participate in many other projects in the Netherlands and in Europe. And, recently, of course, we saw the approval of the KIC ICT Labs, where NIRICT has played a pioneering role from the very start.

### Why does the Centre of Excellence CeDICT have its own Director of Research while other CoEs do not?

NIRICT covers such a broad swathe of Europe that I could not be Director of Research at NIRICT and CeDICT at the same time. I am very pleased to see Inald Lagendijk take over at CeDICT. He is more closely involved with the field. With Lagendijk at the helm CeDICT is bound to make a deep impact. The decision to appoint separate directors of research for a CoC and CoE is commensurate with a model in which several CoEs co-exist within one CoC.

### What does the EIT ICT Labs partnership mean for NIRICT?

NIRICT was one of the initiators of EIT ICT Labs at European level. So, we are, understandably, very proud that our European efforts have been rewarded. As the process unfolded, it turned out that, in many respects, the Netherlands is streets ahead of our European neighbours in the integration of research and innovation. It is now imperative that Dutch business communities, knowledge institutes and the government show the requisite degree of commitment to be taken seriously in the Knowledge and Innovation Community.

### What developments do you expect to see in NIRICT and 3TU?

One cannot underestimate the importance of a visible international position in both research and innovation. The three TUs are large enough and prestigious enough to carve a place for themselves at that level. NIRICT wants to play a role in this process. But the KIC is just the first step of many. To progress further the 3TU needs to act as one contract partner in, for example, EU projects.

### Applied Mathematics Institute

The professors of mathematics at the three universities of technology have joined forces and set up the 3TU Applied Mathematics Institute (AMI). The AMI opened officially on 15 April with a seminar in Delft on a topic designed to appeal to a broad audience: the relevance of applied mathematics in society.

Being strongly multidisciplinary in character, the mathematics departments of the three TUs work closely with colleagues from all technological faculties. They provide teaching services in mathematics for all students at the three TUs and are in close contact with businesses, TNO and GTIs.

The 3TU.Federation has made a start-up grant of one hundred thousand euros available for the first year. The institute will be headed by Professor Bernard Geurts of the University of Twente, who is also attached to the TU/e Faculty of Applied Physics.

For more information visit <http://ami.3tu.nl>.

### Update 3TU transfer matrix

For several years now the 3TU transfer matrix has been informing students of the possibilities of moving from a bachelor's to a master's programme within and between the three TUs. Recently a decision was taken to add the non-engineering programmes of the UT to the matrix to make it more complete. The matrix will also be easier to use as it will include only the possibilities for unconditional transfer. The changes will be implemented in the near future.

### Appointments and departure

- On 1 January 2010 Professor K.C.A.M. (Karel) Luyben succeeded Professor J. (Jacob) Fokkema as Rector Magnificus of the Executive Board of TU Delft and as a member of the 3TU Board.
- At the end of last year Professor R.J. (Raoul) Bino (TU Delft) joined the board of the CoC URGENT and the CoC Applications for Nanotechnology.
- Professor R. (Inald) L. Lagendijk (TU Delft) has recently been appointed Director of Research at CoE CeDICT.
- On 1 May 2010 A.H. (Amandus) Lundqvist stands down as Chair of the Executive Board of TU/e and as a member of the 3TU Board. Lundqvist will be succeeded in Eindhoven by Dr A.J.H.M. (Arno) Peels.

## Events



### Successful presentation of CoE CeDICT at ICTDelta

During ICTDelta, the national ICT event, CeDICT professors Jaco van de Pol (UT), Sandro Etalle (TU/e) and Inald Lagendijk (TU Delft) organized an interactive session on the theme of 'Reliable ICT: What does it take?'

ICTDelta is an annual event where participants can find inspiration and brush up on their knowledge of the latest developments in ICT research and innovation.

The audience were challenged first of all to name the players in (designers, systems) and causes of (unintended, deliberate) failure of ICT systems. Then two practical problems relating to reliability were discussed: 'Reliability of ICT traffic management' and 'Security of ICT in critical infrastructure'. CeDICT is developing research methods to improve the reliability of such systems.

ICTDelta closed with a presentation by European Commissioner Neelie Kroes, who stressed the importance of her digital agenda for economic strength and societal challenges in Europe.

### Credits

3TU.Newsletter is a publication of the 3TU.Federation ([www.3tu.nl](http://www.3tu.nl)). The newsletter is sent to the staff and external contacts of Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente.

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### Graduate Programme at 3TU.Ethics

In 2009 3TU.Ethics was granted 800,00 euros of funding by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NOW) for launching the 3TU.Ethics Graduate School, which will commence in September 2010.

The Master programme involved in the Graduate School is the Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (PSTS) in Twente. The graduate school will integrate the last year of PSTS track with the 1st year of PhD track, offering the opportunity to Bachelor and Master of Science candidates to initiate their PhD studies while attending ad-hoc courses in the field of ethics of technology. The programme is designed according to the core research themes of 3TU.Ethics, namely 'Moral Issues in Engineering Design and R&D', 'Moral Issues in the Use and Regulation of Technology' and 'Values in Engineering and Society'.

The Graduate Programme is headed by Professor Philip Brey of the University of Twente and the programme coordinator is Dr Claudia Basta of TU Delft, who will work closely with the director of research at 3TU.Ethics, Professor Jeroen van den Hoven and general director Dr Sabine Roeser, both from TU Delft.

### Special professors at CoC Fluid and Solid Mechanics

When the Centre for Fluid and Solid Mechanics was established a decision was taken to further improve the quality and relevance of the research by appointing some leading academics who are authorities in the different sub-domains.

So far, four special professors have joined the staff: Bruno Eckhardt (Marburg), Vikram Deshpande (Cambridge), Sunkaran Sundaresan (Princeton) and Roberto Verzicco (Rome).

These professors have been appointed because they enjoy a strong international reputation or are promising top talents in one of sub-domains of fluid and solid mechanics. For a period of at least three years they will spend much of their time on research at the Centre for Fluid and Solid Mechanics, but they will also contribute to the teaching curriculum.

### All h@nds on deck

The 'All H@nds on Deck' project is part of the SURF National E-learning Action Plan in which the teacher training programmes of the three TUs collaborate with those of mainstream universities.

To tempt aspiring students to opt for the minor in education and to develop the academic teacher training programme, the project team will develop digitally-supported case studies on the teaching profession. This will clarify the admission procedure for transfer and other students. E-learning arrangements will also be developed for these students.

### 3TU Masters become joint degrees

In recent years five joint Masters degrees have been realized at 3TU. Strictly speaking, these were, however, still individual programmes run separately by each TU. Joint degrees in the true sense of the word were not yet legally possible. In other words, students in the 3TU Masters still received their degree from one of the TUs. Now, after amendments to the law, students can for the first time take a real joint degree. A 3TU project group has been set up to look into the requirements. Once the 3TU Masters have become joint programmes, graduates will receive one joint 3TU degree. A joint board of studies will be installed along with a joint board of examiners and a joint admissions procedure.

**The next 3TU Newsletter features, amongst others, the future of the Dutch government's policy on knowledge and innovation.**

**3TU teams up with stakeholders to flesh out the proposals for sector management.**