

Innovation+ Technology Transfer

2/92

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RELAY CENTRES

WILL STRENGTHEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ROLES
IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

In several Member States, the process of ratification of the Maastricht Treaty has turned the spotlight on the word "subsidiarity". In general its meaning, in European Community terms, is not difficult to define. Subsidiarity is the principle that the Community should only take on work that is best tackled at a European rather than some other, usually national, level. In practice, the Maastricht discussions show that there is plenty of scope for discussion, and differences of opinion, about how the subsidiarity principle should be applied. It is not always easy to arrive at a clear consensus on what actions indeed require a European framework in order to maximise their chances of success.

The research and technological development (RTD) programmes of the Community are not immune from these discussions. As the article on page 2 of this issue shows, the subsidiarity principle has been taken into account in the Commission's recently-published proposal for the Fourth RTD Framework Programme, to cover the period 1994-98. Another, Maastricht related, aspect of the Commission's proposal is that the draft Decision on the Fourth Framework Programme is presented in a dual format, one corresponding to the legal basis provided by the Single European Act of 1987 and the other to the Maastricht Treaty on European Union. Once the Maastricht Treaty has been ratified, it is the corresponding text which will become the Commission's proposal.

In the technology transfer area, the importance of national and regional structures in reaching potential users of the information generated by Community RTD programmes is well recognised. The Centralised Action for the dissemination and exploitation of research results, part of the Third Framework Programme and currently being implemented as the VALUE II programme, includes provision for the establishment of a network of relay centres in Member States precisely to fulfil this function. About 30% of VALUE II resources will be devoted to the network. As this issue goes to press, the announcement of the names of the organisations selected to become relay centres is imminent. Full details will be presented in the next issue.

By making use of national and regional organisations, future dissemination and exploitation activities under VALUE II will be more in tune with local needs and traditions. At the same time, the central position of VALUE II will be used to encourage networking among the relay centres, in order to introduce a European dimension to local activities.

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DG XIII

Information Technologies
and Industries,
and Telecommunications

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Fourth Framework Programme Proposed

On 30 September, the Commission presented its proposal for a Fourth Framework Programme of Community Activities in the Field of Research and Technological Development (RTD) for 1994–98 (COM (92) 406). The Commission has proposed that a total of ECU 14,700 million should be allocated to the programme.

The new programme has a more unified structure than its predecessors, and gives strong consideration to subsidiarity and to coherence between RTD policy and economic and social cohesion. As for previous framework programmes, the main thrust is the use of science and technology to strengthen the competitive position of European industry, and to improve the quality of life in Europe.

Structure

The new programme complies with the provisions of the Maastricht Treaty and therefore covers all the Community's RTD and demonstration activities. As a result, it will include RTD and demonstration activities connected with the implementation of common policies such as environment, agriculture, fisheries, energy and transport. International scientific cooperation will now be part of the programme, together with back-up and follow-up activities, such as studies, technology watch, evaluation, and feasibility studies.

Among the activities which up to now were outside the framework programme structure, but which will be included in the Fourth Framework Programme, is SPRINT, the programme promoting innovation and technology transfer.

The Fourth Framework Programme is split into four areas of activity, and a number of core thematic areas are identified for each of these:

- implementation of research, technological development and demonstration programmes through the promotion of cooperation with and between undertakings, research centres and universities (indicative allocation: ECU 11,600 million);
- promotion of cooperation in the field of Community research, technological development and demonstration with third countries and international organisations (indicative allocation: ECU 1,400 million);
- dissemination and optimisation of the results of activities in Community research, technological development and demonstration (indicative allocation: ECU 700 million);
- stimulation of training and mobility of researchers in the Community (indicative allocation: ECU 1,000 million).

Subsidiarity principle

Subsidiarity, assigned a central role under "Maastricht", underlies the Fourth Framework Programme as a guiding principle.

Subsidiarity is intrinsic in

- "big science" activities, which require European work to be concentrated in one large installation (such as JET) or in the form of collaborative research;
- technology priority projects, benefiting many industrial sectors and requiring long-term investments and cooperation, which need a stimulus at Community level;
- activities designed to help establish the single market;
- prenormative research activities (in support of norms, standards and regulations), activities aimed at developing an integrated system of networks, and stimulating measures for the European scientific community.

Content

The technical content of the programme has been determined with two main objectives in view:

- science and technology to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of Community industry and make it more competitive at the international level;
- science and technology to improve the quality of life of the individual and society in Europe.

To stimulate the competitiveness of European industry, the development of generic technologies will receive special attention. These will be covered by conventional programmes but will also be the subject of a number of technological priority projects proposed by businesses and cooperation between EUREKA and the Community is likely to play an important role in this area.

Cooperation with third countries will be developed. The EFTA countries will participate fully in the programme and special attention will be paid to the Central and Eastern European countries, to help preserve their scientific and technological potential, rehabilitate their productive systems and improve the quality of life of their citizens. Efforts will also be made to strengthen synergies with other European cooperation frameworks.

SMEs participating in Community programmes will benefit from a new financial engineering initiative to provide them with supplementary support for the optimisation of the results of their research activities.

With a view to developing the Community's human resources in the scientific domain, mobility grants will be awarded mainly at postgraduate level and intra-Community scientific and technical cooperation networks will be developed. To improve links between academic research and industry, specific networks between laboratories, universities and businesses will be launched.

Detailed Structure of the Fourth Framework Programme

The Fourth Framework Programme comprises four areas of activity, each of which is broken down into core themes. At the implementation stage of the Framework Programme, the themes will be defined in more technical detail, and regrouped into specific programmes.

The breakdown of the Fourth Framework Programme, as given in the Commission's proposal, can be summarised as follows:

First Activity: Implementation of research, technological development and demonstration programmes, by promoting cooperation with and between undertakings, research centres and universities.

Information and communications technologies: Key elements for IT systems; Software engineering and best practice; High performance computing and networking; Image technologies; Electronic networks and linguistics; ICT support for function integration in manufacturing; Advanced communications; Information exchange between administrations; Technologies for integrated and optimised transport systems.

Industrial technologies: ICT manufacturers

and industrial users – cooperative approaches and opportunities; Advanced manufacturing technologies; Human centred manufacturing; Materials and their processing; Measurement and testing; Technology for transport means; Science and technology for a new urban habitat; Science and technology for the preservation of European cultural heritage; Science and technology for the struggle against social exclusion.

Environment: Global change; Environmental quality and human health; Natural hazards; Innovative technologies and infrastructure for marine and polar research.

Life sciences and technologies: Genomes; Molecular genetics of plants and biodiversity;

The creation of seven joint units between DG XII and DG XIII is the first step towards a future reorganisation of the two DGs. 11 out of 13 directorates will become "programme directorates" dealing with R&TD activities. Two directorates in DG XIII will remain outside the strict field of R&TD: Information Industry and Market, Telecommunications Policy.

If the proposal of the Commission for the Fourth R&TD Framework Programme is followed and preparatory and accompanying

measures and follow-up actions are brought into the Programme, DG XII will also have an international cooperation service in the form of Directorate B, which will have four units: European Economic Area, Eureka and international organisations (with a sector dealing with COST); Central and Eastern Europe (PECO); non-European industrialised countries; developing countries. In DG XII, Environment will be a directorate, while Nuclear and Non-nuclear Energy will be combined in one directorate.

DG XII • DIRECTORATES

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
OLD	Scientific and technological policy	Means of action	Technological research	Nuclear safety research	Environment and non-nuclear energy sources	Biology	Scientific and technical cooperation with non-member countries	Science and technology policy support; Fusion programme
NEW	R&TD Actions: Strategy and accompanying measures	R&TD Actions: Cooperation with third countries and international organisations	R&TD Actions: Cooperation with third countries and international organisations	R&TD Actions: Environment	R&TD Actions: Life sciences and technologies	R&TD Actions: Energy; Fusion programme; JET; ITER	R&TD Actions: Human resources and mobility	

DG XIII • DIRECTORATES

	A	B	C	D	E	F
OLD	Information technology; Esprit	Information industry and market	Exploitation of R&TD, technology transfer and innovation	Telecommunications policy	General affairs	RACE; development
NEW	R&TD Actions: Information technology	R&TD Actions: Telecommunications	R&TD Actions: Telematic networks and services	R&TD Actions: Exploitation of results of R&TD actions, technology transfer and innovation	Information industry and market; language processing	Telecommunications policy; postal services

Joint Units DG XII and DG XIII

1. Personnel
2. Budget policy and management, financial coordination and Court of Auditors
3. Informatics support
4. Common secretariat responsible for preparation and follow-up of decisions
5. Legal and contractual issues, management control
6. Interinstitutional relations
7. Information and communication

The cell factory; Agriculture, forestry and rural development; Monitoring of agricultural production; Industrial non-food uses of agricultural products / bioenergy; Fisheries and aquaculture; Development of harmonised protocols for clinical and pharmaceutical purposes; Addressing Europe's major health problems.

Energy: Electricity and heat from renewable sources; Better and cleaner production and use of energy; Safety aspects of nuclear activities; Controlled thermonuclear fusion.

Second Activity: Promotion of cooperation in the field of Community research, technological development and demonstration with third countries and organisations

S&T cooperation with non-European industrialised third countries; S&T cooperation with central and eastern European countries; S&T cooperation with developing countries; Strengthening synergies with other S&T cooperation frameworks in Europe; Cooperation through COST actions.

Third Activity: Dissemination and optimisation of the results of activities in Community research, technological development and demonstration

The research-industry interface; The research-scientific community interface; The research-society interface; Technology transfer; Valorisation fund for SMEs.

Fourth Activity: Stimulation of the

training and mobility of researchers in the Community

Training and mobility of young researchers; Scientific and technical networks; Industry-academia networking; Incentives for the European scientific community.

Horizontal support measures (These measures apply to all the four activities. The proposed resource allocation is ECU 1,600 million - this amount is included in the figures referred to earlier for the proposed resource allocation amongst the four activities.)

Study and exploratory activities; Evaluation activities; Promotion and enabling activities; Coordination and concentration activities; JRC activities for Community policies.

Third R&TD Framework Programme: Current Status of Programmes

At 1 November 1992, 80% of the budget for the Third Framework Programme had been taken up or was about to be. The table below indicates the current state of play and calls for tenders (CTs) due to be launched, subject to the approval by the Council in December of the financing requirements proposed by the Commission

Programmes	Situation at 1.11.92	Results
Information Technology ESPRIT III	Adopted 8.7.91. Last CT closed 14.10.91. Next CT due Jan 1993. Proposed extension: MECU 430	318 projects financed with MECU 980 out of MECU 1352 total
Communication Technology RACE II	Adopted 7.6.91. Last CT closed 16.9.91. No new CT envisaged. Proposed extension: MECU 77	84 projects financed with MECU 458 out of MECU 489 total
Development of Telematic Networks and Systems of General Interest	Adopted 7.6.91. Last CT closed 2.12.91. Next CTs close: 11.1.93 (area 6) and 15.2.93 (area 5). No CTs envisaged for other areas. Proposed extension: MECU 118	171 projects financed with MECU 320 out of MECU 380 total
Industrial and Materials Technologies (BRITE-EURAM II)	Adopted 9.9.91. Last CT closed 3.4.92. Next CT (areas I and II) closes 26.2.93. Proposed extension: MECU 281	240 projects financed with MECU 386; Area III: 25 projects financed with MECU 49 out of MECU 670 total
CRAFT – Feasibility Awards	Continuous applications may be made	
Measurement and Testing	Adopted 29.4.92. Last CT closed 30.9.92. No new CT envisaged. No extension proposed	Evaluation under way MECU 50 total
Environment	Adopted 7.6.91. Last CT closed 15.7.92. Next CT due March 1993. Proposed extension: MECU 136	Results awaited. Total budget MECU 264
Marine Science and Technology (MAST)	Adopted 7.6.91. Last CT closed 30.9.92. No new CT envisaged. No extension proposed	43 projects financed with MECU 42.5 out of MECU 104 total
Biotechnology	Adopted 26.3.92. Last CT closed 23.7.92. Next CT due to close July 1993. Proposed extension: MECU 55	About 120 projects financed with MECU 110-120 out of MECU 164 total
Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Research	Adopted 9.9.91. Last CT closed 30.10.92. Proposed Extension: MECU 93	103 projects financed with MECU 130 out of MECU 333 total
Biomedical and Health Research (BIOMED)	Adopted 9.9.91. Last CT closed 31.1.92. Next CT due to close 10.1.93. No extension proposed	No. of Projects not available. Total budget MECU 133
Life Sciences and Technologies: Developing countries	Adopted 7.6.91. Last CT closed 30.11.92. Next CT due 1993. 10.1.93. No extension proposed	90 projects financed. Total budget MECU 111
Non-nuclear Energy	Adopted 9.9.91. Last CT closed 18.9.92. No new CT envisaged. Proposed extension: MECU 180	245 projects financed using nearly the whole budget of MECU 157
Nuclear Fission Security	Adopted 28.11.91. Last CT closed 10.7.92. No new CT envisaged. Proposed extension: MECU 60	No. of projects not available Total budget MECU 36
Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion	Adopted 19.12.91. No CT - EURATOM procedures followed. Proposed extension: MECU 170	Total budget MECU 416
Human Resources and Mobility	Adopted 16.3.92. CTs under way with different closing dates. Permanent CT for individual grants. No proposed extension	252 individual grants, 239 group grants, 28 major installations, 59 Euroconferences

Programmes where applications may be made at any time

BCR	Applied Meteorology and Chemical Analysis
BRITE/EURAM	Feasibility Awards for SMEs
DOSES	Statistical Expert Systems
MAST	Marine Science/Technology – scholarships
MONITOR	Strategic Analysis, Forecasting, Evaluation in R&D
HR	Scientific Human Resources Capital and Mobility
SCIENCE	Exchange of Researchers
SPES	Stimulation of Cooperation in Economic Sciences
VALUE	Exploitation of R&D Results
VALUE	Opportunities for SMEs to Promote R&D Results

Deadlines for Other Framework-Related Programmes

TEMPUS

Mobility Grants and other Education-related Activities
Deadline: 31.12.92
 Task Force for Human Resources and TEMPUS Office

TEMPUS

Trans-European Mobility Scheme - University Students
Annual deadline: 30/11
 Task Force for Human Resources and TEMPUS Office

ERASMUS and LINGUA

Mobility Grants and other Student/Teacher/Administrator Activities
Applications may be made at any time
 Task Force for Human Resources and ERASMUS Bureau

Steel Industry

Demonstration Projects
Annual deadline: 1/10
 DG XII

Japan

Research and Training
Annual Deadline: 30/4
 DG XVII

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ANY ARTICLE IN THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED WITH THE PROPER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (WITH A COPY TO THE EDITOR, PLEASE)

Review of the Telecommunications Services Sector

On 21 October, the Commission adopted a report assessing the situation of the telecommunications services sector and highlighting a number of problems on which the Commission will consult all interested parties.

The Commission's report follows from two Directives: Directive 90/388, which opened up various telecommunications services to competition while permitting monopolies on voice telephony to continue pending a review in 1992, and Directive 90/387, which laid down the framework for harmonisation of access to public networks and, where applicable, to services and also requiring a review of progress made in 1992.

The Commission's report finds that, although progress has been made, there are still problems which are impeding the completion of the internal market in this sector, hindering its proper cohesion and restricting its potential growth. A particular problem stems from the fact that telephone users continue to pay excessively high tariffs for intra-Community services. Given the technical divergence of the national networks, the EEC competition rules and the application of the principle of the freedom to provide services cannot alone guarantee the complete liberalisation of the sector throughout the Community. To achieve this, certain harmonisation measures will be necessary.

The report proposes four options to deal with the situation:

- freezing the liberalisation process, in other words, leaving the status quo;
- adopting an extensive body of rules on tariffs and investments, in particular as regards the surcharge on intra-Community tariffs;
- liberalising all voice telephony, namely national calls, intra-Community calls and international calls;
- opening up voice telephony competition between the Member States.

Option 1 is likely to favour the growth of the US. and Japanese players while Option 2 would involve substantial regulation. Options 3 and 4 would both represent substantial progress but Option 3 goes against the Commission's approach to open up competition gradually in this sector and could give rise to practical problems. Therefore, the Commission is at present favouring Option 4.

Consultations will be held with interested parties on all four options, as well as on the appropriate time scale, the maintenance and expansion of universal access and any other considerations which should be examined.

Communication on Space

On 23 September, the Commission adopted a Communication setting out guidelines for increased support at the Community level for the European space effort.

Europe has developed a sound technological and industrial capability in space; this has led to major successes, notably in the market for launchers with Ariane and in the meteorological sphere with EUMETSAT, and has confirmed Europe as a major partner in international programmes.

On the other hand, doubts exist as to European capability for converting Earth observation data into operationally useful information. In addition, European competitiveness in the areas of sa-

tellites and ground equipment is inadequate, due to the relatively small size of the European market, the fragmentation of the European and world markets and the weakness of the components industry. Given that international competition is likely to intensify, the European space industry appears to be in a particularly vulnerable position.

The Commission stresses the need for the industry to move towards a demand-pull approach so as to integrate activities into the broader socio-economic fabric of Europe by directing applications programmes to objectives such as the environment, telecommunications and R&TD. The Commission also emphasises the need to improve synergy between space and non-space programmes.

The Commission therefore calls for greater support at the Community level for the European space effort, in particular as regards the definition and implementation of a European space policy. It recommends that the Community's contribution should concentrate on:

- promoting the optimum development and exploitation of Earth observation applications, in particular through contributing to setting up a European operational system to study and monitor the environment, and encouraging increased and intensified use of satellite data in the framework of other Community policies;
- creating appropriate regulatory conditions to permit the development of new markets for satellite communication services;
- developing complementarity and synergy between Community R&TD programmes and the space programmes of the ESA and the Member States, with particular attention to the sector's future technological needs;
- encouraging the consolidation and growth of a competitive space industry and promoting its interests at international level, within the framework of the Community's industrial and commercial policies;
- encouraging the expansion of balanced international cooperation, notably in the context of the new opportunities for cooperation with the CIS and the Central and Eastern European countries.

Fourth European Community Contest for Young Scientists

The Fourth European Contest for Young Scientists, organised by the Commission in conjunction with the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, took place in Seville, site of EXPO 1992, in September.

The Contest is designed to encourage scientific excellence, creativity, cooperation and interchange between young people and to contribute to the development of a genuine community of researchers in a Europe without frontiers. The completion of the single market calls for top quality researchers to ensure the continued expansion and competitiveness of high technology industries and, against this background, it is vital to promote the image of scientific education amongst young people.

71 young scientists from the Community and EFTA participated in this year's competition. Candidates were required to present a project in one of the exact or natural sciences or technologies, either on their own or as a team of up to three. The participants ranged in age from 15 to 21 and were the finalists of national contests involving over 15,000 young people. In addition, groups

from Hungary and from the U.S.A. attended and presented projects outside the competition.

The award ceremony was held on 23 September and sixteen projects were selected for prizes. Most prizes were grants for further study; there were six first prizes worth ECU 5000 and six second prizes worth ECU 3000. Three projects were chosen to represent the Community at the U.S. International Science and Engineering Fair in 1993 and one project was selected to attend the Nobel Prize presentation ceremony in Stockholm.

Equal first prize winners:

Denmark:

- Anders Skov (18) – The Bended Perspective
- Martin Hesselsoe (21) – Green toad in the great belt

Germany:

- Hendrik Kuepper (18), Frithjof Keupper (20), Martin Spiller (20) – Environmental relevance of heavy metal substituted chlorophylls
- Oliver Trapp (19) – Study of the effect of a chelator on yeast

Ireland:

- Jean Byrne (17), Elizabeth Dowling (16) – Population dynamics of a thistle predator

Switzerland:

- Dominik Zeiter (20), Ewald Amherd (20), Reinhard Furrer (20) – Graphical plants varieties of trees

Further information may be obtained from

Mr Charles White
Press Officer
DG XII

Inauguration of European Laboratory for Structural Assessment

On 16 October, Commission Vice-President Filippo Maria Pandolfi inaugurated the European Laboratory for Structural Assessment (ELSA), the largest European laboratory for testing models for large scale structures; the laboratory forms part of the Institute of Safety Technology at the Community's Joint Research Centre.

ELSA demonstrates the Commission's desire to ensure that the Community's research capacity in structural safety is kept to the highest level and to make available a unique technological tool to the Community, its researchers and its construction industry.

ELSA will analyse the real behaviour of complex structures (such as housing complexes in concrete and steel, industrial buildings or civil engineering works) under static load or severe dynamic stress. It will enable safety margins to be determined as well as the capacity to absorb energy released beyond the operating limits provided for. ELSA will have a particularly important role for prenormative research, notably in the harmonisation of European norms in the field of construction. The most important feature of the laboratory is a reaction wall 16 metres high built to

withstand extreme force, of several hundred tonnes, applied to the test structure.

Research programmes are being drawn up with the help of experts from the Member States of the European Association of Structural Engineering Laboratories, set up in 1989 at the initiative of the Institute of Safety Technology of the JRC. ELSA is open to all interested manufacturers and consultants who wish to carry out demonstration tests on large-scale prototypes or test new construction concepts.

Additional information is available from:

Mr J M Donea
JRC Ispra
Tel: 39.332.78.99.89
Fax: 39.332.78.90.49

SPRINT Transnational Exchange Scheme for Technology Transfer and Innovation Support Organisations

This is a programme of one week to one month visits for technology-transfer and other innovation-support professionals from public or private organisations to exchange experience and establish working relations with a partner organisation in another Member State.

SPRINT contributes towards the travel costs and other expenses of participants.

Further information available from:

Technology Innovation Information - TII
Rue des Capucins
L-1313 Luxembourg
Tel: 352-46 30 35, Fax: 352-46 21 85

Telematic Systems: Libraries

In the context of the specific programme of R&TD in the field of telematic systems in areas of general interest (1990-94), the Commission has launched a second call for proposals concerning Area 5: Libraries.

The objective of R&TD in this area is to facilitate user access, by optimum use of and development of equipment and telematic services and products, to the wealth of knowledge held in libraries, while reducing the handicaps caused by the present disparate infrastructures in the Community. The initiative will help to develop modern library services throughout the Community by promoting faster but orderly and cost-effective penetration of new technologies into libraries.

Topics and objectives covered by the present call, which closes on 15 February 1993, are covered in detail in the technical background material for Area 5. The action lines involved are:

- computerised bibliographies: international services provided by national bibliographic services and retrospective conversion of

catalogues of important collections at international level (tools and methods);

- international interconnection of systems and related international standards;
- provision of new library services using information and communication technologies (aspects of service provision);
- stimulation of a European market in telematics and services for libraries (feasibility and requirements).

Further information available from:

DG XIII-E
Ref: Telematic Systems R&D
C5-66 Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: 352/4301 2126, Fax: 352/4301 3530

Software to Help Contractors to Prepare Proposals to the Commission

DG XIII has produced an MS-DOS diskette to assist contractors to formulate their proposals to participate in various programmes; the diskette also enables contracts to be drafted automatically.

The diskette, CAP '92 (Contracts Administration Programmer) was designed initially for RACE and for the AIM, DRIVE, DELTA, ORA and ENS subprogrammes within the specific R&TD Telematic Systems programme. However, a number of organisations are also using the diskette as a methodology for preparing proposals for other programmes.

Further information on CAP '92 is available from:

Ms Deirdre Murtagh
DG XIII-B
Office 03/3
rue de Treves 61
B-1049 Brussels
Tel: 322/296 3528

RTD Help-Desk

Are you looking for information on European Community research but don't know where to start? Why not try the RTD Help-Desk?

The RTD Help-Desk offers assistance (free-of-charge) in locating sources of detailed information, such as publications and contact persons, on research and research-related activities of the EC.

The RTD Help-Desk can be contacted by letter, telephone or fax:

RTD Help-Desk
Dissemination of Scientific Technical Knowledge Unit
DG XIII-D/2
Commission of the European Communities
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: 352/4301/33161
Fax: 352/4301/32084

Mobility Fellowships for Young Researchers

The Human Resources and Mobility Programme, which comes under the Third R&TD Framework Programme, is one of the most extensive transnational fellowship schemes for young researchers. The main objective of the programme is to promote their mobility, principally at post-doctoral level, and so contribute to the creation of a European scientific and technical community. The programme enables participants to spend up to two years in a research establishment in another Member State.

As well as training, the programme includes activities involving the setting up of scientific and technical research cooperation networks, measures to promote access to large-scale scientific facilities and the organisation of Euroconferences.

ECU 104 million has been allocated for the programme in 1992; over 1000 establishments and 4000 researchers are likely to be involved in the programme by year-end.

Further information available from:

Mr Louis Bellemin - Programme Manager DG XII-H/1

Tel: 32/2/295 36 96

Mr Paul de Lusignan - Scientific Officer DG XII-H/1

Tel: 32/2/296 61 89

Scientific and Technical Cooperation with Korea

The Commission and the Republic of Korea signed an Administrative Arrangement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation on 12 November. The Arrangement is designed to increase the parties' knowledge about their respective research activities in science and technology by means of exchanges of non-confidential information.

Action will be taken in particular to organise joint seminars and visits to laboratories and research centres, to facilitate the exchange of publications and research findings and to improve the possibility of access to non-confidential data bases. Technical workshops will be set up to establish areas in which cooperation beneficial to both parties might take place and the means for achieving such cooperation.

Further information available from:

Mr P Laget

DG XII

Tel: 32/2/295 65 09

Fax: 32/2/296 33 08

New Telematic Service: ARCADE

The Commission has launched a new telematic service, ARCADE (Ampere Remote Control Access Data Entry), to improve communication with potential participants in Community research programmes. ARCADE provides direct contact with the competent services of the Commission and will thus simplify the administrative procedure for presentation of research projects. The service is available in all 12 Member States and is likely to be opened to EFTA member States in 1993.

The first research programme available through ARCADE is BRITE/EURAM II, in the field of industrial and material technologies. Through ARCADE, research bodies and enterprises can request detailed documents on BRITE-EURAM (Infopacks), consult guidelines and the implementation timetable, search for suitable research partners or register their research proposal and expressions of interest. ARCADE will be extended to other research programmes soon.

ARCADE is one of the first multilingual and multistandard data communication services in the Community. It is available 24 hours a day in the nine Community languages in all the Member States via the national public VIDEOTEX networks; users need a VT100 terminal or a VIDEOTEX terminal or a PC with VIDEOTEX or VT100 emulator.

Further information available from:

Mr Ugo Meloni

DG XII ARCADE Office

75 Rue Montoyer

B-1040 Brussels

Tel: 322/295 07 45 Fax: 322/295 80 46

Life Sciences and Technologies for Developing Countries: STD 3

STD 3 (1991-94) is a programme for scientific, fundamental, strategic or adaptive research to encourage joint research involving scientists from developing and EC countries, devoted to topics of interest to developing countries. The programme concentrates on two main priorities:

- tropical and sub-tropical agriculture;
- medicine, health and nutrition in tropical and sub-tropical areas.

A comprehensive information package on the programme has been published in nine languages and contains all relevant information for drawing up a proposal.

Available from:

*Unit for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with
Developing Countries*

DG XII-G/4

Tel: 32/2/296 20 81 or 295 97 79

Fax: 32/2/296 62 52

Further information on the programme available from:

Mr Tim Hall - Tropical/sub-tropical agriculture area

Tel: 32/2/295 28 08

Mr Marc De Bruycker - Medicine, health, nutrition area

Tel: 32/2/295 91 72

more...



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VALUE II Centralised Action Work Programme

The Third Framework Programme 1990-94 envisages two routes for the dissemination and exploitation of R&TD results: through the specific programmes themselves and by means of centralised action – VALUE II. The Commission's Work Programme on Centralised Action was approved in September and sets out a number of actions to be launched in 1992 and 1993.

Interface I - Research/Industry - aims to extend and improve dissemination and exploitation activities, in particular by establishing a network of R&TD relay centres to promote R&D programmes and disseminate and exploit scientific knowledge and results arising from them. Generally, actions will concentrate on:

- follow-up of R&TD results;
- improved dissemination and valorisation actions;
- further expansion of the CORDIS information service;
- action to increase awareness of dissemination and exploitation among programme personnel;
- improved liaison with EUREKA and other Community initiatives.

Interface II - Research/Scientific Community - aims to study the research environment and its impact through an inter-disciplinary review of research from four angles:

- the general context of research, by studying the Community R&D environment and the constraints and/or opportunities for the effective dissemination and exploitation of knowledge;
- communication of research, by assessing the effectiveness of existing channels;
- economics of research, by assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the R&D effort, including cost/benefit aspects of the R&D cycle;
- management of research, by developing 'best practice' guidelines for managing R&D projects.

Interface III - Research/Society - looks at different groups of society as potential beneficiaries of the Community's R&D effort and as a source of information as to needs. Activities will aim to:

- strengthen the European Technology Assessment infrastructure, concentrating on the exploitation of key technologies;
- facilitate communication channels between S&T achievements and the general public;
- detect and understand the public's needs.

The Centralised Action has been allocated ECU 57 million with 87% of this amount going to Interface I - Research/Industry for the period 1992-94.

Ongoing Developments (ctd.)

Combined Transport Network

The Commission has proposed the establishment of a combined transport network in the Community (COM(92) 230 of 2.7.92), listing priority projects to be completed or undertaken to establish a network of rail and inland waterway routes, designed to permit the passage of standard loading units, by 2005.

The development of such a transport system would contribute substantially to the success of the Single Market, improve the accessibility of peripheral regions and promote the interconnectivity of national networks. The network would also help reduce environmental pollution, an important factor given that the stabilisation in 2000 of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels will necessitate a transport system with the lowest possible emission levels.

Cooperation Agreement with Paraguay

On 19 October, the Council adopted a decision approving the conclusion of the Framework Agreement for Cooperation between the Community and Paraguay (OJ L 313 of 30.10.92). The Agreement entered into force on 1 November.

The Agreement includes provisions on RTD-related areas of cooperation in areas such as agriculture, environment, science and technology (strengthening research capabilities, developing and managing policy on science and technology, protection and improvement of the environment, efficient use of natural resources and of forest resources in particular, regional integration and cooperation in science and technology, dissemination of information and expertise), public health and drug abuse control.

Cooperation measures will include joint research projects, training, exchanges of specialists and information exchange.

European Innovation Monitoring System

Workplan: EIMS

The aims of the EIMS are to establish a knowledge base and to develop research capabilities about the innovation process. The EIMS encourages the exchange of knowledge and experience between the Member States and the Commission concerning innovation policies and innovation support measures for the benefit of the Community.

The EIMS workplan presents three areas of implementation:

1. The development of a network linking experts and research teams performing applied innovation research and surveys at a European level;
2. The systematic diffusion of results of relevant studies and surveys performed in the Member States, by the Commission, and outside the Community;
3. The establishment of a permanent Community-wide data collecting system for monitoring the innovation capabilities and performance of industries and regions.

On the basis of a call for tender launched in July 1990, SPRINT has established a pool of authoritative experts from about 50 organisations to tackle specific tasks within EIMS. A new call for tender will take place at the beginning of 1993.

So far, the implementation of the EIMS has stimulated the organisation of seminars and the preparation of reports following a systematic exchange of experience between professionals and policy-makers within the Community. Worthy of special mention is a study reviewing national and regional schemes and measures in the field of quality promotion to smaller enterprises; this will form the background for the organisation of a large European seminar on quality promotion in Aachen in April 1993.

EIMS, in collaboration with EUROSTAT, has also stimulated national innovation surveys in 10 Member States. For the first time, these surveys will be implemented on the basis of a common OECD-EEC questionnaire. Its implementation will bring together the basic factual information for a European database on innovation capabilities and activities of firms, which will enable international comparisons to be made.

The EIMS will turn policy research results into tools for those responsible for implementing practical programmes and will provide a permanent forum for disseminating information and knowledge. An important outcome will be the provision of appropriate and accurate information to help policy-makers, academia, intermediaries and companies in their innovation decisions.

Further information from:

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 L-2920 Luxembourg
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MINT: Helping Companies Managing the Integration of New Technologies

Managing the Integration of New Technology (MINT) is a new SPRINT action, aimed at promoting the absorption of new

technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the use of experienced consultants in the management of innovation.

MINT will be delivered, administered and operated in each Member State according to its own policy and business culture. Member States have proposed 24 organisations as coordinating agencies at regional or national level which will be responsible for selecting, training and monitoring a core group of experts to carry out the individual consultancy assignments. The Commission will ensure harmonisation of procedures through exchange of best practice.

MINT is a flexible scheme, designed to provide firms with a diagnosis of their use of technology and the potential for integrating relevant new technology and management techniques (e.g., design, quality, value analysis), as part of an overall business strategy. Target companies are SMEs in the manufacturing sector with the commitment, operating potential and management resources to take full advantage of the likely benefits resulting from the better use of new technologies.

Following a short diagnostic analysis of how the firm is, or could be, using and managing technology within the business, the consultants will assist the firm to develop an implementation plan, taking into account the real needs of the business. As a part of the process, training workshops will be run for groups of firms with common business or technology needs. To ensure that there is follow through from the consultancy, MINT will relate synergetically with regional and national schemes, so that companies can be guided to other relevant national and Community support programmes.

SPRINT will ensure a common methodology through a series of quality assurance workshops for the approved experts, administered nationally but monitored by Commission services.

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The Commission Analyses the Need for and Feasibility of Networks of Science Parks

The future development and growth of Science and Technology Parks in Europe could be stimulated by linking them in networks, both human and telematic. SPRINT, in collaboration with DG XVI (Regional Policy) and DG XIII-F (Telecommunications Directorate) is currently looking into the feasibility of a Project for Networks of Science Parks and the Diffusion of Advanced Telematic Tools (SPNET). SPRINT recently launched a call for tenders for a feasibility study on this topic.

A first step in SPNET is to study real needs and establish ways of building human networks between Parks and between tenants

at regional, national and international levels, with the ultimate objective of linking a high proportion of European Science Parks.

The telematic connections between the Parks will support the transfer of technology, exchanges of experience and cooperation between Science Parks and firms as well as research centres located in these Parks. SPNET will stimulate the key role of the Science and Technology Parks as demonstration centres of advanced telematic networks for local and regional enterprises. The use of this technology will not only improve the telecommunication infrastructure of these firms, but also their management and operational performance.

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Building the Infrastructure of Technology Transfer: the Science Park Consultancy Scheme

More than 80 proposals have been submitted following the third call for proposals of the SPRINT Science Park Consultancy Scheme, launched in July 1992. They include the cities of Marseilles, Rome, Florence, Lisbon and Amsterdam, together with smaller scale initiatives, for example in Greifswald and Cadiz. The size of the response follows the success of the two previous calls in 1990 and 1991, which produced about 100 applications between them, 45 of which were selected for participation in the scheme.

SPRINT helps Science Park promoters to benefit from the achievements of other European Parks and also from the experience of recognised experts in the planning and development of Technology and Science Parks. The scheme is specifically aimed at helping promoters to carry out feasibility and market studies, either for initial planning or to refocus existing projects. Particular emphasis is placed on less favoured regions.

SPRINT provides financial support to Science Park promoters to set up a panel of three to five experts to advise them on the main features of their proposed development. The experts come from different countries and are chosen from a list drawn up by the Commission services (although one consultant not on the list may be accepted). The panel produces a feasibility study, including the definition of strategy, technology transfer orientation, and marketing plans for the proposed Park.

Further information from:

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Evaluation of SPRINT Activities

The mid-term report on SPRINT activities has been published. This evaluation was prepared by a Review Panel under the chairmanship of Mr Pierre Agrain, former French Minister and currently adviser to the President of Thomson S.A. In addition, an independent evaluation of two of the main action lines of the SPRINT programme, the Networks of Interfirm Technological Cooperation and the Networks of Research and Technology Organisations have been carried out by a consortia of consultants, led respectively by Segal Quince Wickstead Ltd (U.K.) and Technopole Service Développement (F).

The panel has expressed a positive opinion on SPRINT activities, specifically supporting three features of the programme:

1. The continuing need for a separate innovation and technology transfer programme at the Community level;
2. The operating procedure through a series of actions with an experimental and demonstrative character;
3. The convenience of an integrated and systemic demand-led approach, reflecting companies' needs.

SPRINT has already planned the final evaluation of the programme, which will consist of a series of independent assessments of its main other action lines, to be carried out within the framework of the European Innovation Monitoring System. Ongoing evaluations include reports on Technology Transfer Days and Investment Fora. Preparatory work for the evaluation of the Specific projects and the Science Parks action lines are currently under way. These evaluations will form the basis of a synthesis report to be drafted by the Commission services. Once the Commission has adopted it, this report will be transmitted to the Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Council.

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Support Measures for Technology Transfer Networks

Since 1986, SPRINT has supported about 300 transnational networks of organisations (Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Research Institutes, Consultants, Regional Technological Advisory Centres) providing technology transfer services to European SMEs. Along with other types of actions, these networks are considered to be a significant tool in improving the industrial innovation

more...

capabilities of companies.

A need was recognised for additional activities designed to support these networks. In 1990, SPRINT launched a call for proposals for techniques designed to exploit and disseminate the best practice of successful networks, under the heading 'Accompanying Measures'. Among others, these included a series of coordinated Technology Transfer days, professional exchanges, group visits and investment fora. Following this successful two-year programme, certain of these actions were made the subject of a renewed call for proposals in July 1992. This call was divided into three parts: Identification and Dissemination of Best Practices, Technology Transfer Days and Investment Fora.

38 proposals involving 118 organisations were received for the Identification and Dissemination of Best Practice in network operation. 18 proposals from 60 organisations were presented for the Organisation of Technology Transfer Days, aimed at introducing companies, located in a Member State or region, to technology brokerage and liaison services located in different Member States, thereby leading to technical cooperation between firms located in different Member States. Finally, 8 proposals involving 28 organisations were presented for the transnational Investment Fora, whose aim is to introduce innovating SMEs from several Member States and seeking funding to financiers, notably venture capitalists, also from several Member States, as opportunities for investment, and to encourage collaboration between them; these fora can be attended by large multinational companies who are looking for corporate venturing opportunities.

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Energy Conscious Design

*Energy Research Group, University College
 Dublin, School of Architecture*



135 pp
 ISBN 0-7134-6919-6
 EUR 13445 EN
 £ 25

This overview of the principles and practice of energy-efficient, passive solar building design stems from a major R&D project funded by DG XII under the Third Solar R&D Programme.

The book proposes a more climate-sensitive approach to building design, demonstrating the benefits of environmentally-benign buildings which take maximum advantage of natural phenomena by virtue of their form and the intelligent use of materials with minimal reliance on machinery.

The range of climatic conditions encountered in northern and southern European climates is covered together with the principles of climatic design, passive solar heating, natural cooling, optimal daylight use and thermal and visual comfort factors.

This primer is intended for architects and students who are new to the subject and is the companion to the more detailed, design-oriented publication: *Energy in Architecture: The European Passive Solar Handbook*.

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B.T. Batsford Ltd
 4 Fitzhardinge Street
 London W1H 0AH

EC Research Funding: A Guide for Applicants

DG XII

172 pp
 ECU 10
 ISBN 92-826-3640-2 EUR 14122 EN

This revised and highly useful edition of the Guide explains the Third Framework

Programme, specific programmes adopted under it and related programmes. R&TD cooperation activities with third countries are also covered.

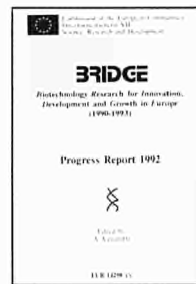
The Guide gives procedural details as to who may participate in the various programmes, how to prepare a proposal and how Commission contracts are drafted and implemented. Useful hints are given as to where to seek further information, including contact points within the Commission and other sources of help.

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BRIDGE: Progress Report 1992

Editor: A Vassarotti



528 pp
 ISBN 92-826-3997-5
 EUR 14298 EN
 ECU 48

The research activities in the BRIDGE programme 1990-93 (Biotechnology Research for Innovation, Development and Growth in Europe) are implemented via two different types of projects: Network N-projects (aimed at stimulating basic research and giving rise to the organisation of highly integrated European Laboratories Without Walls) and Targeted T-projects (aimed to eliminate barriers to the exploitation by agriculture or industry of the data, materials or methods originating from modern biology). 69 N-projects and 7 T-projects were launched during 1990 and 1991 with 579 participating organisations from 11 Member States and 5 EFTA countries.

This first report covers the period 1991 to March 1992 and gives the results achieved in the different laboratories and a complete overview of research progress achieved.

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BRITE & EURAM

Evaluation Study of Finished Projects: Synthesis Report



144 pp
ISBN 92-826-4542-8
EUR 14541 EN
ECU 9

This book presents the results of an evaluation study of BRITE and EURAM projects completed by the end of 1991. The study was conducted between October 1990 and February 1992 on behalf of BRITE-EURAM (DG XII) and VALUE (DG XIII), focussing on the industrial and commercial exploitation of the projects under review.



Summaries of the finished projects are presented in two other publications: BRITE and EURAM Finished Projects Volume 1 and Volume 2. Information on current projects

is available in the BRITE and EURAM Synopses of Current Projects.

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75 Rue Montoyer
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IRDAC

Industrial R&D Advisory Committee of the Commission

IRDAC is a regular newsletter covering developments of interest in the science and industry field and in particular on the

Committee's own activities, including advice given to the Commission on specific issues.

AVAILABLE FROM

IRDAC News Office
Rue Defacqz 1 - Box 12
B-1050 Brussels

Underwater Acoustics

Editor: M Weydert



764 pp
ISBN 1-85166-948-5
EUR 14453 EN

This work comprises the proceedings of the European Conference on Underwater Acoustics, held on 14-18 September 1992 in Luxembourg and organised by DG XII, DG XIII and DG XIV in collaboration with the Federation of Acoustical Societies of Europe and acoustical associations from Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the U.K. The proceedings were supported by the VALUE programme, the Marine Science and Technology RTD Programme and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme.

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Catalogue Series

DG XIII

This series gives details of technical publications and research reports resulting from Community programmes and is compiled using the resources of the VALUE programme. There are five publications in the series: Information Technology and Telecommunications,

Environment, Coal and Steel, Renewable Energy, and Materials.

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Rue Alcide de Gasperi
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Empirical Evaluation of Public Information on Major Industrial Accident Hazards

Community Documentation Centre on Industrial Risk, Dr Brian Wayne, Lancaster University For the Institute for Systems Engineering and Informatics



97 pp
ECU 10.50
ISBN 92-826-4402-2
EUR 14443 EN

Article 8 of the Seveso Directive 82/501/EEC, as amended in 1988, requires Member States to actively inform the public of safety measures and the behaviour to adopt in the event of a major industrial accident.

This evaluation has been prepared to assist the Commission to draw up practical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Article 8, which represents an unprecedented step in industrial regulation.

The study empirically assesses the practical effectiveness of public communications under Article 8, taking four sites as case-studies. It also seeks to design an experimental protocol as a possible standard for field evaluation of communication effectiveness. A set of principles is proposed for the design of practical communications guidelines to assist the fulfillment of the Article 8 obligation and to serve as a European code of good practice.

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Review of Accidents Involving Chlorine

Community Documentation Centre on Industrial Risk
G Drogaris, For the Institute for Systems Engineering and Informatics

100 pp
ECU 10.50
ISBN 92-826-4403-0
EUR 14444 EN

Accidents involving chlorine form a case-study for this assessment of the usefulness of accident data bases accessible to the public

The study notes that difficulties in identifying and recording accident data diminish the quality and accuracy of the data collected; data is often incomplete and so cannot usefully help reduce the risk of future accidents.

The study stresses the importance of a structured accident investigating and reporting system, like MARS (Major Accident Reporting System, established in the context of the 1982 Seveso Directive), with common guidelines to ensure high quality data, including the immediate and underlying causes of accidents. Increased cooperation between data bases inter se, industry and other interested parties is vital.

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COST Forum: Transnational Cooperation in Science and Technology with New European Partners

DG XII

190 pp
ECU 16.50
ISBN 92-826-4376
EUR 14188 EN

This publication sets out the proceedings of the COST Forum held in Vienna in November 1991, reproducing papers on chemical research, social sciences, meteorology, materials science, telecommunications, transport, forestry and forestry products and the environment.

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COST Cooperation

DG XII



93 pp
ECU 16.50
ISBN 92-826-4371-9
EUR 13914 EN

This brochure gives a detailed description of COST as an instrument for cooperation.

It explains the origins and development of COST and describes its main features: fields of research, legal structure, nature of the commitments of participating states, cooperation structures and funding arrangements. The procedure for initiating research projects is also explained. The annexes include relevant legal texts and draft documentation for proposals to participate in COST.

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Research after Maastricht: an Assessment, a Strategy

Communication from the Commission
(SEC(92) 682 final)



49 pp
ECU 5
ISBN 92-826-4307-7
Supplement 2/92
to Bulletin of the
European
Communities

This document aims to present the Commission's reflections on the principal issues of R&TD. It analyses the relationship between research and competitiveness, describes the framework within which Community activities are now conducted and indicates the objectives, instru-

ments and prospects in an open and critical manner.

In particular, the document deals with the future of research in the Community in the context of Maastricht, which gives R&TD policy a double perspective in strengthening its industrial dimension to make European industry more competitive and extending its scope across other Community policies.

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Research Publications 1991

DGXIII



155 pp
ECU 19.50
ISBN 92-826-4124-4
EUR 14462

This catalogue gives bibliographic details of all EUR series reports published during 1991, resulting from R&TD programmes and other studies financed by the Community. These include scientific and technical studies, monographs, conference proceedings, workshops and contractors' meetings organised by the Commission and various reports resulting from research activities.

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EUR-OP has also set up a document delivery system whereby legislation appearing in the Official Journal and COM documents can be sent by post or fax following orders placed via the ABEL database.

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•••••
Aeronautical Research and Technology Acquisition in Europe - Focusing on the Future

F W Armstrong (for DG XII)

66 pp, ECU 9
 ISBN 92-826-4236-4, EUR 14412 EN

This is a wide-ranging survey and analysis of current European arrangements for aeronautical research and technology acquisition. It concludes that the aeronautical R&T scene shows serious deficiencies relative to that of the USA and that the technology base available to European manufacturers will become increasingly inadequate in competitive terms.

The study makes a series of urgent recommendations for improvements to secure a satisfactory future position: common efforts by governments, the Commission, industry and the research community to develop high-level strategies, the development of long-term plans at national and European levels to sustain a strong technology base with appropriate collaborative European programmes and the establishment of a strong European Research Focus, preferably under the auspices of the Commission, to coordinate action.

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International Science Film Festival

The town of Palaiseau, near Paris, hosted the 8th International Scientific Film Festival from 13 to 18 November. Numerous scientific fields were covered, including informatics, advanced technologies, environment, biology and medicine.

This year, VALUE II funded a European prize for one or several works dealing with a subject of major interest for European research. The prize took the form of support to produce other language versions of the work(s) to enable it to be broadcast in as many Member States as possible.

INFO
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Europe and Scientific Audiovisual Media

The ninth International Convention on Audiovisual Media in Science took place in Paris from 2 to 10 October. CNRS Image Media and the Jules Verne Agency, together with the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe, organised three events:

- a conference on 'Research Organisations and Audiovisual Communication in Europe';
- a forum on 'Television and Science in Europe';
- a symposium on 'New Media, Scientific Information and Education in Europe'.

The aim of these events was to put the main players from various European countries in touch with each other, to identify their problems and to explore prospects for collaborative initiatives likely to help solve common problems.

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European Business and the Environment

The Commission held a conference on 'European Business and the Environment:

the Future' on 19 and 20 November in Brussels. 250 business leaders attended together with officials from the Member States and the Commission itself. Speakers and chairmen included H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Karel Van Miert, Commissioner for the Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection, the U.K. Secretary of State for the Environment and the German Minister for the Environment.

The conference aimed to provide a high-level debate on a broad range of environmental issues of crucial importance to the future success of European business in the Single Market. Topics included: improving efficiency and reducing business costs, the growing market for environmental technology and services and satisfying the environmental demands of consumers and corporate consumers. Discussions were held with groups representing the public and with lenders and investors.

The conference ended by looking at possible future developments in the Community's industrial and environmental policies, including efforts to ensure the uniform implementation of environmental legislation in Europe.

International Conference on Energy Efficiency

The International Conference on Energy Efficiency was held in Athens from 19 to 22 October and was attended by over 200 delegates from 23 countries, including the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, India and Japan.

The aim of the conference was to provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of recent R&D on energy efficiency in energy intensive process industries, including environmental aspects. A wide range of industrial sectors were covered and new processes and equipment were discussed as well as projects carried out under the Community's JOULE programme.

Given the vital role of energy saving in Europe's overall energy policy, it has an important place in the Third Framework Programme for R&TD, constituting area 4 of the non-nuclear energy programme for 1991-94.

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more on next page >>

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Communities is a European scientific and technical research centre. Its four sites in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands house eight different institutes, each with its own focus of expertise. The JRC performs scientific research and technology development for the EC Commission, national agencies, universities and corporate clients from the Member States and other countries.

The scientific, regulatory and administrative bodies of the Community are the JRC's main users. They seek to increase the competitiveness of European industry within an open market and, for this, they need prenormative and precompetitive research. The Community also carries out science which must be done on a European scale, such as the provision of reference materials and measurement techniques, database services, environmental observations and research on safety, all of which depend on the transfer of scientific capabilities throughout Europe.

National governments and private corporations are increasingly

using the considerable resources of the JRC to carry out contract research. With facilities and areas of expertise unique in Europe, the JRC serves a special role as a resource for organisations whose research needs exceed their own internal capacity, or who wish to benefit from the availability of specific JRC facilities and expertise.

The JRC's eight institutes are:

- the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (Geel)
- the Institute for Transuranium Elements (Karlsruhe)
- the Institute for Advanced Materials (Petten and Ispra)
- the Institute for Systems Engineering and Information Technology (Ispra)
- the Institute for the Environment (Ispra)
- the Institute for Remote-Sensing Applications (Ispra)
- the Institute for Safety Technology (Ispra)
- the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (Ispra).

SPRINT Conference Schedule 1992-93

European Community Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer

• *EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON QUALITY PROMOTION TOWARDS SMEs*
27-29 April 1993, Aachen

ORGANISER: GfQS Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung mbH
Soerser Weg 10, D-5100 Aachen

CONTACT: Mr Michael Preising

• *INOVA October/November 1993, Barcelona*

ORGANISER: Ass. INOVA, Innovation, Technologie et Futur
bd. St-Germain 57, F-75005 Paris

CONTACT: Mr Zika Milhailovic

RACE at CEBIT '93

The CEBIT exhibition, which will be held in Hanover from 24 to 31 March 1993, will include a major display of the activities and achievements of RACE, the specific R&TD programme in the field of communication technologies (1990-94).

To complement displays organised by RACE participants on their own stands, the Commission will take a prominent stand devoted entirely to the activities of the programme, highlighting the benefits of integrated broadband communications (IBC) via working demonstrations and applications. The stand will link together the displays of RACE exhibitors, provide them with an opportunity to demonstrate real advanced communication links and give a complete picture of major RACE results.

A RACE conference will take place at CEBIT on 29 and 30 March. This will involve keynote presentations, plenary sessions, working groups and panel discussions. Speakers will be invited from the RACE community to present a number of programme results with significant technical or socioeconomic aspects.

INFO

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