



Fourth Framework Programme: into the home straight

AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT

With agreement on the Fourth Framework Programme (1994-1998), and the Commission's adoption of the 20 new specific programmes, European Union RTD policy for the next five years is now in place.

An agreement on the Fourth Framework Programme was reached on 21 March in the committee for conciliation between the Council and European Parliament delegations. The total budget for the framework programme was agreed at 12.3 billion Ecu (BECU), with 700 million Ecu (MECU) put in reserve to be made available under certain conditions before 30 June 1996.

The total budget represents an increase of 300 MECU over the Council's "common position" (see *RTD Info* No. 4); this amount has been allocated to the following programmes:

- Telematics (+ 21 MECU)

- Industrial and Materials Technologies (+ 75 MECU)
- Non-nuclear energy (+ 18 MECU)
- Targeted socio-economic research (+ 36 MECU)
- Cooperation with third countries and international organisations (+ 120 MECU)
- Dissemination and exploitation of results (+ 30 MECU).

The operational budget of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) was fixed at 900 MECU.

The agreement (not yet approved by the Parliament at the time of going to press, but which is expected to have been approved at its April plenary session), was welcomed by Commissioner Antonio Ruberti "with great satisfaction". The maximum budget is in fact nearly the same as that initially put forward by the Commission (13.1 BECU).

In parallel with these negotiations, the Commission has finalised its proposals for the scientific and technological

content of the 20 specific programmes which will make up the framework programme.

NEW FEATURES OF THE FOURTH FRAME- WORK PROGRAMME

The Fourth Framework Programme contains several important new elements in comparison with the 3rd FP. These are:

- Certain activities in fields which were previously covered by initiatives outside the Third Framework Programme (Sprint, Value, Tide, part of Thermie, etc.) will now be managed within the 4th Framework Programme.
- International Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The Commission has an international scientific and technological cooperation policy with a wide variety of countries: Central and eastern European countries; Industrialized countries outside Europe; Developing countries.

These cooperation activities were previously managed outside the Framework Programme. They are now part of the 4th FP, as Activity 2.

- Two new programmes have been created:

Transport research (Part VI of Activity 1) – to help develop a trans-European network to integrate means of transport into an efficient and coherent whole.

Targeted socio-economic research (Part VII of Activity 1) – which will concentrate on the forecasting and evaluation of technologies, research on education and training, and the problems of social integration and exclusion.

THE NEXT TWO STEPS

- *Parliament opinion and Council adoption of the specific programmes*

The proposals for the specific programmes have been submitted to the Council and the European Parliament. The Parliament is expected to give its opinion on the first specific programmes at its 2-6 May plenary session, the last before the European elections. The aim is to have the programmes adopted by the Council before the end of the year, so as to ensure a continuity between the Third and Fourth Framework Programmes.

(continued on back page)

PUBLICATIONS

RACE

RACE annual technical report 1994 presents the achievements of the RACE programme at the end of 1993 and describes the activities planned for 1994. The results of RACE I are included, together with individual project summaries. Detailed information on individual RACE II projects is also provided, together with cross-referenced lists of participating organisations, project titles and acronyms, plus a glossary of terminology and a bibliography of reference material.

Contact, Fax + 32 2 2950654

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

European Information Technology Observatory (EITO) Yearbook 1994

"EITO '94" provides the latest statistics and forecasts on the entire European market for information technology and communication technology as well as information on current technological trends. It will also carry special surveys on the IT services market in the Member States as well as the countries of Eastern Europe. Mobile computing and communications are examined in depth as well as public administration IT applications.

Contact: *European Information Technology Observation (EITO) c/o EUROBIT*
Fax + 49 69 6603510

DRIVE/ATT

DRIVE on-demand Publishing System

An on-demand publishing system is now available for the DRIVE programme. It can produce reports and other documents from DRIVE projects "on-demand" and supply them at a cost price by mail to the orderer.

A catalogue of reports and deliverables is now available covering the first DRIVE programme (DRIVE I, 1989-1991).

A second catalogue, which will summarise the results of the Advanced Transport Telematics (DRIVE II) programme, will be produced at the end of 1994.

The catalogue may be obtained by contacting the RTD Helpdesk, Fax + 352 430132084



ENVIRONMENT

Proceedings

"Physico Chemical Behaviour of Atmospheric Pollutants"
Conference held in Varese (I), October 1993.

"Fire in Mediterranean Ecosystems"
Workshop held in France 21-25 September 1992.
EUR 15089 EN.

"Second European Intercomparison of ultraviolet spectroradiometers"
Seminar held in Panorama (GR), 21-31 August 1992.
EUR15449 EN.

"Industrial Fires"
Seminar held in Apeldoorn (NL), 11-12 March 1993.
EUR 15340 EN.

"Operational Safety"
Seminar held in Lyon (F), 14-15 October 1993.

"Genetic Risks from Chemicals: Assessing the Feasibility of the Parallelogram Approach"
EC U.S. EPA Workshop,

CONFERENCES AND

LRE PROGRAMME

Linguistic Research and Engineering

Conference on Language Engineering in Europe
6-7 July, Paris (F)

Contact: *J.C. Rault*
Fax + 33 1 47806629



BRITE-EURAM

Industrial and Materials Technologies

Conference on Industrial Technologies
Organised jointly by the Brite-EuRam, Measurements and

Testing and Steel research programmes, with the cooperation of the VALUE programme.
6-8 December, Brussels (B)
Contact: *H. Pero,*
Fax + 32 2 2963307

Workshops

Mining Technology/Mineral Processing and Extractive Metallurgy
(during the 2nd European Metals Conference)
13-14 June, Freiberg (D)

Forging, Forming and Casting
(during the 8th International Foundry Trade Fair, GIFA '94)
20-21 June, Mülheim an der Ruhr (D)

Biomaterials and Medical Devices
(during the 11th European Conference on Biomaterials)
10-14 September, Pisa (I)

North Carolina, 12-14 October 1993. EUR 15606 EN.

Other publications

"Environmental Cooperation in the European Economic Area".
ART 41542.

"Design and Execution of Experiments on CO₂ Enrichment"
(Ecosystem Research Report N°6) EUR 15110 EN.

"Introduced Species in European Coastal Waters"
(Ecosystems Research Report N°8).

"Global Change and Arctic Terrestrial Ecosystems"
(Ecosystems Research Reports N° 10). EUR 15519 EN.

"ELOISE - European Land-Ocean Interaction and Shelf Exchange Studies"
(Ecosystems Research Reports

N° 11). EUR 15608 EN.

"The European Open-top Chamber Project: Assessment of the Effects of Air Pollutants on Agricultural Crops"
(Air pollution Research N° 48).
EUR 15310 EN.

Contact: *J. Acevedo*
Fax + 32 2 2963024



BIOTECH

BRIDGE 1993 Progress Report
The BRIDGE programme
(Biotechnology Research for

Surface Techniques and Tribology in Mechanical Engineering
(during the 4th International Conference on Plasma Surface Engineering PSE '94)
19-20 September, Garmisch Partenkirchen (D)
Contact: J.Y. Calvez
Fax + 32 2 2958046

4 June, Maastricht (NL)
Contact: Ph. Quevauviller
Fax + 32 2 2958072

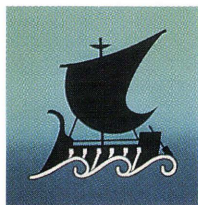
Workshop on Potential Use and Comparison of GCMS and HPLC in Biomedical, Environmental, Food and Agricultural Analysis
(with an information open day).
15-18 June, Athens (GR)

Contact: C. Profilis
Fax + 32 2 2958072

Second International Symposium on Hormone and Veterinary Drug Residue Analysis.

1-3 June, Bruges (B)

Contact: A. Boenke
Fax + 32 2 2958072



MAST

Marine Science and Technology

MAROBOT meeting
16 September, Brest (F)

Contact: M. Weydert
Fax + 32 2 2963024

OCEANS '94
13-16 September, Brest (F)
Special sessions on AUVs and benthic laboratories on 15 September.

Contact: B. Barnouin
Fax + 33 1 44496044

Second European Conference on Underwater Acoustics
4-8 July, Copenhagen (DK)

Contact: L. Bjørno
Fax + 45 45 930190

ENVIRONMENT

"European Conference on Conservation of the European Cultural Heritage: Research and Policy Issues Related to the Conservation of Paper and Leather".
Joint initiative by DG XII (STEP and Environment Programme) and DG X (Culture Unit).
27-28 June, Delft (NL)

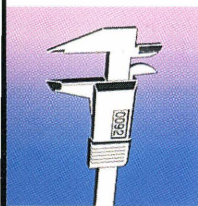
Contact: J. Havermans
Fax + 31 15 696 911

European Symposium: "Functioning of the Western Mediterranean Sea: Present and Future".
Co-organised by Environment and MAST (both supporting EROS 2000 project - European River Ocean System).
18-22 Oct., Palma de Mallorca (E)

Contact: H. Barth
Fax + 32 2 2963024

"CE Workshop Research on the Conservation of Brick Masonry Monuments".
24-26 October, Leuven (B)

Contact: V. Balen
Fax + 32 16 290 017



MEASUREMENTS AND TESTINGS

Workshop on Harmonisation of Leaching/Extraction Tests for Environmental Risk Assessment
As part of Wascon '94.

Innovation, Development and Growth in Europe) covered the period 1990-1993 with a budget of 100 MECU. The present activities in the new BRIDGE programme are implemented via two different types of projects, N-projects (Network) and T-projects (Targeted). This progress report provides sound illustration of the "added value" resulting from these interactive approaches.

For further information:
Contact: A. Vassarotti
Fax + 32 2 2955365

NUCLEAR FISSION SAFETY

Radioactive waste management and storage (shared-cost action 1990-94))
Annual progress report, 1992

Contact: N. Cadelli
Fax + 32 2 2954991

Decommissioning of nuclear installations (1989-93)
Annual progress report, 1992.
EUR 15262.

Contact: R. Simon
Fax + 32 2 2954991

Evaluation of the Community's Research Programme on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations (cost-shared research 1989-1993)
Research Evaluation Report N° 58.
EUR 15329 EN.

Contact: R. Simon
Fax + 32 2 2954991

Radiation Protection Dosimetry
Decision making support for off-site emergency management
Proceedings of a workshop held in Schloss Elmau, Bavaria (D), 25-30 September 1992. EUR 15043.

Contact: G.N. Kelly
Fax + 32 2 2966256

Thyroid Cancer in children living near Chernobyl
Expert panel report on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. EUR 15248.

Contact: A. Karaoglou
Fax + 32 2 2966256



TELEMAN

The complete TELEMAN Mailing List of 800 organisations and individuals active in the field of tele-operated robotics for hazardous

and disordered nuclear environments is now available for consultation in RTD-Partners, one of the CORDIS databases.

Contact: B. Tolley
Fax + 32 2 2954991

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION - CHINA

The consolidated report of scientific cooperation activities with the People's Republic of China (1985-1992) is now available.

Contact: V. Bontosoglou
Fax + 32 2 2966252

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

European Environmental Mutagen Society
31 August-3 September,
Poznan (Poland)

Contact: K. Szyfter
Fax + 48 61 233235

International Workshop on Biological UV-dosimetry
29 November-3 December,
Budapest (Hungary)

Contact: A. Fekete
Fax + 36 1 521 291 343

International Symposium on Human Health and Environment
25-30 September,
Salsomaggiore Terme (Palma) (I)

Contact: A. Mutti
Fax + 39 521 291343

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Health

Methodology and Relevance of Intervention Trials (MRIT)
2-3 June, Barcelona (E)

Contact: M. Pleschette
Fax + 32 2 2966252

Health Systems Research
4-8 July, Maputo (Mozambique)

Contact: M. de Bruycker
Fax + 32 2 2966252

JOULE - II

Non-Nuclear Energies

European Conference on Energy Performance and Indoor Climate in Buildings
24-26 November, Lyon (F)

Contact: G. Guarracino
Fax + 33 72047041

Workshop on Job Creation by Renewable Energies Development and Use
27-28 May, Santorini (GR)

Solar House Contractors Meeting
30-31 May, Santorini (GR)

Contact: J. Greif
Fax + 32 2 2960621

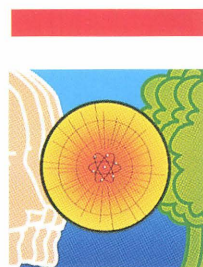
TELEMAN

Contractors Conference Sessions
A "conference within a conference" during EURISCON '94 Robotics and Intelligent Systems Conference
22-26 August, Malaga (E)

Contact: Sanja Vranes,
EURISCON '94
Fax + 44 272 252706

Seminar: Optical Fibre Sensing and Systems in the Nuclear Environment
17-18 October, Mol (B)

Contact: F. Beghams
Fax + 32 14 311993



NUCLEAR FISSION SAFETY

Training Course
4th training course on off-site emergency response to nuclear accidents
27 June-1 July, Mol (B)

Contact: G.N. Kelly
Fax + 32 2 2966256

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION - CHINA

Workshops and meetings will be held over the next four months. Participation is restricted.

EC China Workshop on Coal Combustion
20-25 June, Wuhan (China)

EC ASEAN Workshop on Membrane Technology in Agro-based Industry
26-29 July, Kuala-Lumpur (Malaysia)

EC China Workshop on Protein Engineering
22-27 August, Beijing (China)
Contact: V. Bontosoglou
Fax + 32 2 2966256

PROGRAMME UPDATES

IMPACT 2

Information Market Policy Actions

The 1994 work programme, approved by the Commission on 1 February, is now available. The aim of IMPACT is to develop the European information service market, and improve European business competitiveness by promoting the use of advanced information services.

The key lines of action for 1994 will be:

- Info Euro Access – improving pan-European accessibility of information.
- Action line 1 – the Information Market Observatory (IMO) – collecting and analysing market data to increase market transparency.
- Action line 2 – the Legal Advisory Board – strengthening its network of experts and developing increased contact with public sector authorities having regulatory and market player roles.
- Action line 3 – Standards – extending the existing pilot information service.
- Action line 4 – Awareness, User Support and Training – decentralizing activities through the National Awareness Partners network.
- Action line 5 – Building on existing strategic information initiatives.

For copies of the work programme, contact Impact Central Office
Fax + 352 4301 32847



HUMAN CAPITAL AND MOBILITY

Euroconference: The deep sea floor as a changing environment

This research conference in San-Feliu de Guixols, Spain, 8-13 February 1994, was organised by the European Science Foundation. It was held under the auspices of the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Research (ECOPS) and was co-sponsored by the Human Capital and Mobility (HCM) programme.

The euroconference, which attracted 60 scientists from 15 countries, aimed to promote a multidisciplinary approach to European scientific programmes in deep-sea research and to identify common European efforts in deep-sea instrumentation and developments.

It was also a preparatory meeting for another conference in Bremen in September 1994, where scientists and policy-makers from all over Europe will try to formulate a long-term strategy on ocean and polar research.

Multidisciplinary

During the conference, extensive workshops on the definition of future projects alternated with presentations by specialists in deep-sea research. As multidisciplinary was a main concern, all branches of oceanographic research (biology, geology, geophysics, physics, chemistry, etc.) were represented.

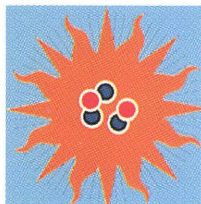
The presentations addressed four main themes: general interest for

the deep sea as a changing environment and why it is important; the deep-sea benthic boundary layer; the deep-sea floor as an active interface; the sub-sea floor as a paleo-record and an active source and sink for materials.

The HCM contribution

In keeping with its overall objective of providing training and mobility for researchers, the HCM programme provided 20 grants for young researchers from 7 countries to attend the San-Feliu conference. The young scientists actively participated in the discussion concerning the definition of future projects, and it is expected that such early involvement will almost certainly help them in their own future research activities.

Contact: G. Ollier
Fax + 32 2 2963270



CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR FUSION

Itinerant Exhibition on Fusion Research

After nearly three months at the "Deutsches Museum" in Munich, this exhibition will now be in Bologna, Italy from 18 April to 2 May.

JET

After the installation of a pumped divertor and an upgrading of the current drive and other systems, JET has resumed operation. The objective of the new JET machine is to fix reliable methods of plasma purity control

under conditions relevant for the Next Step.

Protocol 2 to the Agreement for the Engineering Design Activities (EDA) of ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor).

On 21 March, the European Council authorised the Commission to sign this protocol for the continuation of ITER-EDA up to its planned end in 1998. The four ITER Parties (Euratom, USA, Japan and Russia) signed the protocol in Vienna (Protocol 1 terminated on 20 March).

Medium-term planning

At its 22-23 March meeting, the Consultative Committee for the Fusion Programme (CCFP) came in particular to the following conclusions:

–ITER – the Next Step in a world framework – has become the focus of the Programme. Europe should continue strongly to support it and prepare for its possible siting in Europe. To maintain the ability to build a Next Step in Europe and to increase industrial involvement, the part of the Programme dealing with Next Step related technology should be increased beyond the work needed directly for the European share of ITER.

–JET is expected to complete its present mission in 1996. There are however substantial new scientific and technical arguments, in particular for the benefit of ITER, for a continuation of JET's operation beyond 1996.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AVICENNE

The AVICENNE initiative for scientific cooperation with Third Mediterranean Countries (TMC) has produced a draft workplan for 1994, and an information package for the preparation of proposals in response to the 1994 Call for proposals. The Call focuses on joint research projects in Waste Water Treatment and Re-Use; Primary Health Care; and Renewable Energies.

Proposals for concerted actions are invited for cooperation networks on the Interaction of Water Management and Health, and Primary Health Care. Special emphasis will be put on the creation of viable RTD-networks, which bring together researchers from western and eastern parts of the Mediterranean basin.

The minimum requirements for participation are therefore the following:

- For joint research proposals the minimum consortium must include two independent partners from two different third Mediterranean countries (TMC) and one partner based in the EU.

- For concerted actions, the minimum requirement is two independent partners from two different TMCs, and two independent partners based in two different EU Member States.

For further details and infopacks, contact:
Fax + 32 2 2963308 / 2966252.

VALUE 2, SPRINT

Change in management of DG XIII

Dr A.S. Strub, the Commission's Director for Dissemination and Exploitation of RTD Results, Technology Transfer and Innovation (DG XIII/D) took up a new post on 15 March.

He has been replaced by Dr G. Grata.

Dr Grata has previously held the position of Head of Unit responsible for microelectronics within the ESPRIT programme.

Finding partners for the Fourth Framework Programme

It is now an ideal time to place a partnership request on the RTD-Partners database prior to the calls for proposal of the 4th Framework Programme.

The RTD-Partners database, which is available on CORDIS, currently contains over 10,000 partnership requests and is accessed by a large number of European RTD organisations each month. Both placing an entry and accessing the database are free of charge.

For further information contact: A. Menzies
Fax + 352 2801749

LRE**Linguistic Research and Engineering****Collaborative projects in the area of language engineering**

Call for proposals published 15 March, (OJ C 78).

A number of exploratory and preparatory actions will be carried out in 1994-1995, to prepare the ground for further collaborative RTD projects. These actions will build on the achievements of earlier activities in the language processing area, create a bridge between the technologies developed under previous information and communications technology (ICT) programmes, and stimulate the application of these technologies through their integration in a user environment.

Deadline: 25 May.

Contact: (with Ref. MLAP '94)
Fax + 352 4301 34999

TELEMATICS**Exploratory actions in multimedia publishing/information engineering**

Call for proposals published 15 March (OJ C 78).

Proposals for feasibility projects to improve usability of information through better design, creation, dissemination and access to integrated multimedia information services.

Contact: Fax + 352 430132847
(Ref DG XIII Directorate E, JMO C 4/24)

Telematics exploratory actions for urban areas

Call for proposal published 15 March (OJ C 78), concerning the following areas:

- Task List 4: Telematics for education and training using existing European networks
- Task List 5: Telematics for urban areas, covering

employment, economic regeneration and the transition to a tele-economy.

Deadline: 15 June.

For information write to:
European Commission,
200 rue de la Loi,
B-1049 Brussels (Ref. Task List 4: DGXIII/C-3 – BU 29 4/19; Ref. Task List 5: DGXIII/C-2 – BU 29 1/67)

Accompanying measures on telematic engineering

Call for proposals published 15 March (OJ C 78) for existing programme partners and potential new participants.

Deadline: 15 June.

For information write to:
European Commission, DG XIII,
Telematic Systems Proposals Office,
200 rue de la Loi (BU 29 4/76)
B-1049 Brussels

OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Calls for proposals published 15 March (OJ C/78, pp. 13, 15, 17) DGXII, DGXIII, and The Task Force : Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth (TF-HRETY), have jointly issued three calls for proposals to demonstrate and develop the possibilities for practical and effective open and distance education and training across the Community via demonstration projects linking the fields of education/training, research and telematics.

This joint pilot action has three components:

- Methodological and psychopedagogical research (DGXII) (specifically aimed at preparing activities in this field, which will fall within the scope of the 'Research on education and formation' component of the future 'Finalized social and economic research' programme.)

Contact: Fax + 32 2 2958220

- Telematics for education and training, using existing European networks (see Task List 4 of Telematics Call for proposals above).

Contact: Write to European Commission, DGXIII, C/3, BU 29, 4/19, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels

- Education/training, encompassing school-level and higher education, initial training and professional updating (as envisaged under the future Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes).

Contact: TF-HRETY
Fax + 32 2 2955723

All proposals must cover the three components. The deadline for all three calls is 15 June (17h00).

TRANSPORT POLICY RESEARCH INDUSTRIAL AND MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES – AERONAUTICS TELEMATICS FOR TRANSPORT**APAS '94 for exploratory actions on research and technological development**

Call for Proposals published 15 March 1994 (OJ C 78) for exploratory actions on research and technological development in air transport, as part of a joint initiative of DGVII, DGXII and DGXIII.

These actions are contained within the initiative developed by the European Commission on a European Coherent Approach to RTD in Air Traffic Management (ECARDA) and coordinated with

EUROCONTROL, the European Space Agency and EU Member States. The tasks described in the task lists below are intended to lay foundations, identify feasible

approaches and set directions for the later RTD action. The total Community contribution is expected to be around 9 MECU

- Task list 1: Studies and actions related to the air traffic management system concepts definition through modelling and fast time simulation; the definition of the functional requirements for an air-ground movement control and management system and the definition of the requirements and procedures for an ATM system overall validation process methodology. (DG VII, 2 MECU).

- Task list 2: Actions contributing to the development of advanced avionics technologies for flight management systems related to future air traffic management concepts, and for enhanced aids to the pilot in the approach and landing phases, as well as for aircraft ground movement. (DG XII, 1 MECU).

- Task list 3: Studies and experiments to explore and promote the use of telematic technologies to support communications, navigation and surveillance in the domain of air transport. Large and small airports, satellite systems and research networks are within the scope of this call. (DG XIII, 6 MECU)

Deadline: 15 June

For further information write to:
European Commission
Proposals Office
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels
Ref. Task list 1: VII-A-4 BU33 5-2
Fax +32 2 2968350
Ref. Task list 2: XII-C-6 MO75 6-6
Fax +32 2 2950656
Ref. Task list 3: XIII-C-6 BU29 2-13
Fax +32 2 2962391

MAST**Marine Science and Technology**

Call for proposals on evaluation of risks related to marine technologies.

Deadline: 29 June (12h00)

Contact: MAST secretariat
Fax + 32 2 2963024

BIOTECH**Socio-economic impacts**

Call for proposals published 15 March (OJ C 78) for scientific studies on the socio-economic impact of biotechnology research (1990-1994). A budget of approximately 1,8 MECU is foreseen.

Deadline: 15 June

Contact: A. Klepsch
Fax + 32 2 2955365

Bioinformatics

The outline workprogramme for this call for proposals is as follows:

- Nucleotide sequences data base
- European bioinformatics network
- Database of publicly funded biotechnology projects.

Deadline: 16 May

Contact: C. Martinez
Fax + 32 2 2955365

JOULE**APAS '94 Renewable Energies**

A special Call for Proposals was issued on 15 March 1994 (OJ C 78) inviting proposals in the following areas:

- Integration of Renewable Energies (RE) in regions
- Water desalination plants powered by RE for Mediterranean Countries
- Development of bio-electricity
- Urban planning maximizing

the use of RE

- Photovoltaic electricity generation in cooperation between Europe and Developing Countries.

Total budget available: approximately 25 MECU
Deadline: 17 June

For information write to:
European Commission
Proposals Office
XII-F-4 SDME 3-20
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

With the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union

In 1994 the European Commission will provide funding for organisations in Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union to participate in projects under the following programmes: "Environment", "Non Nuclear Energy", Nuclear Fission Safety", "Biomedical and Health Insurance" and "Human Capital and Mobility".

At present the eligible countries are: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, for the first time, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

The objective of the cooperation is to enable scientists and researchers from these countries to collaborate with partners from the Community in existing projects.

Deadline for proposals:

Received in Brussels by 6 June.

For information on the list of projects and project coordinators,
Contact: Fax + 32 2 2963308

CALLS FOR PROPOSALS UPDATES

MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING

Evaluation of the proposals submitted under the Measurements and Testing Call for Proposals (deadline April 15) will take place 21-26 April and selection of the proposals will be made in May/June.

with high ratings (i.e. A and B) can be selected for EC contribution, depending upon the money available, innovation and quality of proposed work and whether similar projects are already being financed. The results of the evaluation will be published in May.

AIR 3**Agro Industrial Research****AIR 3 : Third call for proposals**

The programme covers agriculture, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture and related food and non-food industries.

This third call resulted in 680 proposals, (440 shared costs and 240 concerted actions). Total number of participants in the projects was 5,243 – an average of 8 participants per proposal. Total cost was 780 MECU with a total request for 508 MECU. An average of 3 countries per proposal were involved. However, the amount of money available for this call is only 55 MECU.

All proposals were carefully evaluated in Brussels in February by experts from different countries, EFTA-countries included. Ratings (A,B,C,D,N) were given to each proposal based on strict criteria. Proposals

**HUMAN CAPITAL AND MOBILITY****HCM Selection Round**

Projects in the final selection round for proposals under the HCM programme have been examined by CODEST (the Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology) and by CRN (the Committee of a Regulatory Nature). Over 1833 proposals were submitted for this round (381 Institutional Fellowships, 850 Individual Fellowships, 456 Networks, and 146 Euroconferences). The short-list will now be considered before the final decision, expected in May.

European Science and Technology Assembly

The European Commission is to set up a European Science and Technology Assembly, at the initiative of Commissioner Antonio Ruberti.

The Assembly – playing a similar role to that of the American and Japanese Research Councils – will assist the Commission in the drafting and implementation of Community research and technological development policy.

The Commission believes that for the Community to be successful in science and technology, it needs to encourage a more structured involvement from the European research world in the conception and assessment of its actions. The Assembly should provide this involvement, with its 100 members being appointed from lists put forward by the European-level organisations active in science and technology.

STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE RESEARCH WORLD

The Assembly will provide a close, direct and permanent contact between the Commission, the scientific community and the industrial world. The one major desired effect of this will be to guarantee that Community research and technological development (RTD) has a direct economic and social impact in Europe. It will do this by ensuring the relevance of the Commission's scientific and technological options, by guaranteeing the quality of the research carried out, and by taking account both of recent scientific and technological developments and of social and economic needs.

REGULAR CONSULTATION AND OPINIONS

The Commission will systematically request the Assembly's opinion on a number of points, notably the scientific and technological content of Community research programmes and the criteria and methods used to assess proposals. The Assembly is also expected to take its own initiatives and give opinions on a wide range of research policy matters and scientific and technological developments.

News on RTD Info

Readers may have noticed the new cover of this issue of *RTD Info*. In fact DGXII publications have been reorganized, and a limited number of series created – with a harmonized presentation. This issue of *RTD Info* is the first publication to be produced with the new look. Also, following increased demand for the publication, *RTD Info* will from this issue onwards be produced in French and German, as well as English.

(Fourth Framework Programme, continued from front page)

• Adoption of the «130 J» rules

The next important step is the adoption of the «130 J» rules, under the cooperation procedure between the Council and the Parliament. Article 130 J of the EC treaty concerns the rules for participation in RTD programmes. Key new features in the rules for participation in specific programmes under the 4th Framework Programme concern international participation and financial management mechanisms.

International cooperation. The new rules will enable more flexible participation opportunities for organisations from countries having scientific and technical agreements with the EU.

Financial management mechanisms. Changes in the rules will lead notably to the simplification of costing procedures, by using fixed composite rates for some or most of the research resources devoted to the RTD activity. This should help to eliminate contentious and protracted dialogue during contract negotiation, the payment process and audits.

Breakdown of finances in the Fourth Framework Programme

Field	Funding (in million Ecu)
Activity 1 - RTD and Demonstration Programmes	10 686
I Information and communication technologies	3 405
1. Telematics	843
2. Communication technologies	630
3. Information technologies	1 932
II Industrial Technologies	1 995
4. Industrial and materials technologies	1 707
5. Standardization, measurements and testing	288
III Environment	1 080
6. Environment and climate	852
7. Marine sciences and technologies	228
IV Life sciences and technologies	1 572
8. Biotechnology	552
9. Biomedicine and health	336
10. Agriculture and fisheries (including agro-industry, food technologies, forestry, aquaculture and rural development)	684
V Energy	2 256
11. Non-nuclear energy	1 002
12. Nuclear fission safety	414
13. Controlled thermonuclear fusion	840
VI Transport	240
14. Transport	240
VII Targeted socio-economic research	138
15. Targeted socio-economic research	138
Activity 2 - Cooperation with third countries and international organizations	540
Activity 3 - Dissemination and exploitation of results	330
Activity 4 - Stimulation of the training and mobility of researchers	744
Total	12 300