Globalisation increasingly affects how companies in OECD countries operate, compete and innovate, both at home and abroad. Companies now face an environment in which competition is global, in which knowledge is spread more widely, in which R&D investments are increasing and in which product life cycles are shortening. In addition, the integration of large emerging economies such as China and India has more than doubled the world's supply of labour. To meet these new challenges, companies need to adopt new approaches to innovation processes, organisational models, finance and decision making.

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