

EVM Europe Initiative Continues to Develop



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Photo Wrap-up from the EVA-2 Europe Conference in Ghent, Belgium. (Top, left to right) Academic Track Chair **Kym Henderson** presenting the speaker gift (box of Belgian chocolates with box also made of chocolate) to **Mike Newton** from the UK. A masters' students of Ghent University presenting EVM research findings — a strategy for replenishing practitioner ranks and advancing EVM globally? Plenary speaker, Belgian astronaut **Frank de Winne**, first European International Space Station Commander being presented a statuette of him blowing a kiss to his wife from the Bajkonur, Kazakhstan, launch pad by Prof. Dr. **Mario Vanhoucke** and Ing. **Stephan Vandevoorde**. (Bottom, left to right) During day two's plenary session in the historic "Het Pand" Conference Centre, speaker **Johan Van Wassenhove**, CEO of Denys, shared his experiences on managing risk in a competitive global world order. USA speakers and delegates, **Sean Alexander** and **J. Greg Smith** forgoing the pleasures of Thanksgiving to advocate EVM in Europe. (Greg's presentation on the PMI EVM Global Standard 2nd edition update project attracted considerable interest and full-house attendance.) A truly Belgian end to the conference — A beer tasting session that included the release of yet another new Belgian beer, bottled by a Belgian EVM research student!

By Kym Henderson, Research & Standards Lead

The EVM Europe initiative progresses with a successful second EVA Europe Conference held at the historic "Het Pand", the Cultural Centre of Ghent University on 24–25 November 2010 with about 90 delegates and speakers attending. Het Pand, a former Dominican monastery, is located in the historical centre of the city of Ghent, on the banks of the River Leie. The oldest parts of this impressive building date from the 13th Century. Using Het Pand came from a collaboration between Ghent University, which owns the facility, and the Vlerick Leuven Ghent

Management School, which sponsored the conference.

Unique characteristics for an EVM conference included a dedicated research track with presentations by masters' students from Ghent University. The absence of a regulatory mandate for EVM in Europe results in interest in more pragmatic approaches to EVM practice and implementation where the benefits of the method are obtained with overheads minimised. European EVM implementation experiences were featured in the practitioner track, which also explains the greater interest in the PMI EVM Practice Standard 2nd edition update project presentation by Project

Chair J. Greg Smith than has occurred at U.S. conferences.

The conference had a distinctly Belgian flavour: presenters received gifts of boxed chocolates, with boxes also made of chocolate, and the conference concluded in true Belgian style with a beer tasting session.

The EVA Europe Association has been reformed into the EVM Europe Association to carry forward the initiative of advancing EVM in Europe on a long-term basis. Planning for the EVM Europe Conference 2011 (Valencia, Spain, on the northern Mediterranean coast) is well underway. Details are available at: www.evm-europe.eu