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RTD Info

News Roundup on EC Research and Technological Development Programmes

RTD Info - Practical information on RTD programmes

Welcome to RTD Info!

The purpose of this newsletter is to bring together in one publication news of the Commission's RTD programmes.

This includes calls for expressions of interest, calls for proposals, news of project evaluations, conferences, workshops – and other news to keep you informed of the evolution of the RTD programmes.

RTD Info is published bi-monthly, and in the

future Info Files will also be published, giving a detailed update on each of the 15 RTD programmes.

We are confident that RTD Info will simplify your contact with all RTD programmes. We look forward to receiving your reactions, and suggestions for information you would like to see in this newsletter.

The editors – Contact: Fax +32 2 295 8220

JULY 93

N° 1

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- New 5-Year Framework Programme
- Efficient programme management
- Programme updates
- Conferences, Workshops
- Calls for Proposals, Tender, Declarations of Interest

Next five-year Framework Programme set for 1994

Every effort being made to start in early 1994

In June, the European Commission adopted the proposition for the Fourth Framework Programme (FFP) which will provide ECU 13.1 billion in funding for Research and Technological Development projects in Europe.

After examination by the European Parliament in the autumn, the FFP could be the subject of a "common position" reached by the Council of Ministers during their research meeting in December.

New orientations

The Fourth Framework Programme introduces a series of new orientations to optimize both the European research system and the impact of Community research programmes. These are:

- Better integration of the national, European and European Community activities, at all levels.
- Focusing of research on a reduced number of problems and generic technologies that impact several research sectors.
- More effective dissemination of project results, especially to small and medium-sized companies.
- Development of links between research activities and the areas

of education and training.

- Development of synergies between European research and social and economic cohesion policies.
- Greater flexibility for the Community in responding to scientific and technical evolution.

A closer look at the programme's budgetary sub-division shows that the European Commission is maintaining its emphasis on information technology and industrial technology, while adding a new focus on life sciences and technologies, transport, socio-economic research and on the optimisation and dissemination of results (Third action).

Fourth Framework Programme 1994-1998 (Commission's Proposal)

(In MECU at current exchange rates)

1. Research, Technology and Demonstration Programmes		2. Cooperation with third countries and international organisations		790.0
Information and communications technologies	3900.0			
Industrial and materials technologies	1800.0			
Environment	970.0			
Life sciences and technologies	1325.0			
Energy	2525.0			
Transport	280.0			
Socio-economic research	125.0			
	10925.0			
		3. Dissemination and application of results		600.0
		4. Stimulation of the training and mobility of researchers		785.0
		Total		13100.0

CEC X11/51

New guidelines for better programme management

A new set of guidelines designed to improve the efficiency of all Research and Technological Development (RTD) programmes has been presented to the EC Research Ministers. The guidelines will encourage better management of the programmes, and ensure that research results reach the broadest possible scope of interested parties in Europe.

A vital aspect of this effort is the creation of a free flow of communication between CEC programme officials, programme participants and the outside world.

As many participants in the RTD programmes are aware, the administration of this type of scientific/administrative funding and research can be complex. Because there are different groups of people involved in each project - both inside the Commission and across Europe - communication and the exchange of information can sometimes be difficult.

The goal of this initiative is to ensure that programme planning, choice of projects, evaluation and dissemination of results are managed as efficiently as possible. The CEC is preparing a manual, to be published in the autumn, which documents the principles of effective programme management for RTD officers and their partners in the European research community.

This focus on increased programme efficiency was initiated by Commissioner A. Ruberti, with the support of the CEC Research Ministers.

The approach outlined by Commissioner Ruberti focuses on two areas: improving existing procedures and increased coordination with Member State activities.

How the new approach encourages efficiency

Eight goals to improve existing procedures

- **Greater flexibility.**
Defining technological and scientific objectives that fit the CEC decision-making process.
Focusing of programme objectives to avoid over-subscription.
Choice of objectives that are ambitious, yet realistic and measurable.
- **Improved information on programmes and participation possibilities.**
Calls for proposals issued on pre-specified dates. Well-planned information structure to inform researchers in time and give all parties an equal opportunity to participate. Selections based on the quality of the project proposals.
- **Simplified programme administration.**
Reduced amount of information required for project selection.
Use of standardized contracts and payment procedures. These changes benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- **Transparent selection and appraisal process.**
Open sharing of information between researchers and CEC officials on all aspects of project selection and appraisal. Publishing of selection criteria, complete information on how appraisal experts are selected, and open access to terms of reference required for evaluation.
- **Better dissemination of results.**
National and regional information Relay Centres across the Community ensure that programme information reaches all local research communities, especially SMEs.
- **Special focus on SMEs.**
Development of procedures specially for SMEs. Give SMEs equal opportunity as larger organizations to benefit from CEC research programmes.
Special SME services include
sending of information directly to SMEs;
help in preparing projects and finding partners;
encouraging cooperation between SMEs and research centres.
- **Strengthened CEC management style.**
Management and administration based on management by objectives and delegation.
- **Decentralized programme management.**
Decentralized management of programmes when beneficial and efficient for all sides in order to improve service to participants and increase the flexibility of CEC programme managers.

Programme Updates

BIOTECH

BIOTECH budget ready for 1994

The 1994 budget for the BIOTECH programme (covering research and technological development in biotechnology), totals ECU 52.160 million. Programme Area 1 will receive 39.5% of this total; Area 2 receives 49.8%, and Area 3 10.7%.

Ethical and social-economic impact of biotechnology

Some 23 proposals examining the ethical and socio-economic impact of biotechnology have been evaluated and the projects will begin in 1994. Most of these projects deal with the analysis or improvement of the relationship the public and biotechnology players (industry, research, public authorities).

For further information, contact:
O. Dietrich Fax +32 2 295 5365

BRIDGE projects carried over to BIOTECH

As the BRIDGE programme (covering research and technological development in biotechnology) comes to a close in December 1993, work in five promising research areas of BRIDGE will be carried over to the BIOTECH programme.

The areas retained are:

- Systematic sequencing of yeast.
- Contribution to the bovine genome mapping.
- Molecular biology of plants.
- Molecular studies of extremophile microorganisms.
- Understanding of mechanisms of microbial ecology as an element of biosafety.

Contact: E. Magnien Fax +32 2 295 5365

ENVIRONMENT

Projects selected and proposals being evaluated

Evaluations: Independent experts will evaluate proposals between August and the first half of October.

Selection of projects: mid-September for Area 1.4 (Stratospheric Ozone), Area 1.5 (Tropospheric Physics and Chemistry), and Area II.1 (Assessment of Environmental Quality and Monitoring).

Selection of projects in other programme areas: November.

*Contact: R. Fantechi, H.Ott
Fax +32 2 296 3024*

MAST-II

The list of all partners involved in projects of the MAST II programme (Marine Science and Technology Research) since July 1 are published in the CORDIS information service.

Contact: see opposite page.

Programme Updates

JOULE

JOULE II Proposal selections

Proposals received for JOULE II (Energy, non-nuclear energy and rational use of energy) are being evaluated. Statistics on the selected proposals and final results will be communicated in mid-October.

Contact: John Garnish
Fax +32 2 296 3024

PECO

Cooperation with central and eastern Europe

There has been an overwhelming response to the call for proposals for the Central and Eastern Europe Cooperation Programme (PECO) in the five selected research areas (biomedicine and health, environment, human capital and mobility, nuclear fission safety, non-nuclear energy). A total of 600 proposals have been received. The countries represented are: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Evaluation results will be communicated to the proposers during the month of December.

Contact: L. Massimo
Fax +32 2 296 3308

Finances and Funding

Steel Research Programme

All applications for financial support for the Steel Research Programme must reach the Commission before September 1.

Applications for the pilot and demonstration projects must arrive before October 1.

Contact: E. Andreta
Fax +32 2 296 5987

Brite-EuRam II/Grants & Bursaries

(Industrial and materials technologies)

Applications may be submitted for Brite-EuRam funding all year round.

Verifications of eligibility and scientific evaluation of proposals are done as applications arrive. Final selections are made twice yearly: deadline October 15 for November evaluation; deadline May 15 for June evaluation.

Contact: Funding Helpline
Fax +32 2 296 5987

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

BRITE-EURAM workshops

Industrial and materials technologies

Polymers and Composites

Bordeaux (France), September 20-24 (during ECCM-6 Composites conference).

Chemical engineering, treatment of waste and effluents

Barcelona (Spain), October 18-20 (during 6th Expo Quimica).

Contact: J.Y. Calvez
Fax +32 2 295 8072

CRAFT workshops

Cooperative research action for technology

Workshops planned to stimulate proposals for this programme.

Machine tools

Hanover (Germany), September 17 (during EMO International Machine Tool Fair).

Surface Treatment

Essen (Germany), September 20 (during International Welding Fair).

Composite materials

Bordeaux (France), September 21 (during ECCM-6).

Clean Technologies

Toulouse (France), October 20 (during SITEF fair).

Contact: CRAFT Helpline
Fax +32 2 295 5987

AERODAYS '93

Second Community aeronautics RTD conference

Naples (Italy), October 4-5.

Contact: J-L. Grillet
Fax +32 2 296 4288

Steel Research Programme

Stainless Steel '93

Florence (Italy), October 11-14

Contact: E. Andreta
Fax +32 2 296 5987

BIOTECH

Research and technological development in biotechnology

Final BRIDGE-BIOTECH meeting on biosafety

Grenada (Spain), October 24-27.

Contact: I. Economidis
Fax +32 2 295 5365

MAST II Conference

Marine Science and Technology Research

Second European Conference on

Underwater Acoustics planned for July 4-8, 1994 in Copenhagen (Denmark).

Contact:
Fax +32 2 296 3024

International Scientific Cooperation Programme Conferences

Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Kerkyra (Greece), September 10-11.

Contact: M. Kayamanidou
Fax +32 2 296 3308

Cooperation between China and the EC

Impact of biotechnology on the prevention of Hepatitis B and C

Shanghai (China), October 13-16.

Contact: Professor Alberto Albertini
Fax +39 30 30 725

CEC contact: Mr. Bontosoglou,
Fax +32 2 296 3308

Transgenic plants: biotechnology questions and safety concerns

Hainan Island (China),

August 29-September 4.

Contact: Professor Rudolf Casper
Fax +49 531 299 3006

CEC contact: Mr. Bontosoglou
Fax +32 2 296 3308

JOULE II

Energy, non-nuclear energy and rational use of energy

Future role of the Aeronautical Research Establishment in Europe

Brussels (Belgium),

September 9

Contact: John Garnish
Fax +32 2 296 3024

PUBLICATIONS

DRIVE The annual report of the DRIVE II Programme, "Transport Telematics 1993" is now available. It contains a detailed description of the DRIVE II Programme and a brief look at each project. Copies can be obtained from:

F. Karamitsos at CEC DG XIII
Fax +32 2 296 2391

CORDIS A new general information brochure, "Accessing Information on Community Research and Development" is now available from CORDIS Programme officials. A range of other information on the subject is also offered.

Contact: ECHO CORDIS
Customer Service, Fax +352 3498 1248

RACE 2

Research in advanced communications technologies

Call for proposals

Objective: Development of advanced telecommunication technologies, as specified in the updated work programme.

Subject areas: Specific research and technological development in communications technologies; Integrated networks; satellite and mobile communication; integrated service engineering; digital image communication; advance communications in automotive industry and rural areas.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by September 3.

For complete RACE 2 work programme and information pack:
Fax +32 2 295 0654

Advanced communication development: accompanying measures and actions

Call for proposals

Objective: Development of advanced telecommunication technologies

Subject areas: Advanced communication developments: Stimulate research in transnational telework systems; assess social, environmental and economic impacts of advanced communication techniques.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by September 3.

Information Pack available from:
Fax: +32 2 296 2980

BRITE-EURAM - CRAFT

Cooperative research action for technology

Call for proposals open until December 1993.

Objective: CRAFT aims to bring research and technological development funding to SME groupings with limited or no research resources.

Subject areas: All (Materials/raw materials; design and manufacturing; aeronautical research)

Deadlines: Brief outline proposals required by September 10 or December 22.

Once evaluated, the applicants chosen will be asked to submit more detailed proposals. A series of workshops is planned to stimulate interest in CRAFT (see conferences and workshops).

Contact: CRAFT Helpline Fax +32 2 295 5987

BIOTECH

Research and technological development in biotechnology

Call for proposals Second wave Proposals required by August 31 and evaluated on September 21-23.

Call for proposals Third wave Proposals required by December 15 and evaluated in January 1994.

Objective: To promote research in biotechnology in the European Community

with a specific focus on molecular approaches; cellular and organism approaches; ecology and population biology.

Subject areas: All

An information pack is available from the CEC Biotech Programme.

Contact: E. Magnien Fax +32 2 295 5365

Agriculture, Agro-industries and Fisheries

Third call for proposals will be issued on September 15.

Objective: To promote a better match between the production of land and water-based biological resources and their use by consumers and industry

Subject areas: Topics specified in the Concerted Actions Workplan. Only subjects listed in the Third Call Annex are open for Shared Cost Projects.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by January 14, 1994.

For information pack and annex, contact one of these Directorates:

F. Rexen
Directorate-General for Science, Research and Development.
Fax +32 2 296 4322

W. Brugge
Directorate-General for Fisheries
Fax +32 2 295 7862

D. Dessylas
Directorate-General for Agriculture
Fax +32 2 269 3029

STD-3

Life sciences and technologies for developing countries

Call for proposals

Objective: To increase scientific and technical cooperation in tropical and sub-tropical agriculture, medicine, health and nutrition, between European and developing country scientists

Subject areas:

- Sustainable use and management of natural resources
- Farming systems
- Improvement of perennial crops (including trees in the context of farming systems)
- Storage and processing of food
- Vaccine research
- Research on intervention and implementation.

All proposals must be prepared by European and developing country partners.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by November 30.

Evaluations: January 1994 (first meeting).

February 1994 (meeting of experts from developing countries, CEC officials and international bodies).

Selection: Programme officials should have recommendations for selection by March 1994.

Contact: T.J. Hall Fax +32 2 296 6252

MAST II

Marine Science and Technology

Research on Marine Biology in the Mediterranean

Call for declaration of interests

Objective: To broaden and encourage biological research in the Mediterranean Sea.

Subject areas: Proposals for in situ research on biological processes will be considered. Preference will be given to benthic research and pelagic-benthic coupling.

Deadline: Interest forms must be received by September 2.

For information pack and interest form, contact:
Ms R. Goni
Fax +32 2 296 3024

Call for tender

Official Journal 163/8 of June 15, 1993.

Objective: To choose a supplier to provide data management support for different areas of the MAST programme.

- Support the Mediterranean and North Atlantic projects
- Implement electronic publishing techniques to process data from the RTD marine research projects
- Provide "multi-use" information products to MAST-II
- Examine the possibility of strengthening the European infrastructure for management of marine data.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by September 8.

For complete details and tender procedures contact: Fax +32 2 296 3024

Call for proposals

Subject areas: Risk evaluation.

Issue date: Call to be issued on September 15.

First call for papers for the Second European Conference on Underwater Acoustics, planned for July 4-8, 1994 in Copenhagen (Denmark).

AVICENNE Initiative

Cooperation with Mediterranean Basin Countries

Call for proposals

Research into health systems and water recycling and management.

Objective: Pilot research in science and technology aimed at creating regional synergies in the Mediterranean Basin

Subject areas: Health systems and hydrologic research

Participants: Only accepts proposals prepared by at least two non-EC Mediterranean Basin countries and one EC Member State.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by September 15.

Contact: M. Kayamanidou
Fax +32 2 296 3308