

29745



News Roundup on EC Research and Technological Development Programmes

DECEMBER 93
N° 3

One step nearer the Fourth Framework Programme

Further Council discussions on Commission proposal

At their 6 December Council meeting, Community Research Ministers pursued their discussions on the Commission's proposal for the 4th Framework Programme (1994-1998). Building on the results of the 11 October Research Council, ministers reached agreement on the breakdown of the four planned activities, as well as on the different themes of the first activity. Within this activity, ministers particularly wanted more resources allocated to research in industrial technologies, life sciences and technologies, environment, and human capital and mobility than those proposed by the Commission.

The Council did not, however, reach a decision on the total budget for the Framework Programme. And there still remained differences of opinion on the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The Council decided therefore to put the question of the total budget to the Community Heads of State and Government at the Brussels summit on 10-11 December, which came to the following conclusions:

"The implementation of an ambitious, well-targeted research programme constitutes a significant contribution towards recovery, particularly in areas such as information technology, the importance of which has been stressed elsewhere. The European Council considers that the total budget for the research framework programme should be not less than Ecu 12 billion, to which might be added a reserve of Ecu 1 billion, to be released at a later date."

With the intention of reaching a "common position" before the end of the year, the Council will meet again on 22 December.

First Parliament opinion

On 18 November, the European Parliament gave its first opinion on the Commission's proposal for the Fourth Framework Programme. On the basis of a report by Dr Rolf Linkohr, it adopted a resolution proposing a series of amendments, one of which was a 600 MECU increase in the total budget.

After the Council has adopted its common position, the Parliament (which, in the field of research, "co-decides" with the Council) will give its second opinion, probably in February 94.

Breakdown in percentage terms between the four activities and between the seven lines of the first activity

	Commission proposal	Council
A. Information and Communications Technologies	29.8	28.2
B. Industrial Technologies	13.7	16
C. Environment	7.4	9
D. Life Sciences	10.1	13.1
E. Energy	19.3	18.15
• Non nuclear		
• Nuclear fission safety		
• Controlled thermonuclear fusion		
F. Transport	2.1	2
G. Targeted Socio-economic Research	1.0	0.85
Activity 1	83.4	87.3
Activity 2	6.0	4
Activity 3	4.6	2.5*
Activity 4	6.0	6.2
TOTAL	100	100

* Plus (in the form of a statement to the Council Minutes) an average of 1% of the total of FP 4 to be allocated to dissemination within activity 1.

DRIVE

European workshop on road pricing and automatic debiting systems

Brussels (B), end-January.

Contact: *M Carbajo*
Fax + 32 2 2969548

BRITE-EURAM

Advanced materials for light weight structures (during ESA international symposium)

Noordwijk (NL), 22-25 March

Mineral exploration technologies (during 'Economic Geology in Europe' Conference)

Keyworth (UK), 12-14 April

Contact: *J Y Calvez*, Fax + 32 2 2958072

MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING

Surface characterization

Eindhoven (NL), 17-18 March (provisional). Open day, 16 March

Contact: *Ch Helmrath*, Fax +32 2 2958072

Quality control of biomedical measurements

Dublin (IRL), 24-27 March

Open day, 23 March

Contact: *C Dirscherl*, Fax: + 32 2 2958072

ENVIRONMENT

International Symposium: Models of Sustainable Development. Exclusive or Complementary Approaches of Sustainability?

Paris (F), 16-18 March

Contact: *A. Sonn*, Fax + 32 2 2963024

JOULE

Non-nuclear Energies

International Symposium Geothermics 94 in Europe

Orléans (F), 8-9 February

Contact: *J Garnish*
Fax + 32 2 2964288

Concerted Clean Coal Technology Development for Sustainable All-European Development

Moscow, Spring 1994

Contact: *J M Bemtgen*
Fax + 32 2 2964288

Fourth European Workshop on Methane Activation

(On invitation only, all participants should

Programme Updates

ESPRIT

Information Technologies

Following Esprit's April 1993 Call for Proposals – with a target budget of 387 MECU – 202 projects were selected for funding out of the 1277 proposals received. Half the projects have now completed the contract negotiation stage, and are expected to start this December or January. Details of these projects will be available shortly. ESPRIT's April 93 Call for the European Systems and Software Initiative (ESSI) accompanying measure – with a budget of 30 MECU – attracted 980 proposals, from which 102 were selected for funding. 75% of these projects have completed their contract negotiations and several will start before end-93.

Contact: + 32 2 2968388

RACE

Communications Technologies

The June 93 Call for Proposals, with a target budget of 73 MECU, attracted 200 proposals – 77 proposed extensions to existing projects (out of the 91 already in progress), and 123 new proposals. Proposed participants were representative of the broad business and industrial community at which RACE is aimed, and totalled 975 organizations from 22 countries in the EC, EFTA and elsewhere.

The independent proposal evaluators recommended that 78 proposals be retained

for further examination and exploratory discussions with the proposers.

This is the present breakdown of these proposals by project area:

- Integrated broadband communications: 13 extensions, 3 new proposals.
- Intelligent networks: 8 extensions, 3 new.
- Mobile communications: 3 extensions, 7 new.
- Image and data communications: 7 extensions, 6 new.
- Information security: 1 extensions, 1 new.
- Test infrastructures: 3 extensions, 8 new.
- Accompanying measures: 4 extensions, no new.

After technical and financial vetting, details of the selected proposals will be released shortly, and it is expected that the new projects will begin on 1 January 94 and run until December 95. Project extensions will cover the same period.

Contact: Fax + 32 2 2950654

BRITE-EURAM – CRAFT

Cooperative Research Action for Technology

CRAFT was developed to stimulate research for SMEs with little or no RTD capacity of their own, and to help them participate in Europe-wide projects where their technical research is undertaken for them by a third party. By end-1993, some 192 Feasibility Awards, 191 CRAFT Step 1 and 60 CRAFT Step 2 proposals will have been funded. On 22 November, the Commission approved 42 Feasibility Awards, 67 CRAFT Step 1 and 15 CRAFT Step 2 projects, following the September evaluation session.

The current CRAFT and Feasibility Awards schemes, started in December 91 as part of the Brite-EuRam programme for a period of two years, have a Call for Proposals open until 22 December 93. Step 1 proposals already accepted for funding can still however submit their Step 2 proposals until mid-94.

CRAFT to be expanded

Given CRAFT's success, not only will specific actions to stimulate RTD for and by SMEs in Brite-EuRam be continued, improved and strengthened under the Fourth Framework Programme, but similar actions will be introduced in other relevant research programmes.

For general info on CRAFT, contact the CRAFT Helpline: Fax +32 2 2963307

MAST

Marine Science and Technology

Ocean data and information management

Ocean data and information exchange is essential for marine research and its applications. The MAST programme, in its first phase, has given particular attention to reporting on data gathering and establishing data holdings, as well as upgrading data management within research projects. In its second phase, MAST is giving a higher level of support by allocating more than 1 MECU to certain particular services:

- Assistance to the North Atlantic Targeted Project, to show how the project management of a major pluri-disciplinary research project should be organized.
- In order to show which service functions can be fulfilled by national data centres and university data units, they will supply

make a scientific contribution)

T.U. Eindhoven (NL),
16-17 May

Contact: *M Frias*
Fax + 32 2 296 4288

SPRINT

Sprint 1994 TII Conference

To mark the 10th anniversary of the European Association for the Transfer of Technology, Innovation and Industrial Information (TII), and the operational launch of the SPRINT 2 programme.

Hanover (D), 28-29 April

Contact: *SPRINT*
Technical Assistance Unit
Fax + 352 465550

general purpose data products to the Mediterranean Targeted Project.

- Some MAST projects will use electronic data publishing to show its feasibility for the dissemination of data holdings.

Contact: *M. Bohle-Carbonell*
Fax: +32 2 2963024

JOULE

Non-nuclear Energies

The JOULE II supplement – proposal to contract in 6 months

In April 93, supplementary funding of 104 MECU was made available to JOULE II – a 67% increase on the initial budget – with 80% having to be spent before the end of 93.

The budget was allocated in three ways:

- 20.7 MECU to extend 41 of the 236 original JOULE II contracts.
- 60.0 MECU for an Open Call for Proposals designed to enhance or extend some parts of the original work programme.
- 23.3 MECU for a series of Invited Calls for Proposals in selected areas.

Despite an extremely tight schedule, 526 valid proposals were received by the 25 June deadline, 203 of which were finally selected for priority funding, with 30 placed on a reserve list.

Since the end of the summer, the management team have been working flat out and have prepared and offered 40 extensions. 30 have already been signed by the Commission. By 10 December, out of the 131 new proposals to be processed this year (to fall within the 93 commitment budget), 121 contracts had been sent to proposers for signature and 53 signed by the Commission.

P E O P L E

COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OUTSIDE EUROPE

At the Commission's DGXII, Mr Louis Bellemin has been appointed Head of Unit, Cooperation with Industrialized Countries Outside Europe. The unit is responsible for implementing the Community's cooperation with industrialized countries such as the USA, Japan, Canada, South Africa, Israel, South Korea etc. The Community is developing cooperation with these, and possible other, countries in areas of mutual interest. The cooperation itself takes the form of information exchange, fellowships, joint projects etc.

CALLS FOR...PROPOSALS...TENDERS...DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TELEMATICS

LIBRARIES (Telematic systems, Area 5)

Third Call for Proposals

Objective: To facilitate user access, by optimum use 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.

Deadline: 15 February.

Contact: Fax + 352 430133530

MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING



A new call for proposals under the Measurements and Testing programme was published on December 15, focusing on pre-standardization (Area 2) and common means of calibration (Area 3). More details are available in the information package for this call and the second issue of the Measurements and Testing Newsletter.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by 15 April.

Contact: *D Gould*

Contact Newsletter: *Ph Quevauviller*
Fax +32 2 2958072

SPRINT

Community Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer

Sprint Science Park Consultancy Scheme
Applications are invited for consultancy support from bodies planning or already running Science Parks.

Deadline: 11 March.

Contact: *SPRINT*
Fax +352 4301 34544

MAST

Marine Science and Technology

Call for Proposals

Advanced study course in 1995. MAST will support a limited number of courses on marine research and development topics.

Deadline: Received in Brussels by 12.00, 7 April.

Contact: *Ms Schwarzhaupt*
Fax + 32 2 2963024



HUMAN CAPITAL AND MOBILITY



Applications for support under the ECs HCM Programme can still be submitted for:

Individual fellowships

The next (and last) deadline for the submission of individual proposals is 11 February.

Contact: *A Andrikopoulou*
Fax + 32 2 2956995

Institutional Fellowships

Interested scientists can submit applications to selected institutions of their choice on a permanent basis. The selection process will continue in 1994 and beyond. Institutions offering these HCM fellowships have been selected following a "Call for Proposals" restricted to host institutions. The list of institutions and conditions for application have been published in the EC's Official Journal of 20 August 1993. For the other HCM activities (i.e. Networks, Large Scale Research Facilities and Euroconferences) no further applications are possible under the current programme.

Contact: *I Brach*
Fax + 32 2 2956995

New "Procedures manual"

At the 6 December Council meeting, the Commission presented to research ministers the "Procedures manual" it had announced in June (RTD Info 1, July 93) (*See description below*). As Commissioner Antonio Ruberti explains in

the Preface, the aim of the document is to make the methods used by the Commission in the management of Community research programmes more "transparent" for the outside world. The manual takes proposers step by step through the proposal submission and selection process and, for successful proposals, through

contract negotiation procedures. The manual has been written in such a way as to put over the information that researchers require in sufficient depth but not to overburden them with too many administrative details.

The manual was received with great interest by the research ministers.

EC-FUNDED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

An Insight into the Handling
of Project Proposals

An Introduction to Contract Negotiation

The document is a guide to procedures for handling project proposals submitted to RTD programmes. The first part deals with the process for organizing the evaluation of proposals after they have been submitted and the selection of which proposals to fund. The second part deals with the processes of negotiating an RTD contract and subsequent project management).

The English, French, and German versions will be available shortly, followed by the other language versions in early 1994.

Further information on how to obtain the guide: Fax + 32 2 2958220



AERONAUTICS

"Aerodays '93 Conference Proceedings". This 560-page, illustrated book contains the technical papers presented during Aerodays '93, the Second Community Aeronautics RTD Conference in Naples, October 1993. The papers describe the results achieved to date on some 70 aeronautical research projects.

Contact: R Dunker
Fax + 32 2 294288; + 32 2 2950656

JOULE

Non-nuclear Energies

"HERMES: Harmonised Econometric Research for Modelling Economic Systems"

This book features the HERMES system of models set up by the JOULE programme. The system involves a series of medium term, macrosectoral econometric models in which energy plays a role as a production factor, economic sector and consumption good. Models were developed simultaneously in each Community country, creating a pan-European network of 12 institutes using harmonized data and close analysis instruments.

Contact: E Donni, Fax + 32 2 2963024

The final version of the "JOULE I Catalogue of Contracts" is now available.

Contact: E Van der Voort, Fax + 32 2 2964288

RADIATION PROTECTION

"Test Phantoms and Optimisation in Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine". Proceedings of a Discussion Workshop initiated by CEC-DG

XII-F-6, in Würzburg, Germany, on 15-17 June 1992. The Proceedings give a unique overview and précis of the actual requirements to those test tools and stimulate new ways of optimization of radiological techniques and consequently of radiation protection measures.

Contact: H Schibilla, Fax + 32 2 2966256

MEDALUS

"Mediterranean Desertification and Land Use".

The first phase of the MEDALUS project, funded under the EC EPOCH Programme, brought together 17 institutions from eight member states to provide a sound working knowledge of the ecological and soil systems and their interactions both on- and off-site in the European Mediterranean, with the aim of assisting the formulation of future policy and strategies to accommodate desertification trends. An executive summary of the final MEDALUS project report is now available.

Contact: P Babalanis, Fax + 32 2 2963024

BIOMED

The fourth Medical and Health Research Programme (MHR4 1987-1991) has recently published four final reports in book forms and a lexicon on diskette:

"Advances in Biomedical Engineering", Results of the 4th EC Medical and Health Research Programme, Eds. J.E.W. Beneken, V. Thévenin, IOS Press 1993.

"Health Services Research", Results of the 4th EC Medical and Health Research Programme, Eds. G.N. Fracchia and M. Theofilatron, IOS Press 1994.

"Advances in Medical Biology", Results of the 4th Medical and Health Research programme, Ed. C. Beya, IOS Press 1994.

"Epidemiology", Results of the 4th Medical and Health Research Programme, Eds. K. Vuylsteek and M. Hallen, IOS Press 1994.

"Epillex", An electronic multilanguage lexicon of epidimological terms based on John Last's "Dictionary of Epidimology" (Oxford University Press); editing and program by Charles du V Florey, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities 1993 (3.5 inch floppy disk, price (excluding VAT) 7 ECU.

CORDIS

"Directory of RTD Partners"

The CORDIS RTD Partners database was set up to make the search for partners easier, helping companies and other organizations establish cross-border cooperation on projects which could be funded by EC RTD programmes. A 420-page printed directory has now been published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities to widen the availability of the database.

Contact: CORDIS Customer Services
Fax + 352 34981248
OPOCE, Fax + 352 400573.