

**EASN – The European Aeronautical Science Network**  
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The EASN initiative has started in 2000, when several European universities with strong aeronautical research activities were complaining in Brussels, that they have little or no chances to submit own research proposals within the 5<sup>th</sup> framework programme. The European Commission reacted and started an initiative, called EASN (European Aeronautical Science Network).

Main goal of this project is to intensify the cooperation between European Universities as well as between Universities and Industry and Research Establishments in Europe in the context of the future European framework programmes.

3 main tasks should be developed within the next three years:

- Establish a database of the European aeronautics universities, classified with respect to their interests and skills, research activities and geographical regions.
- Establish thematically oriented "Interest Groups" with strong expertise on related scientific and technological subjects
- Establish "Center of Excellences" specializing in key aeronautical areas, particularly in countries and regions with less developed aeronautical industry.

The EASN project is structured in 5 regional groups and will be coordinated by the Universities of Cranfield (UK), Chalmers (S), ENSMA (F), Munich (D) and Patras (GR). The paper will outline the structure and activities in more detail.