

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON EC RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

In the last issue of *Innovation and Technology Transfer* (Issue No. 4, 1990), I reported that a new strategy is being developed in DG XIII for the publication of information on our research activities.

The first product of the new strategy will be launched in the Spring of this year. It will be a magazine containing in-depth articles covering all aspects of DG XIII, with the accent on the policies and strategic thinking which underpin the work of the Directorate-General. Each issue will also contain details of the wide range of individual activities taking place under the various DG XIII programmes. We are convinced that this magazine will contribute to a better understanding of the ensemble of programmes managed by DG XIII, whether they be the programmes closely related to information technology and the information business, such as ESPRIT, RACE, IMPACT, DELTA, DRIVE and AIM, or those so-called "horizontal" programmes - VALUE and SPRINT - which are not limited to a particular technology.

New activities concerning the dissemination of information are also under way as part of the VALUE programme. One of the prime purposes of VALUE is to disseminate information on Community research and technological development (RTD) work, with the ultimate objective of increasing the benefit to be obtained by exploiting the results coming out of the Community programmes. With this in mind, a Call for Proposals is being launched which will offer financial support for measures designed to promote awareness of Community research and technological development programmes and their results. One of the principal aims of the Call is to encourage the provision of information which is tailored to suit the needs and skills of different user groups, since we are conscious of the fact that "raw" technical information, as found in the reports of research projects, is frequently difficult for potential users to digest and apply. More details of the Call for Proposals are given on page 8.

How does *Innovation and Technology Transfer* fit into this picture? Our intention is that it should contain information on the ensemble of activities of the Community which are relevant to research, with the emphasis on the exploitation of research results. To do this, *Innovation and Technology Transfer* brings together, in one newsletter, news from the spectrum of individual programmes making up the RTD framework programme and from related programmes which fall outside the framework programme, in particular as concerns activities aimed at supporting innovation and technology transfer. It also

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reports on new developments relevant to science and technology at the institutional level. At present the main issues under this heading are the implementation of the third framework programme, the preparations that are already under way for a fourth framework programme, and discussions on RTD-relevant modifications to the European Community treaties.

It will be obvious to regular readers of *Innovation and Technology Transfer* that this issue has fewer pages than usual. This is partly because other work under the VALUE and SPRINT programmes has, for the moment, diminished the resources that can be devoted to the newsletter. It also reflects our view that *Innovation and Technology Transfer* should be succinct: it should summarise the broad spectrum of programmes and projects falling under the heading of Community research and technology, providing pointers to the sources of information for those who need to go into particular topics in greater depth. Lastly, we are taking account of the fact that DG XIII programmes will be receiving detailed coverage in the new magazine.

As the new information activities which I have mentioned come into operation, the role which should be played by *Innovation and Technology Transfer* will become more clear. But our objective continues to be to provide details of current research and technological development programmes and their results, as well as news of programmes in preparation, in line with the object of the VALUE programme.

Dr A.S. Strub

Director for Exploitation of
Research and Technological Development,
Technology Transfer and Innovation

For more details of the new DG XIII magazine mentioned in this article, please contact Mr B. Trench, DG XIII/E-5, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.

EUROPE AGAINST AIDS

A plan of action under the "Europe against AIDS" programme (1991-93) was submitted by the Commission to the Council on 11 December 1990 (COM(90)601 final).

The following individual actions are proposed in the plan:

- Action1: Informing the public about AIDS prevention campaigns
- Action2: Prevention of HIV infection and health education in schools
- Action3: Eurobarometer surveys on AIDS and its prevention
- Action4: Exchanges of experience on counselling and treatment services
- Action5: Development of models for the costing of the management of AIDS
- Action6: Reduction of HIV transmission in blood and blood-based products
- Action7: Improvements to the system for gathering data on AIDS
- Action8: Common methodological approaches to ensure the availability and comparability of epidemiological data on HIV seroprevalence
- Action9: Systems of university training for health care workers; mobility of medical and nursing students.

IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY - THE SAVE PROGRAMME

SAVE is an acronym for "Specific Actions for Greater Energy Efficiency"; the SAVE programme is intended to give a fresh impetus to Community work in the field of energy saving and to promote energy efficiency through three types of action:

- actions of a technical nature. The Commission

wishes to see demanding standards adopted with respect to energy consumption in the building sector, household appliances and transport.

- actions of a financial nature. The Commission proposes incentives, particularly fiscal incentives, to those who invest in energy saving.
- actions with respect to consumer behaviour, concerning training and information.

The programme will have an initial span of five years (from 1991 on) and a budget of 35 million ECU.

For further information, contact:

Mr Derek Fee, DG XVII,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH

The Commission's proposal for a new specific programme in the field of biomedicine and health was submitted to the Council on 14 December 1990 (COM(90)676 final).

To be carried out under the Third Framework Programme (1990-94), the programme has a proposed budget of 133 million ECU, of which 1.33 million ECU are earmarked for dissemination and exploitation of results.

Under the programme, shared cost research is foreseen in the following areas:

- Area 1: Development of coordinated research on prevention, care and health systems
- Area 2: Major health problems and diseases of great socio-economic impact (AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular disease, mental illness and neurological disease, ageing and age-related health problems and handicaps)
- Area 3: Human genome analysis
- Area 4: Research on biomedical ethics.

COMMISSION TO PROPOSE NEW "CENTRALIZED ACTION" FOR DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

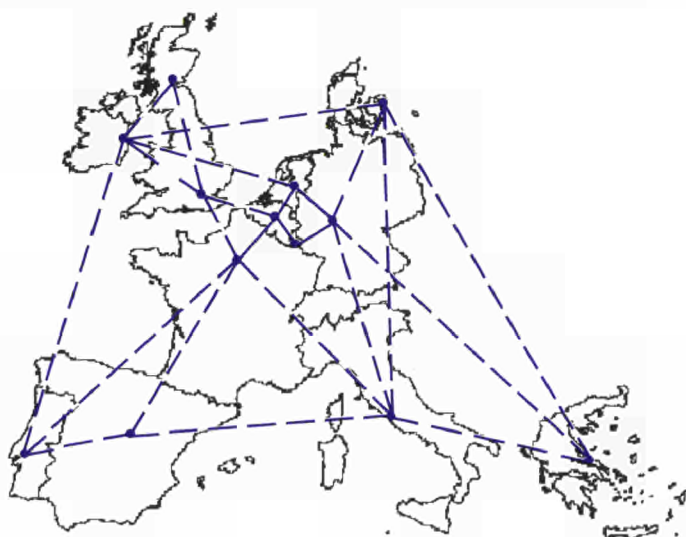
New proposals for the dissemination and exploitation of the knowledge resulting from the Community's research and technological development (RTD) programmes have been drawn up by the Commission for submission to the Council and the European Parliament.

The Commission has already discussed the new proposals with the VALUE Advisory Committee, and will present them to the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) in the near future.

Under the proposals, a *centralized action* will be established, with the aim of ensuring the overall coordination and cohesion of dissemination and exploitation work in the areas covered by the RDT framework programme, and with an estimated budget of 57 million ECU.

Since the centralized action is intended to operate for the duration of the third framework programme, which runs from 1990 to 1994, it will overlap the current VALUE programme for the dissemination and utilization of scientific and technological research results, which expires in mid-1993, and also provide continuity up to the end of 1994 for some of the measures being carried out under VALUE.

The proposals are based on the premise that dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting from the specific programmes within the overall framework programme for Community RTD activities will be done in part by the specific programmes themselves and in part by the centralized action. The purpose of the centralized action will be to supplement and coordinate the measures taken under the specific programmes. In particular, the centralized action will concen-

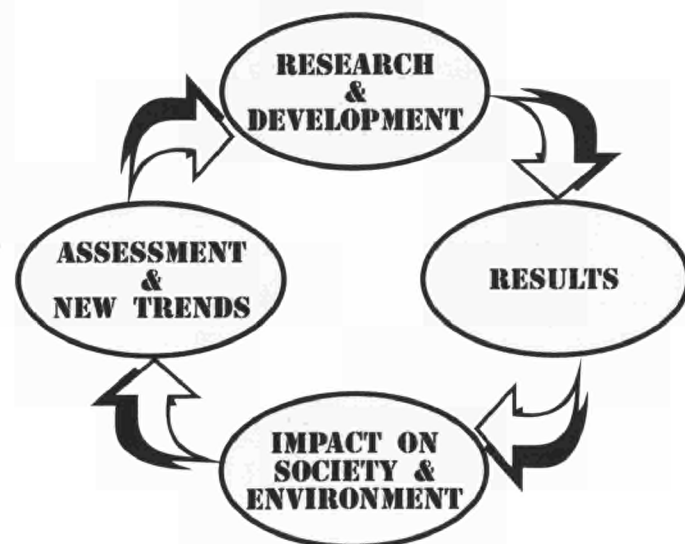


Please note that this drawing is only illustrative as the location of the different relay centres has not been decided yet.

trate on measures which can be applied to information from a range of specific programmes and which require special infrastructures, such as computerized information systems and networks of *relay stations* for promoting the dissemination and exploitation of information in individual Member States and regions.

Although the bulk of the expenditure under the centralized action will be on measures aimed at strengthening the links between Community research activities and industry, the Commission's proposals state that this work should be supplemented by other new measures designed to forge closer links between research and society and between research and the scientific community in general.

The *research and society* heading is intended to cover measures designed to identify and study the impact on society of the new scientific and technical knowledge acquired as a result of Community activities, in particular with a view to providing feedback to the Community programmes. The objective under the *research and the scientific community* heading will be to examine the methods, the problems and the position of research, and to study aspects such as the optimum use of research resources and the management of research programmes.



It is proposed that each of these two new headings will account for 12-15% of expenditure under the centralized action, although this breakdown is likely to be complicated by the fact that some projects may fall under several headings.

Among the measures aimed at strengthening the links between Community research and industry is the continuation, and expansion, of the CORDIS information service started under VALUE, and the establishment of a network of *relay stations* throughout the Community, with the principal aim of providing companies with information and disseminating results.

NEW **sprint** INITIATIVES

The main phase of the Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (SPRINT), running from 1989 to 1993 with a budget of 90 million ECU, seeks to reinforce and extend the Commission's technology transfer activities.

SPRINT focuses on innovating firms and on transnational cooperation between companies. Its main emphasis is on the application of novel methods of technology transfer, and particular weight is given to innovation supporting services.

With this perspective, in 1990 SPRINT launched a series of actions and calls for proposals on support measures to facilitate the formation of networks of technology transfer agents.

One of these SPRINT initiatives concerns support for a series of *investment fora*, whose purpose is to bring companies seeking funding together with financiers seeking investment opportunities. These gatherings will be of interest to innovative SMEs, venture capitalists, investment brokers, and bankers, as well as to technology brokers and consultants seeking partners and/or funding for their clients.

Up to twelve investment fora will be organized all over the Community during the next two years, supported by organizations such as EVCA, ENEA, and ANVAR. These fora will give about 500 companies the possibility of being introduced to some 1,000 financiers.

Another initiative is the organization of 24 *technology transfer days*. These have the aim of putting selected firms in a particular region, seeking partners in other countries, in contact with technology brokers from other regions. These brokers will have been given advance information on the selected companies, to enable them to search for potential opportunities involving the brokers' own clients. SPRINT's intention is that this bringing together will lead to more technological cooperation between firms in different Member States. Technology transfer days will be organized in nearly every Member State in the period 1991-92. It is expected that they will attract in total more than 1,000 firms.

By the organization of and support for *transfer of know-how seminars*, SPRINT will enable experienced professionals to relate and share their practical experience in a specific field of innovation support with professionals from other countries working in the same field.

The topics covered in these seminars will concern the daily practice and methodological tools of the suppliers of innovation support services. The first seminar will be held in Lille in May 1991 and will be on textile techniques. During the next two years, 49

seminars will be programmed, on topics relevant to the innovation support profession, innovation financing and innovation protection, targeted at small R&D firms, technology transfer agencies and consulting engineers.

As SPRINT is concerned with improving the effectiveness and coherence of policies developed to promote the innovative capabilities of European firms, the need has been perceived to improve innovation monitoring and innovation research in Europe. A call for tenders was therefore published in July 1990 for the *development of a European innovation monitoring system*, aimed at constituting a "pool" of experts and organizations in Europe which have experience and capabilities in the area of research on innovation and technology transfer. The "pool" will comprise about fifty participants. The first areas for study under this scheme are now being defined.

In addition, a scheme for *science park consultancy* has been launched with a view to improving the market-oriented definition and planning, and the chances for success, of future science, research or technology parks and business innovation centre projects. By means of this initiative, the Commission intends to facilitate access by local promoters to information on previous experience in other countries and to advice from independent experts.

A list of approximately 100 experts has been established with expertise in all aspects of the setting up and running of science parks. Some 30 promoters of science park developments have been selected for financial support, to consist of a grant towards the costs of consulting a panel, made up of experts drawn from the approved list, for advice on the proposed developments. Thus the science parks in Athens, Orleans, Karlsruhe, Manchester, Lisbon, Valladolid and Turin, to name just a few, will receive Community support for the design of their development or redevelopment.

Further "calls" under the SPRINT programme, with deadlines which will probably be before the summer holidays, are in preparation. They will concern new networks of industrial research and technology organisations, and a technology performance financing scheme.

For further information about these initiatives, or for documentation on the SPRINT programme in general, please contact:

Mr R. Miège,
SPRINT programme, DG XIII/C-4,
Commission of the European Communities,
L-2920 Luxembourg.
Tel.: (0352) 4301 4180

Calling young scientists

The third European Community contest for young scientists will be organized in collaboration with the Schweizer Jugend Forscht and will be held in Zürich on 21-26 September 1991.

At the previous contest held in Copenhagen on 15-19 October 1990, 32 projects were presented by 51 young scientists aged from 15 to 21, coming from all the Member States and from EFTA countries. Six projects were granted Certificates of Distinction and another six projects Certificates of Excellence. Three participants received COMETT Awards.

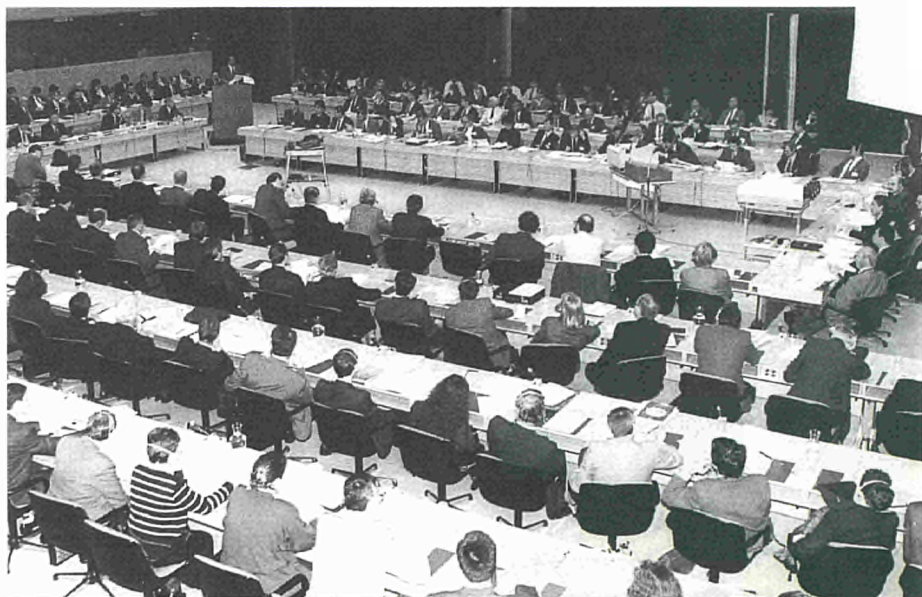
For further information, contact: Mr Alexander Abrantes, DG XII/H-1, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels. Tel: (032) 2 2355432

Sprintlink 1991

EVALUATION MEETING AND LAUNCH OF E-MAIL TO ENTIRE SPRINT NETWORK

The annual meeting of contractors in the SPRINT transnational technology transfer networks took place in Luxembourg on 29-30 January 1991. Over 320 contractors participated from all Member States, making it the largest gathering of SPRINT partners since the programme started in 1984.

Entitled SPRINTLINK 1991, the aims of the conference were to bring together the SPRINT community of technology transfer support services in order to evaluate past performance, to discuss new initiatives and strategies for the future, and to encourage effective links between the network partners so as to realise the new opportunities for technology transfer in Europe.



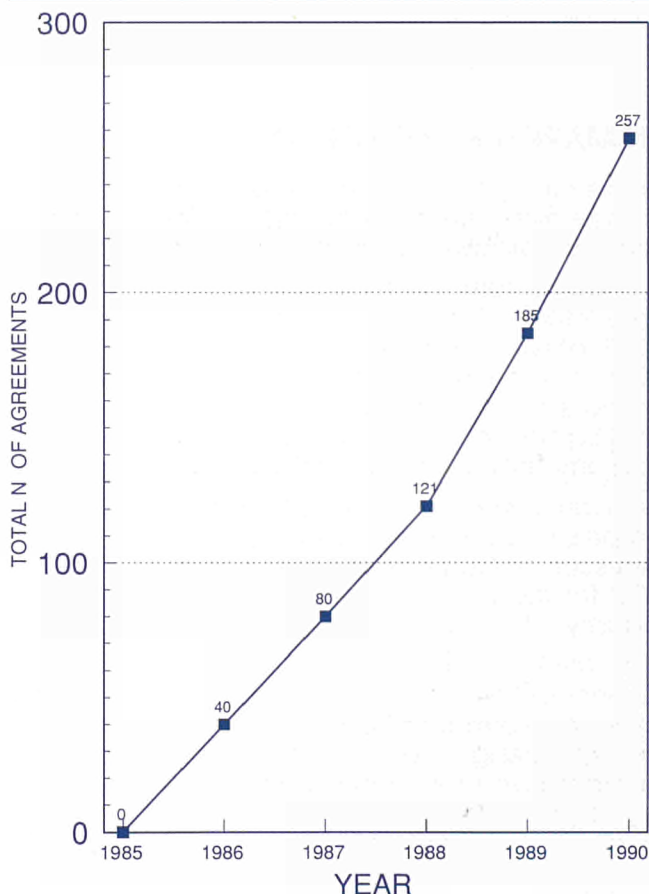
Opening session of SPRINTLINK 1991

The conference was opened by Mr Parajón Colada, Deputy Director-General of DG XIII, who drew attention to the fact that the Council of Ministers, in agreeing to the launch of the Main Phase of the SPRINT programme, had recognised its importance in creating conditions favourable for the diffusion of new technology and innovation throughout the Community. In particular, he referred to the parallel themes of the new technological and geographi-

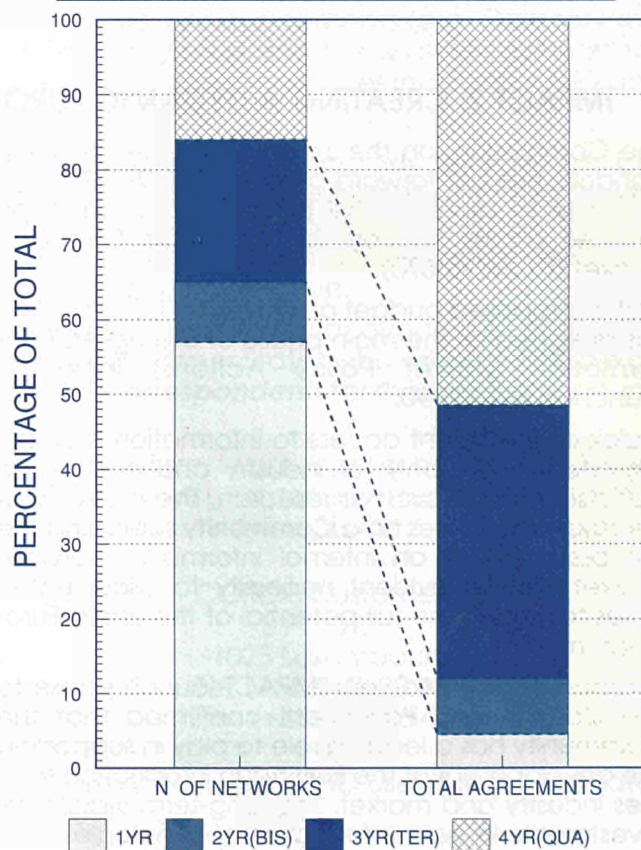
cal opportunities emerging as political changes take place in central and eastern Europe.

These themes were taken up by the keynote speakers, Mr J.-E. Aubert of the OECD, Paris, and Professor S. Villani of the Italian research centre CISE, and were debated in later sessions. Other speakers included Professor E. Vogt, formerly of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the German Democratic Republic.

SPRINT NETWORK AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE
1985-1990

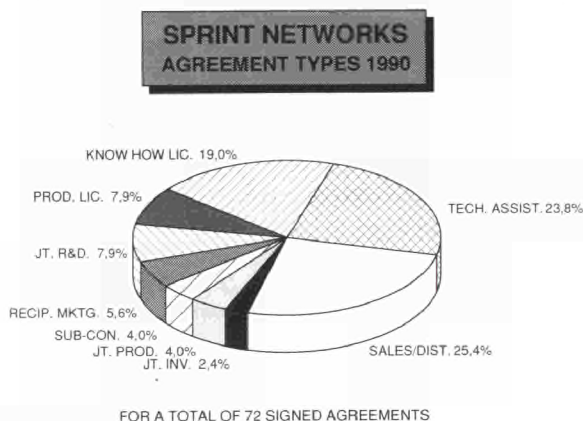


SPRINT NETWORKS
AGE/PRODUCTIVITY RELATIONSHIP 1990



Evaluation of SPRINT results

The main aim of the transnational networks is to achieve technology transfer agreements between firms in different parts of the Community, and results were presented showing that over 70 such agreements had been reached in 1990, giving a cumulative total of over 250 agreements since the start of the programme (see figure on previous page). It is recognised however that success in technology transfer takes time, and that the bulk of the agreements were achieved by those networks which have been in operation for two years or more (see figure on previous page). Furthermore, while 75% of agreements involved technology transfer, about one quarter were purely commercial in character (see figure).



New SPRINT initiatives

Mr R. Miège, head of the SPRINT programme, introduced a number of initiatives aimed at encouraging improved performance by the networks: a new SPRINT logo has been developed for use by approved contractors as a mark of quality service; SPRINT will make annual awards for the best technology transfer agreements; and a system of pre-

mium payments based on the results obtained by the networks is being introduced.

All these initiatives and other methods to improve network performance were discussed in later sessions of the conference, with general agreement that the measures planned will stimulate increased numbers of agreements.

A major aim of the conference was to encourage the interconnection of the networks, and an *opportunities catalogue* listing over 500 technology offers and demands formed the basis of over 300 interactive appointments between the partners during the days of the conference.

SPRINTLINK electronic mail and conferencing system

A pilot test of a system of electronic mail and conferencing, specially developed by EUROKOM for SPRINT, was evaluated and delegates were able to assess the system's usefulness for rapidly exchanging information on opportunities within individual networks and across the SPRINT community.

A special offer to extend the test to enable any of the SPRINT network contractors to access the system from their own offices resulted in over 60 new participants registering for the service. The total number connected to SPRINTLINK now exceeds 110, and a critical mass has been reached within the SPRINT programme, resulting in greatly increased flows of information on technology transfer.

For a copy of the full proceedings of SPRINTLINK 1991, contact:

Ian E. Traill, DG XIII/C-4,
 Commission of the European Communities,
 Jean Monnet Building,
 L-2920 Luxembourg.
 Fax: (+352).43.01.45.44 or by
 E-mail: IAN_TRAILL@EUROKOM.ie

IMPACT 2: CREATING A DYNAMIC EUROPEAN MARKET FOR INFORMATION SERVICES

The Commission, on the initiative of Vice-President Pandolfi, has put forward a five-year (1991-95) programme to develop the provision of information services across frontiers for the single European market (COM(90)570).

With a proposed budget of 100 million ECU, IMPACT 2 is designed as the main phase of the IMPACT (Information Market Policy Actions) initiative, launched in 1989-90.

Quick and efficient access to information is of key importance not only for industry and commerce but also in areas such as research. The provision of information services on a Community scale and the establishment of an internal information services market are an evident necessity to allow enterprises to exploit the full potential of the single European market.

A report on the two-year IMPACT launch phase to the Council and Parliament confirmed that the Community has a leading role to play in supporting the development of the European information services industry and market. The long-term viability of investments in new information technologies and advanced communications networks should also

be secured, the report stressed, by encouraging the development of electronic information services such as databases and image banks.

Worldwide turnover for online database and real-time information services reached 7 billion ECU in 1988, of which Europe's share was around 2 billion ECU. In this fast-growing sector, Europe currently produces only half as many databases as the USA and European online information (excluding videotex) amounts to only one third of the US market.

With an average annual growth rate of 20% for online services and new electronic/optical information such as CD-ROM, a world market of 100 billion ECU for the overall electronic information services industry is forecast for the year 2000.

The IMPACT 2 programme, as proposed to the Council of Ministers, will concentrate on four action lines: an Information Market Observatory to gather market intelligence data and analyse the EC's comparative strengths and weaknesses; overcoming legal and administrative barriers; initiatives to increase the user-friendliness of services and improve information literacy; and support for strategic information initiatives.

CORDIS (COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SERVICE)

CORDIS (Community Research and Development Information Service) is an information service of the Commission under DGXIII/C in Luxembourg. It is primarily concerned with the research activities of the Community and is part of the VALUE programme, for the dissemination and exploitation of R&D results in Europe, one of the initiatives of the European Community R&D Framework Programme.

In its databases one can also find information on energy demonstration programmes, initiatives with environmental objectives, programmes in training, education and associated actions, and some activities resulting from regional development policies.

CORDIS was launched in December 1990 with three databases, namely

- . *RTD-Programmes*: provides information on all Community sponsored programmes (\pm 162 records).
- . *RTD-Projects*: provides project descriptions from all programmes (\pm 13 000 records).
- . *RTD-Publications*: provides abstracts of reports and publications (\pm 44 000 records).

Access to CORDIS is possible through the ECHO host in Luxembourg, and is presently free of charge but requires prior registration. In addition to the databases, CORDIS offers a user friendly *front end* interface providing information on CORDIS itself, the Commission services and R&D related announcements, such as R&D call for tenders and proposals, date reminders, etc.

Due to practical considerations, CORDIS is currently available in English only.

The second release of CORDIS, in April 1991, will consist of three additional databases:

- . *RTD-Acronyms*: Explanations of the multitude of acronyms and abbreviations arising from or related to Community RTD activity.
- . *RTD-ComDocuments*: Information on Commission communications to the Council and Parliament, on or related to RTD activities.
- . *RTD-Results*: Information on results and R&D prototypes arising from Community projects (Proteas).

All CORDIS databases are accessible in two modes; by using the command-driven Common Command Language (CCL) of ECHO, or by using menu search systems for non-experienced users. CORDIS users receive the full CORDIS documentation i.e. the "Introduction to CORDIS" manual and a user manual per database.

The RTD-Results (Proteas) database

The RTD-Results database has a successful history under the name of Proteas and is one of the milestones of the CORDIS service within the framework of the VALUE Programme.

The RTD-Results (Proteas) database will complement the information currently offered on

CORDIS by documenting the results arising from EC and other European R&D projects.

The database covers a broad spectrum of pre-commercial research results including new technologies/know-how and scientific findings in basic research. These results originate from both EC and EFTA countries, whether funded by the European Commission or by national, international or independent sources. The aim of RTD-Results is to provide a European structure for the dissemination of R&D results in Europe in order to promote information exchange, technological and scientific collaboration, industrial and commercial exploitation.

For matters related to contribution of data to the RTD-Results database directly by the industry, research institutes, universities or intermediary organisations, you are invited to contact either the CORDIS customer service or our contractor directly :

Longman Cartermill
Attention : Ms Allie Menzies
The Technology Centre
St Andrews, Fife KY16 9EA
Scotland, UK.
Tel: (+44) 334 77 660
Fax: (+44) 334 77 180

By the end of 1991, the CORDIS Service will be completed by another three databases:

- . *RTD-Infopoints*: Organisations in Member States providing assistance, nationally or regionally, in relation to Community RTD activities.
- . *RTD-Partners*: Providing a mechanism to identify suitable partners for the submission of proposals for RTD projects.
- . *RTD-News*: Announcements (e.g. Calls for Proposals) and other short news items generated by the Commission services involved in RTD activities.

The ECHO/CORDIS Customer Service will be happy to provide any additional information on any of the CORDIS databases and help you to solve any problem related to access and searching of specific information.

We will soon be able to announce a list of organisations in Member States who will play the role of **CORDIS Correspondents** for their region or country.

If you are interested in registering for CORDIS on ECHO, and wish to receive registration forms, please complete the reply form and return to:

ECHO - CORDIS Customer Service
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg
Tel: (+352) 48 80 41
Fax: (+352) 48 80 40

If you are already an ECHO user, please indicate your customer number.

Programme	Published in	Deadline
ACE (Environment)	OJ C134; 1.6.90	30.6.91
CAMAR (Competitivity in agricultural research)	OJ C 130; 25.5.90	26.4.91 (modified)
Decommissioning of nuclear installations	OJ C24; 31.1.91	31.4.91
EURET (Transport)	OJ C 9; 15.1.91	15.4.91
SPRINT (Networks of Research & Technology Organisations)	expected	19.07.91
SPRINT (Technology Performance Financing)	OJ C 65; 13.03.91	30.06.91
THERMIE(Promotion of energy technologies)	expected	July 91(?)
VALUE (Dissemination of EC Research results)	OJ C 74; 20.3.91	31.5.91
VALUE (Exploitation of EC research results)	OJ C 134; 1.6.90	open

Agricultural research (CAMAR)

A call for proposals concerning participation in the Community research programme on the Competitiveness of Agriculture and Management of Agricultural Resources (CAMAR) was published in the Official Journal on 21 October 1989 (OJ C269, see also Innovation and Technology Transfer 5/89, page 10). Following a decision of the European Parliament, the third deadline of the call will be 26 April 1991 and not as previously announced.

Further information on the call for proposals may be obtained from the following address:

DG VI-FII/3, Coordination of Agricultural Research
Commission of the European Communities,
130, rue de la Loi, B-1040 Brussels.
Tlx: 22037 AGREC B, Fax: (032) 2 2363029

Transport research (EURET)

EURET (European Research Programme for Transport) was adopted by the Council on 21 December 1990, to run from 1990 to 1993.

A call for proposals from this programme was published in the Official Journal of 15 January 1991 (OJ C9, page 9) addressed to interested persons and organisations in the Community.

The information package for this call may be obtained by contacting, in writing or by fax, the following address:

Directorate-General for Transport,
DG VII/B-3, EURET programme,
200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels.
Fax: (032) 2 2352650

The deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 April 1991.

Dissemination of research results (VALUE)

A call for proposals intended to encourage the dissemination of information on Community research and technological development (RTD) programmes, and their results, will be announced shortly. The call falls under the VALUE programme for the dissemination and utilization of research results.

Support will be available under this call for a limited number of projects in the following areas:

- publication and distribution of information on Community RTD programmes and results through newsletters or other types of information service,
- tailoring "raw" information to the needs of potential users,

- publication of books and other documentary material,
- production and diffusion of audiovisual material,
- organisation of colloquia and "information days",
- promotion of awareness of Community RTD programmes and results among science and technology communicators.

The deadline for this call for proposals will be 31 May 1991.

For more information, contact, in writing or by fax:

Dr R. Rapparini, DG XIII/C-3,
Commission of the European Communities,
L-2920 Luxembourg, Fax: (352) 4301.2084

Decommissioning nuclear installations

The Commission calls for research proposals for Section C (covering testing of new techniques in practice, excepting the pilot dismantling projects) of the 1989-93 programme on the decommissioning of nuclear installations (OJ C24, 31 January 1991, p. 8). The call involves: alternative large-scale tests in installations; large-scale testing of new techniques in the four pilot dismantling projects; secondment of scientific staff from the Member States to the pilot projects. The Community contribution is estimated at 2.5 million ECU.

The deadline for research proposals is 31 April 1991.

Persons and undertakings in the Community may obtain full information by written request to:

DG XII/D-2 (ARTS 2/37),
Commission of the European Communities,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.
Telex: 21887 COMEU B, Fax: (032) 2 2362006

ACE environmental programme

A call for tenders concerning the separation, treatment and valorization of plastic refuse and also the valorization and recycling of non-retreadable tyres, falling under the ACE programme of demonstration projects in environmental fields, will run until 30 June 1991 (OJ C134, 1 June 1990, p. 13). The Commission started evaluating projects from 1 January 1991.

Specifications and application forms may be requested up to 30 May 1991, in writing, from:

DG XI/C-2, ACE environmental programme,
Commission of the European Communities,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels.

EURO INFO CENTRES (EIC) IN THE NEW LÄNDER

On 27 November 1990 the Commission agreed to set up eight Euro Info Centres in the new Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The new Euro Info Centres will be:

ROSTOCK:

Industrie- und Handelskammer Rostock
Herrn ENKE
Ernst-Barlach-Strasse 7
Rostock 2500
Tel.: 37.501

DRESDEN:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Mittelstandsberatung m.b.H.
Herrn TREBBIN
Budapester Strasse 5
Dresden 8010
Tel.: (0037) - 51/48.52.246

LEIPZIG:

Industrie- und Handelskammer Leipzig (in collaboration with Pro Leipzig Consult)
Frau FRIEDRICH
Friedrich-Engels Platz 5
Leipzig 7010
Tel.: (0037)41/71.53.344

MAGDEBURG:

Handwerkskammer Magdeburg
Dr. SOMMER
Humboldtstrasse 16
3014 Magdeburg
Tel.: (0037)91/318.55

FRANKFURT/ODER:

Industrie- und Handelskammer Frankfurt/Oder -
Herrn DORGE - Görlitzestrasse 24 - Frankfurt/Oder
1200 - Tel.: (0037)30/236.20

ERFURT:

Sparkassenverband der DDR - Bezirksstelle Erfurt
Herrn RHEINLÄNDER
Neuwerstrasse 3
Erfurt 5010
Tel.: (0061)22094 or 29018 - Fax: 22094

BERLIN:

Berliner Absatz Organisation
Monika SCHULZ-STRELOW
Hardenbergstrasse 16-18
D-1000 Berlin 12
Tel.: (49)30/31 510 0 - Fax (49) 30/31 510 344

and for the Land of **BRANDENBURG**, to be announced.

For further information contact:

Mr Jean-Pierre Haber, DG XXIII, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels; Tel: 235.50.41. Fax: 235.73.35

A DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR REMOVING NITROGEN COMPOUNDS FROM A LIQUID

D. Van Velzen, H. Lagenkamp, A. Moryoussef, JRC Ispra

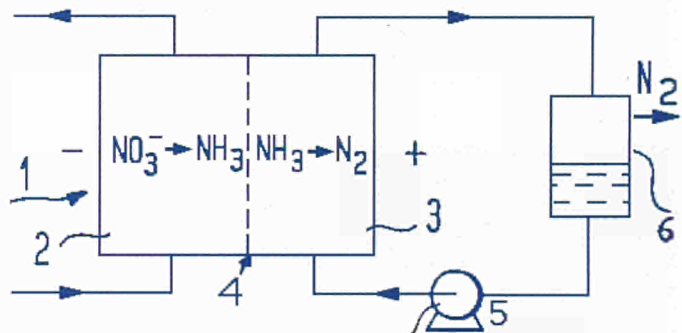
Environmental protection requires a considerable reduction of the emission of nitrogen oxides (NOX) in waste gases to comply with the EC regulations. In parallel nitrates originated from agriculture become a problem for drinking water. Solutions for their removal exist but are slow and costly.

The removal of NOX (denoxing) is usually performed by electrochemical reduction after complexation by an iron diamine-tetraacetic complex. Unfortunately the reduction leads to the formation of hydroxylamine and ammonia, difficult to extract from water.

An attractive denoxing process has been developed which directly converts the nitrogen oxides into gaseous nitrogen. The process is based on a two step reaction involving the direct oxidation to nitrogen of the ammonia and hydroxylamine formed by the above-mentioned reduction of NOX. The process involves the electrolysis of an alkaline solution of bromide, producing hypobromide species able to mildly oxidise ammonia and hydroxylamine to gaseous nitrogen. Both steps are

processed in the same electrochemical cell of which the two compartments are separated by a selective polymeric membrane and integrated in two different conveying loops to sustain a continuous process.

By such a system, the NOX elimination has been successfully performed on a flue gas desulphurizing plant and on nitrates from waste waters as described in the following figure.



Denoxing process applied to waste waters

- 1. electrochemical cell
- 2. cathode compartment
- 3. anode compartment
- 4. selective membrane
- 5. circulation pump
- 6. gas separator vessel



DG XIII at building and climatation fair

Mr Albert Strub, Director for Exploitation of Research and Technological Development, Technology Transfer and Innovation (DG XIII/C), officially opened the Expo Clima-Therma-Solar Energy and Building Materials industrial fair, held at Athens from 10-18 November last year. The fair, which is an important event in Greece for the building and climatation industry, included a stand from the "exploitation" unit of DG XIII showing the results of Community-sponsored research relevant to this sector. The stand generated wide interest and led to discussions on licence agreements and possible partnerships.

Dr Albert Strub (left) declares the fair open, accompanied by Mr John Sidiropoulos, the fair's General Manager.

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Brussels, November 12-15, 1990

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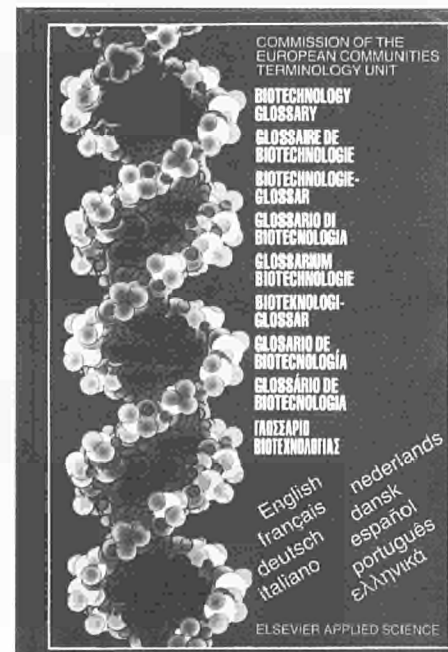
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An efficient dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge requires the utilization of new technologies. For these reasons, DG XIII/C is now launching, as a pilot project which should be seen as a first step in this direction, an electronic information bulletin.

As a complement to the *Innovation and Technology Transfer* newsletter, this bulletin will be structured as hypertext, in order to allow for information retrieval to be based on ideas association, with different access paths leading to the same item. It is intended to include:

- general interest information, relatively permanent, which will be repeated (updated if necessary) from one issue to the next; this includes, for instance, the directory of DG XIII and other Commission units involved in scientific and technical research and a list of persons to contact for further information;
- more volatile information, the interest of which is closely related to a date; older items will be withdrawn when out-dated and others will be incorporated when available; this includes announcements for courses, conferences, calls for tenders or proposals, publications, etc.

It is foreseen to publish the bulletin quarterly, which means three issues for this year. Distribution will initially be on diskettes, but possibilities to use electronic mail are currently being investigated.

Depending on feed-back and subsequent experience, it is also envisaged, in the medium term, to extend it to cover other topics, and to make it truly multi-media by including sound, still or animated images, photographs and possibly interactive digital video (which may imply moving to CD-ROM).

With regard to the linguistic aspect, it is unfortunately not possible, owing to technical difficulties, to consider having a truly multilingual bulletin, for the time being at least, and English will be used. However, information will occasionally be in a range of languages, depending on its source language.

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