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## Introduction

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**Biographical notes:** Francois Therin is an Associate Professor at Euromed Marseille Ecole de Management. His research and teaching are focused on Technology and Innovation Management in High-tech and High-growth ventures. He is the founding editor of the *International Journal of Technoentrepreneurship*.

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This introduction is written when a lot of us are back from the Academy of Management annual conference. As with the previous years, a professional development workshop was held during the conference. It gathered 30 participants from all over the world, to listen and discuss to on-going research in the field of technoentrepreneurship. The quality and diversity of the communications shows that the topic is growing more than ever. Noticeably, this year, we saw a lot of participants from Asia and South-East Asia. It does not come as a surprise as this region, along with India, is the place where the terms 'technoentrepreneurship' or 'technopreneurship' are used a lot, and mostly to name activities around the development of high-tech clusters of start-ups by public entities. Thus, it appears that, as it was the case 30 years ago, the development of technoentrepreneurial activities still goes with a strong impetus from local or national governing bodies. Of course, this remark is not secluded to high-growth countries. Similar activities occur in traditional 'western' economies. So, it implies that for a while, research in the field of technoentrepreneurship will integrate the political environment as a strong variable in the equation of growth and performance. As we all know, this is nevertheless not sufficient. Governments cannot create performance, they can only try to create the conditions in which start-ups will be successful and will eventually become big players in the new industries. Although other factors are obviously at play, and particularly the way start-ups work together with other start-ups and with large companies and public and private research bodies. The quest for growth and performance is a never-ending topic of research for us, and working on it in the context of high-tech ventures is more exciting than ever, particularly at a time where slowing economies are looking for new avenues of growth and where new environmental changes have certainly created a call for innovative products and services.

After this brief introduction, you won't be surprised to read that, without any specific intervention or goal in mind, all the papers in this issue deal with the concepts of network, clusters or innovation systems. The first paper, written by Malin Brännback, Alan Carsrud, Norris Krueger, and Jennie Elfving, challenges the triple-helix model (governments, universities and industry) and calls for a better and clearer integration of

entrepreneurs and innovators in the equation. In the context of the situation in Sweden, Sari Roininen casts a light in the second paper on network effects in the case of complex high-tech ventures and shows that the more complex the venture is, the more important networking is. In the third paper, Francesco Schiavone reexamines the context of clusters and their structural forms to make a clear distinction between the flat clusters and the pyramidal ones and discuss why one or the other may emerge in a particular context. In the last paper, Martin Bliemel and Elicia Maine are discussing one particular aspect of network: the network embeddedness and its study along with the characteristics of the high-tech start-up and its environment. They advocate for a better integration of the contingencies in the research agenda in order to have a better usage of the concept, both for companies and for policy makers.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed preparing it. As always, if you have any paper to submit, please do it! IJTE accepts traditional contributions but it is also open to case studies, interviews of managers, book reviews or any other form of dissemination and discussion on technoentrepreneurship!