

# KNOWLEDGE-SHARING NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A MAJOR RESEARCH AND BENCHMARKING STUDY

The Knowledge and Innovation Network (KIN) led by Prof. Harry Scarbrough has been awarded funding by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council to carry out a major study on the impact which peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing networks have on organizational performance. This new study will build on the findings from an initial scoping study (see inset) which investigated member satisfaction and motivation across 52 different networks.

### Participation in the study

The study commences March 2008 for a 12 month period, and we are inviting participation from organizations across a variety of sectors. Participation involves providing access to enable: a) the email distribution of an on-line survey to relevant members of the organization, and b) a small number of interviews with the leaders and members of networks, as well as senior management sponsors. The confidentiality of the individuals and organizations can be guaranteed, and participants will be consulted on any publications arising from the study.

*Possible benefits from participation include;*

- *access to a report summarizing the findings from the study*
- *a detailed benchmarking report comparing results on key success factors for your own networks against the wider sample*
- *access to the on-line resources on networks and knowledge-sharing developed by the study*
- *involvement in short exchange placements with Warwick Business School*

***If you would like further information on the study or wish to discuss your organization's participation, please contact:***

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KIN ([www.ki-network.org](http://www.ki-network.org)) is based at Warwick Business School and is linked to the IKON (Innovation, Knowledge and Organizational Networks) research centre within the school.



### **Scoping study**

In what we believe to be the biggest network benchmarking study ever undertaken, KIN researchers worked with 1,286 respondents from 52 networks across 10 global organisations in key knowledge intensive sectors including Oil and Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Technology, Consulting & Professional Services, Aerospace, Military, Government and Defence. We based our detailed analysis on community members' and Community Leaders' assessment of their networks' impact on both individual and organisational performance. We also measured the extent to which networks increased individual and organisational learning and knowledge sharing, as well as personal motivation and commitment.

Key deliverables from the study were:

The Benchmarking report – a fully comprehensive report outlining all key findings and case study examples of best practice

Innovation report – A more detailed analysis of Organisations at the leading edge of innovative practices in their use of networks to create and add real business value.

Guidelines for good practice in using knowledge-sharing networks to improve individual and organisational performance - nine key factors, which increased network impact on performance.