Organisational design issues are becoming increasingly relevant to very small (VSEs) and small and medium (SMEs) entrepreneurial ventures. It is well known that, from the time of their inception, VSEs rely extensively on various types of support from both formal (e.g., business support providers, incubators, etc.) and informal networks to complement their internal capabilities and supply missing competences. Yet, little research has been conducted on the role organisational design plays at these early stages, where the entrepreneur must negotiate, for instance, trade-offs between entrepreneurial and administrative actions. At different scales, perhaps, are these organisational design trade-offs similar or different for VSEs and SMEs than those related to resolving tensions between external entrepreneurial supports versus internal activity coordination? Is organisational design in an entrepreneurial context a search for a fixed outcome or an evolving activity as the venture develops? What interorganisational design dependency and coordination issues may need to be balanced for VSEs and SMEs at the early development stage?

This special issue of IJODE is devoted to research aimed at understanding the implications of organisational design in early-stage venture development in very small, small, and medium enterprises (VSEs and SMEs). We are looking for papers that explore how such organisations address organisational design issues from having to balance their need for external knowledge and support with internal action coordination. This tension may represent a genuine challenge for such firms as they do not possess abundant resources and capabilities, which may drive them away from the effort to balance organisational design issues.

Potential research topics might include but are not limited to research that offers insights into the performance implications of organisational design, adoption of strategies for organisational design in early-stage ventures, balancing external support and internal coordination, early-stage ventures’ strategies for organisational design that support the creation of firm-level resources and competencies (human and financial resources, etc.), creation of dynamic capabilities, and implications for organisational performance, innovation and sustainability.

IJODE is a scholarly journal aiming to develop organisational design and engineering (ODE), defined as the application of social science, design science and computer science research and practice to the study and implementation of new organisational designs, including the integrated structuring, modelling, development and deployment of IS/IT and social processes. ODE can be classified as a sub-discipline of the discipline of information systems. However, ODE is not restricted to the paradigm or literature of information systems but is open to influences from organisation science and computer science/engineering.
Topics include (but are not limited to):

- impact of entrepreneurial administrative actions and processes on organisational design
- organisational design as an evolving activity in entrepreneurial development rather than as a search for an outcome
- VSEs’ and SMEs’ organisational design and the role of internal and external uncertainty
- organisational design performance in resolving tensions between external entrepreneurial support and internal firm coordination
- organisational design and its influence on the exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities, whether locally or internationally
- external information and its influence on entrepreneurial development and organisational design
- Interorganisational design priorities and issues for VSEs and SMEs

We welcome contributions that address organisational design and related issues from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives. Contributions to this IJODE special issue may take a range of forms (case studies, action research, grounded theory, design science, statistical analysis, and simulation), may focus on different units and levels of analysis, and may employ quantitative, qualitative, or mixed research approaches.

Notes for Prospective Authors
Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. (N.B. Conference papers may only be submitted if the paper has been completely rewritten and if appropriate written permissions have been obtained from any copyright holders of the original paper.) All papers are refereed through a peer review process.

All papers must be submitted online. To submit a paper, please read our page. http://www.inderscience.com/jhome.php?jcode=ijode

Important dates:
Submission Deadline: 31 May 2014
Reviews: 30 June 2014
Final version due: 31 August 2014

Inquiries can be forwarded electronically to:
L. Martin Cloutier, PhD
Department of Management and Technology
University of Quebec at Montreal
E-Mail: cloutier.martin@uqam.ca