



## Joint Statement

### Transfer of experiences with the utilisation of the Voucher-System to exploit high-quality research infrastructure

Within the subproject ChemSME, part of the RFO touriSME programme, the experiences in Limburg (Netherlands) with the stimulation of SME's to exploit research infrastructure were systematically analysed. The result was that there is an international trend towards providing financing for SME's, so that they can afford high-quality but expensive research and development infrastructure. The experiences from the region Limburg and the Netherlands as a whole, the government of the Netherlands encourages interested SME's with a Voucher, were identified as best-practice solution regarding alternative financing facilities.

With the Voucher small and medium-sized enterprises can engage high-level services from large-scale enterprises or preliminarily selected research establishments. This grants SME's access to research services and it makes a contribution to intensify the relationship of research and economy. Appropriate approaches were particularly financed by European Structural Funds and the transfer to the Land Saxony-Anhalt should be evaluated by the provincial government.

Due to the proven positive effects on the development of innovation in the Netherlands the signers will survey and enhance appropriate approaches regarding the Pilot Plant Centre in Schkopau. The proceeding can encourage small and medium-sized enterprises in Saxony-Anhalt to use the Pilot Plant Centre. This assures an effective contribution to the development value-added chains in the Chemistry/ Plastics sector. At the same time it contributes to the utilisation of the Pilot Plant Centre in terms of a increased regional efficiency.

The partner from Limburg agrees to circulate their experiences with the Voucher-System.

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