A portrait of Prof. dr. ir. Ton Backx, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a grey blazer over a light blue shirt. He is smiling and has his arms crossed. The background is a blurred indoor setting with blue and green lights.

**Prof.dr.ir. Ton Backx**  
**January 10, 2020**

**VALEDICTORY LECTURE**

## **Open Innovation 2.0**

**TU/e**

**EINDHOVEN  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

## **INVITATION**


Prof.dr.ir. Ton Backx was appointed part-time professor of Control Systems at the Department of Electrical Engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) on February 1, 1990. He will deliver his valedictory lecture on January 10, 2020.

The Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology cordially invites you to attend the valedictory lecture of Prof.dr.ir. Ton Backx on **Friday, January 10, 2020, at 4.00 PM**. The public lecture will be delivered in the Blauwe Zaal of the Auditorium. You do not need to register.

The lecture concerns  
**'Open Innovation 2.0'**

After the lecture, drinks will be served in the Senaatszaal.

All full professors are invited to join the cortège. If you want to join the cortège, please register in advance with the P&P office which organizes all academic ceremonies, telephone +31 (0)40 247 25 15, e-mail: [penp@tue.nl](mailto:penp@tue.nl).



**Prof.dr.ir. F.P.T. Baaijens**  
Rector Magnificus

After January 10, 2020, the text of the valedictory lecture will be available online at [www.tue.nl/lectures](http://www.tue.nl/lectures).

If you consider a gift, Ton would appreciate a contribution to Stichting Catharina Onderzoeksfonds. Bank number: NL09RABO0191615439. Including the reference: Farewell gift Ton Backx.

Over the past 42 years, Ton Backx has worked in both industry and at the university. He received his MSc in EE (cum laude) from Eindhoven University in 1977 and his PhD in 1987 as part of a joint Philips-TU/e research program while working at Philips. In 1990, he was appointed as a part-time professor at Eindhoven University of Technology, working in the field of modeling and model-based control of industrial processes. He accepted a full-time position at Eindhoven University of Technology in 2006, initially as Dean of the Department of Electrical Engineering (2006-2016). He was later appointed as Vice-Rector of Eindhoven University of Technology, responsible for strengthening collaboration between the university and industry (2010-2016). In 2016, he became Vice-President of International Relations. Since January 2016, Ton has been responsible for R&D on Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems. He founded the Institute for Photonic Integration in April 2016. He also co-initiated Photon Delta, a collaborative ecosystem for research and exploitation on behalf of Photonic Integrated Circuits and Systems-related companies and R&D institutes.

### **About the lecture**

In recent decades, awareness has grown of the fact that we must solve major challenges in order to protect the environmental conditions of our earth. These include sustainable energy supplies, (preventive) healthcare, transport and mobility, food supplies, clean air and drinking water, safety and security, the complete reuse of (scarce) resources and more. Open Innovation enables the efficient use of scarce R&D resources. It speeds up developments and enables participating parties to combine their strengths. The current challenges faced by society are complex. Solutions require the well-orchestrated contributions of many highly-specialized disciplines. Society and its governing processes can be seen as a complex dynamic system in transition. The open innovation infrastructure may be viewed as the control environment that creates solutions for these problems. The outcomes of the projects realized by collaborating partners drive complex societal processes to the point at which they meet the envisaged conditions.

**Visiting address** Auditorium, Building 1, Groene Loper, Eindhoven  
**Navigation address** De Zaaie, Eindhoven, [www.tue.nl/map](http://www.tue.nl/map)