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News Roundup on EC Research and Technological Development Programmes

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Progress towards 4th Framework Programme

Council discussion on Commission proposal

On 11 October, the Fourth Framework Programme (1994-1998) moved one step further. Ministers at the Research Council discussed the Commission's proposal.

Most Member States considered the Commission's proposed budget to be realistic. A consensus emerged on the possible number of specific programmes, but this is however not in line with the Commission's thinking, shared by the Parliament. A certain "rapprochement" was reached concerning the breakdown of the total budget over the various action lines.

On the basis of these discussions, the Commission, the Council and the Parliament will continue their ongoing

"trilogue" with the aim of reaching an agreement in the next few months.

Dr Rolph Linkohr, a Member of the European Parliament, has also prepared a report which will be debated first by the Parliament's Energy, Research and Technology Commission (CERT) and then at the Parliament's November plenary session.

Now it has been ratified by the German government, the Maastricht Treaty will enter into force from November of this year. The Fourth Framework Programme will be adopted under the new treaty, probably in early 94.

Commission adopts a working document on content of new specific programmes

On 6 October, the Commission adopted a working document detailing the scientific and technological content of future specific programmes of the Fourth Framework programme (1994-1998). In presenting its views, the Commission is anxious to increase the pace of the implementation of the new Framework Programme, once this has been adopted.

A preliminary examination followed by discussions on the content of the Framework Programme will favour the fastest possible adoption of the specific programmes, which will take place after the Fourth Framework Programme has been formally adopted.

The indications contained in this working document also give a more precise idea of the way in which the general approach of the Framework Programmes, as specified in the Commission's formal proposal (see RTD Info 1 of July 1993), will be worked out, such as:

Reinforcing coordination of Community research activities at EC and Member State level

One example out of many others is that research activities on global change in the Community will be integrated through ENRICH - the European Network for Research Global Change. Another is that a capacity for evaluating political, scientific and technological options at the European level will be created through the development of ETAN (European Technology Assessment Network).

Concentration on reduced number of topics and technologies with multi-sectoral impact, for example

- Work in the field of information and telecommunications technologies, will emphasize infrastructure links and the improvement of access to services.
- In the area of life sciences and technologies, there will be a reinforcement of biotechnology activities and a concentration on health matters, cancer, AIDS, and neurosciences (brain research).
- In the field of Industrial Technologies, activities will be concentrated on three topics: product innovation ("products of the future"), process innovation ("the factory of the future"), development of technologies in the framework of new organisational models.

Greater dissemination of research results

Other important aspects of the Commission's new approach to managing scientific and technological research is the strengthened dissemination of research results, and the encouragement of exploitation possibilities. These activities will no longer cover only Community research results, but also the dissemination of results of research done in the various Member States.

More SME participation

Special attention will be paid to encouraging the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into a large number of other sectors beyond industrial technology research. This will be done by developing cooperative research initiatives such as CRAFT in most programmes, and by simplifying access procedures for the participation of SMEs.

European Science Summit

The first "European Science Summit" was held in Brussels on October 14 and 15. The idea for this summit, which was organised by the European Parliament with the aid of the Commission, came from the Parliament's Energy, Research and Technology Commission (CERT). It was attended by some 20 top ranking European scientists and more than 500 people from the worlds of research, both sides of industry and the press.

The aim of the summit was to stress the importance of science and technology and the way it can help to meet today's challenges in a time of budgetary cutbacks in research and public disaffection with the sector.

The summit focused on four central themes, "Science, technology and sustainable development: towards a new industrial model", "Science, industry and quality of life", "Science, culture, ethics and society", and "European research throughout the world".

PROGRAMME PROFILE

Human Capital and Mobility



"Bottom-up" tender approach: an opportunity for researchers

The goal of the Human Capital and Mobility (HCM) programme is to provide opportunities for training through research, to increase mobility of researchers and promote research cooperation.

Now nearly one year old the programme is running well. Of its total budget of MECU 538.4, MECU 350 have already been spent or committed to a variety of projects.

Evaluators have recommended 2,064 proposals for funding – 26% of all proposals received. More than 900 of the accepted proposals were for individual research fellowships; 516 proposals were for institutional funding; 421 for research network funding; 74 for support of large-scale research facilities; and 146 proposals requested funding for Euroconference proposals.

The great majority of proposals received are in the areas of exact and engineering sciences. In contrast, only nine percent of the proposals received and selected cover social and human sciences.

A unique feature of the HCM programme is its "bottom-up" proposal approach. With this approach, participants are encouraged to propose projects and areas of interest where they require funding. This is in contrast to the "top-down" EC procedure, where tenders are prepared by Commission specialists defining specific areas where research is required.

Guidance of the programme and assessment of the HCM proposals is done by a committee composed of Member State representatives, members of the Committee for European Development of Science and Technology (CODEST) and seven CODEST panels, covering each of the programme areas – mathematics, physics, chemistry, life sciences, earth sciences, engineering, social and human sciences.

Further reading

- Human Capital and Mobility, 1992 Progress Report.
- The Human Capital and Mobility Programme of the European Community, The Launching Phase, (Chimicia Oggi).
- Funding basic science in the EC, Physics World, September 1993.

Contact: J. Rosenbaum, Fax +32 2 2963270

Programme Updates

ADVANCED TRANSPORT TELEMATICS

Two extensions and eight new projects recommended

Evaluations of the projects submitted for the June 1993 call have been finalised. Contract extensions have been recommended for two existing projects in the Advanced Transport Telematics Programme, and for the acceptance of eight new projects which are closely linked to other existing projects. A Community contribution of MECU 8 is required for these projects. It is hoped that negotiations will lead to the continuation of existing projects and to the start of the new projects in early 1994.

The topics covered by the new and extended projects are: user response to demand management schemes; validation and evaluation of the SOCRATES system; cooperation between projects on demand spreading; in-car and man-machine interface conceptual prototype; specific support on hazardous goods; combined transport and SMEs and freight operation; certification procedures for systems safety to include security and electromagnetic compatibility issues; and assessment of the environmental impact of Telematics.

For further information,
Contact: F. Karamitsos,
Fax +32 2 2962391

LRE

Linguistic Research and Engineering

16 projects proposed for funding.

Officials evaluating the second call for proposals for Area 6 of the Linguistic Research and Engineering (LRE) programme have recommended 16 proposals for funding. All these proposals were submitted following the Commission's call for proposals of 8 October 1992 with a deadline of 11 January 1993.

Through its projects, the aim of the LRE programme is to increase awareness of the economic impact of language modelling and engineering activities in Europe and to stimulate the development of a European language infrastructure. For details of the LRE projects proposed for funding:

Contact: Mr. Cencioni,
Fax +352 430134855

Programme Updates

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Second phase call – selection of projects is progressing



Scientific evaluation of the proposals submitted for the second phase (93-94) call, which closed on 19 July, is almost completed. A first shortlist of projects eligible for funding includes Topics 1.4.1. (Stratospheric Ozone), 1.5 (Tropospheric physics and Chemistry) and Topic II.1 (Assessment of Environmental Quality and Monitoring) was approved on 16 September. A list of 52 projects is now with the Commission for final approval. Contract negotiations for most of these will be done before the end of the year.

For the remaining programme areas, shortlists will be drawn up and approved by mid-December at the latest. Contracts will be concluded early next year once the 1994 budget becomes available.

For further information,
Contact: P. Reiniger,
Fax +32 2 2963024

INTAS

International Association for Cooperation with Scientists of the former Soviet Union

The deadline for declarations of interest in the INTAS programme was October 15 and a preselection will be made on November 15 to enable chosen candidates to submit their projects for evaluation.

INTAS has also decided to publish a continuous Call for Proposals in 1994 which will be evaluated quarterly and has been allocated a budget of 20 million ECU.

TIDE

Technology Initiative for Disabled and Elderly People

At its meeting of 27 September the TIDE Committee of national representatives approved 21 projects and three horizontal activities for funding under the 1993-1994 phase of the Technology Initiative for Disabled and Elderly People. This is the first wave of projects chosen from among 293 proposals received following the TIDE call for proposals published in April 1993. The TIDE Evaluation Team considered 174 of these worth funding, representing a total budget of MECU 303, with requested funding from the Commission at MECU 177. It is expected that a further series of projects will be approved for funding before the end of 1993. For details of the new TIDE projects,

Contact: TIDE Central Office
Fax +32 2 2990238

EUROPEAN WEEK ON SCIENTIFIC CULTURE

November 22-27

This series of events jointly organised by museums, research centres and specialist organisations from the different European countries, will take place throughout Europe. They include open days, exhibitions, conferences and television programmes. The objective of this experimental initiative is to make the public and politicians alike aware of the importance of scientific education and culture in Europe. The week was officially launched by Commission Vice President A. Ruberti on 21 September.

BRITE-EURAM

A number of workshops are scheduled for the beginning of 1994 in order to increase coordination between projects and dissemination of results. Efforts have been made to organise these workshops at the same time as international conferences.

The next events will be:
"Mineral exploration technologies"
workshop during the conference
"Economic Geology in Europe"
Keyworth (United Kingdom), April 12-14.

"New construction technologies" workshop during the conference on "Concrete across borders"
Odense (Denmark), June 20-21.

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MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING

Trends in surface water analysis
Lisbon (Portugal), January 22-25.
Open day, January 26.

Trends in speciation analysis
Rome (Italy), February 19-22.
Open day, February 23.

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CONTROLLED NUCLEAR FUSION

"Fusion Expo"
An exhibition on controlled nuclear fusion in the framework of the "European Week on Scientific Culture"
Brussels (Belgium), November 25-28.

Contact: R. Saison
Fax +32 2 2964252

LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PROGRAMME

Workshop on Benchmark Soil Sites
Harare (Zimbabwe), November 16-21.

Assessment of the Potential Needs of Remote Sensing (RS) Applications in Developing Countries
Nairobi (Kenya), November 23-27.

Meeting on Strategic Issues in Measles Research
Brussels (Belgium), November 18.

Meeting on TBC/HIV co-infection and related problems.
Development of an interphase between molecular mycobacteriology and public health (contractholders meeting).
Paris (France), February 14-15.

Workshop on Health Systems Research and the Development of Quality Assurance Programmes at the PHC levels
Maputo (Mozambique), April 1-15.

Contact T. Hall
Fax +32 2 2966252

COST

Workshop/Symposium on "Genetics of Entomopathogenic Nematode - Bacterium Complexes"
Maynooth (Ireland), October 23-27.

Contact: Mr. Chapuis
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SPRINT

Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer

The future of research and technology organizations in Europe
Brussels (Belgium), November 16-17.

Contact: J. R. Tiscar
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Barcelona investment forum
Barcelona (Spain), November 18.

Contact: J. C. Fernandez
Fax +34 1 5815594

Contact: B. Hex
Fax +352 465550

Policy exchange workshops on tacit knowledge
Brussels (Belgium), December 6-7.

Contact: E. Delac
Fax +352 430134544

Technology transfers days 1993-95
Dublin (Ireland), November.

Lecce (Italy), January.
Contact: D. Janssens
Fax +352 430134544

IMPACT

Information Market Policy Actions

Open Information Exchange (OII)
IMPACT Workshop
Luxembourg (Luxembourg),
December 2-3.

Contact: G Heine
Fax +352 430133190

ESPRIT III

European Information Technology Conference 1994

Brussels (Belgium), June 13-15.

Contact: EITC Secretariat
Fax +32 2 2968397

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

BRITE-EURAM CRAFT

Cooperative research action for technology

Call for proposals

Objective: The CRAFT action is designed to meet research and technological development (RTD) needs of grouping of SMEs with common or similar problems but limited or no RTD resources of their own.

CRAFT is subject to an open call for proposals (open until December 1993). Proposal submission is in two steps with brief outline proposals subject to a first screening (step 1) before full proposals are evaluated (step 2).

Deadline: December 22

Contact: CRAFT Helpline
Fax +32 2 2965987



Contact: D. Gould
Fax +32 2 2958072

BIOTECH

Research and technological development in biotechnology

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 2955365



Addressed to research contractors who are or have been participants in Community research and technological development projects.

The work involves:

- Identifying, controlling and appraising the results of research;
- Finding licencees and parties interested in utilizing results;
- Providing adequate financial support for expert studies and experimental developments.

Submissions: Continuous

Next selection procedure will take place during the first quarter of 1994.

Deadline: December 15.

For further information contact:
Fax + 352 430134129

MEASUREMENTS & TESTING

Call for proposals

A new call for proposals under the Measurements & Testing Programme is to be published on December 15 with a possible closing date of 15 April 1994. A series of workshops and "M&T Info Days" is planned in different Member States for the beginning of 1994.



News: Second wave proposals were evaluated on September 21-23. 108 proposals were selected with 467 participants.

VALUE II Programme

Utilization of RTD results

Objective: Exploitation of Community RTD results

IMPACT 2

Information Market Policy Actions

Call for declaration of intent

Objective: To improve European-wide access to information by overcoming technical, linguistic and administrative obstacles thus enabling businesses to obtain information rapidly and efficiently in particular through emerging transmission facilities.

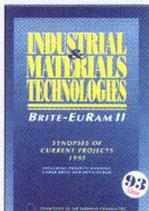
Deadline: January 15.

For further information contact:
Fax+352 34981222

PUBLICATIONS

INDUSTRIAL & MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES

"Industrial & Materials Technologies - Brite-EuRam II - Synopses of Current Projects 1993" is now available. This publication is an update of the revised 1992



edition and contains synopses of all projects running - at beginning 93 - under Brite-EuRam II and those still running under BRITE and BRITE/EURAM, 599 projects in total. Copies can be obtained through Euro Info Centres and the Brite-EuRam II Programme.

Contact: Brite-EuRam Helpline
Fax +32 2 2958046

AERONAUTICS

"Industrial and Material Technologies Programme, Area 3, Aeronautics: Synopses of current projects 1993" is

now available.

It contains a brief synopsis of each of the 27 aeronautics projects plus details of partners and contact persons - address, phone and fax numbers - together with an overview of Community aeronautics activities.

Contact: R. Dunker
Fax +32 2 2950656 or 2964288

MEASUREMENTS & TESTING

The M&T programme now has a "Measurements and Testing Newsletter" which will be published four times a year.

The first issue was published in June 1993 and the second issue is planned for December.

Contact: Ph. Quevaullier
Fax. +32 2 2958072



AGRICULTURE, AGRO-INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES

Now available - from the Agro Industrial Research programmes - including a summary of the programme and a brief look at each project.

ECLAIR: 1. Project synopses 2. Project progress report

FLAIR: Project progress reports

AIR: Ist Call synopses.

Contact: S. Møller
Fax +32 2 2964322

FLAIR-FLOW - FLAIR concerted action for food research and SMEs: 1 page documents and conference information.

Contact: L. Breslin
Fax +32 2 2964322

