

EuroPrix MultiMediaArt '98

A Europe-wide contest in multimedia creativity



The initiative was launched at a press conference held during MILIA '98.

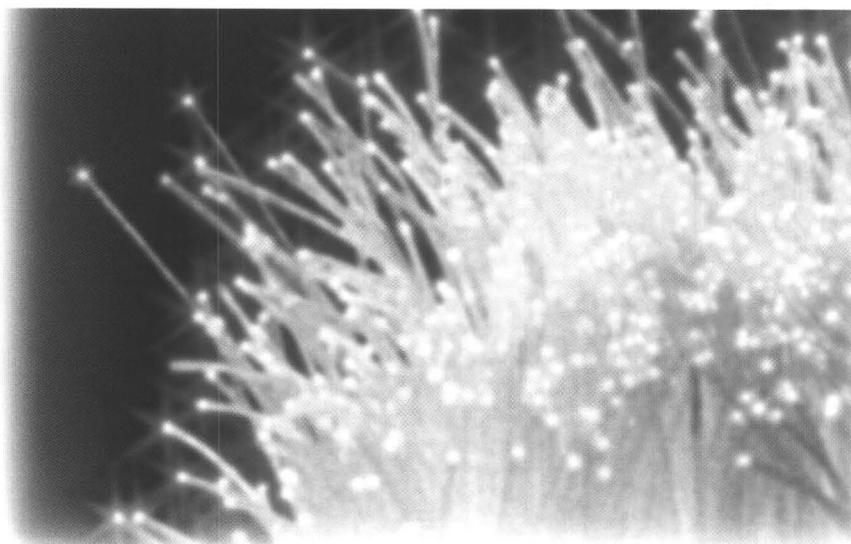
From left to right: **Prof. Dr. Peter A. Bruck**, Techno Z, Austria; **Mr. Alain Giffard**, Ministry of Culture, France; **Dr. Reinhard Kögerler**, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Austria; **Mr. A. Szauer**, European Commission, DG XIII-E.

The showcasing and celebration of the best of Europe's multimedia production is the focus of a new initiative undertaken by the Austrian Ministry of Economic Affairs. The initiative is part of the agenda of Austria's first Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 1998 and is being supported by the European Commission, DG XIII.

EuroPrix MultiMediaArt 1998 is designed as a Europe-wide contest in creativity to be launched at MILIA in Cannes in February. A unique feature is the fact that participation is not only invited from the existing EU Member States and the EFTA countries, but from the ten applicant countries for EU enlargement from Central and Eastern Europe. Multimedia producers from all countries which started to negotiate EU membership at the beginning of 1998 are eligible to take part in the contest.

Unlike other awards, the EuroPrix calls for entries in categories with a purpose. The idea is that multimedia products should demonstrate their added value to the users. Quality has to have direction and meaning. The usefulness of an application has to be assessed in its proper context.

Trading cultural heritage information assets



New web pages have been launched on I*M-Europe:

<http://www.echo.lu/milia98/>, covering EC Research and Development activity in the area of Trading Cultural Heritage Assets. The editor, Wendy Sudbury of the Cambridge Management Group, introduces the site.

Cultural heritage and EC funding programmes



The European Commission understands the need to celebrate and sustain Europe's cultural diversity while at the same time promoting harmony through mutual understanding of languages, custom and history.

Europe's cultural heritage institutions have a vital role to play in this aim and can use the tools of the information society to overcome barriers of geography, language and access. In the process, cultural diversity is encouraged and promoted, while European businesses have a test bed for developing

technological and commercial acumen for the information industries of the new millenium. Everybody wins.

Many of the EC's R&D programmes have strands directly or implicitly relevant to the task of getting Europe's cultural heritage on-line, especially Esprit, ACTS, TAP, Language Engineering, Information Engineering, MLIS, ISIS, TEN-Telecom. There are also Task Forces, strands in the Structural Funds and programmes concerned with culture itself and with education, training and tourism. Aspects of the Fifth Framework Programme will be very relevant.

As part of the drive to synthesise co-operation between different strands of R&D activity, the web site has been set up to take a sector-specific slice through the information available about EC funding programmes, ongoing projects and results. The site will highlight the aspects that help cultural heritage players bid for funds, and help the companies who wish to work with them to solve new problems or exploit the results of completed ones.

CEE: XIII/57

The first material on the site looks at the issues of trading cultural heritage assets. In time it is hoped the site will become a one-stop shop for EC activity on cultural heritage and the information society.

Trading Cultural Heritage Assets

Interest in trading cultural heritage assets does not just come from the Internet. CD-ROM, cable television, satellite communications and broadband networks and the proliferation in traditional media such as radio, terrestrial television, daily and specialist print, have placed a premium on the value of information content.

Current EC-funded R&D activity

Perhaps the most commercially attractive of Europe's cultural heritage information assets are the photographs, film and sound recordings. EC funds have supported research into the technology and standardisation for capturing, storing and transmitting and reproducing digital images, not just images of fine art, but also of maps, plans, and textile designs (e.g. MARC, VASARI, TISSUS, MAGIC).



Interest in 3D imaging is growing, both for virtual reconstruction or virtual visits to heritage sites (ARCHATOUR, VIP). Moving images and sound are also important, not least for the history that is stored in film and sound archives through out Europe.

Problems of copyright are especially acute in this field, where piracy is most feared, and where compression techniques often create problems for watermarking and other digital signatures. EC funds have either supported the building of global models (e.g. IMPRIMATUR), or sector specific models (MUSE for the music industry; ECUP for libraries), or have supported the design and development and trial of systems

and technologies (COPYSMART, TALISMAN, OCTALIS, VIVA).

EC funded projects have also worked on standards for interconnectivity of hardware, software and telecoms (DAVIC, and DCC in the TEN Telecoms Programme). Other projects have tackled "interoperability" of information systems - the models and technologies to share and retrieve information assets from distributed stores, and transmit them over diverse delivery systems and interfaces without loss of meaning or structure (AQUARELLE, VENIVA, EUROMEDIA, MOSAIC). Other projects focus on the ability to re-use assets without reprocessing (CHAMELEON, SYNDAMMA).

There are projects in the field of authoring systems (AMAS), creativity (M.CUBE), and geographic information systems (GEONET, PETIT, European Spatial Metadata).

Gradually the emphasis is shifting from the information technology towards the information *content*. INFO2000 has funded 80 content projects, 29 of these have reached the implementation phase. Thirteen of these are cultural heritage projects, such as CHAMPOLLION, NAVEGAR, or Great Composers.

Electronic commerce

Europe emerged into the industrial age through a combination of social and technological factors. The transition to the information age likewise requires the co-evolution of developments in many separate areas. If the digitised information assets were available, if they could be found and transmitted and enjoyed, the market would still not take off unless the appropriate commercial, financial and legal mechanisms were in place to support a secure transaction process.



There is not yet much evidence that web traffic is generating new profits, although travel and tourism is finding on-line demand for information and bookings. Micro payments may change that, and depend not so much technology as on protocols and trusted third parties. EC funded projects in this area have worked on supporting transactions in the marketplace, and on early market trials (SEMPER, MENHIR, OKAPI, COPINET), or in on-line promotion (HYPERTOUR).

Education and Training

As the cultural heritage community gears up to reach out to on-line users, so the education community is creating tools and learning materials for a wired society. The cultural heritage community is a key source of educational resource material, in partnership with distance learning technologies (TALENT, KAMP). The potential audience is not just children; it includes universities, researchers and life-long learners.



However, cultural heritage organisations are also consumers of training to build basic IT literacy. Along with publishers and educators, they are also developing skills in using new media to interpret cultural heritage assets, transforming data into information thence into electronic publications and experiences, which entertain or build knowledge. They will also require the commercial and entrepreneurial skills to exploit opportunities.

DG X actions (RAPHAEL, MEDIA 2 and KALEIDOSCOPE) are relevant here, as are some of the programmes for international cooperation SOCRATES, LEONARDO, YOUTH FOR EUROPE).

Remaining Challenges

There are still a number of other issues, some technical and some commercial,

which have so far received very little attention.

One such is terminology. The dream of intelligent agents, able to search for meaning through content still eludes us. A search for "shakers" on the Internet finds centrifuges, cocktail makers, recovering alcoholics, a pop group called Movers and Shakers, and eventually the American religious movement.

Names for people and places are especially challenging, not least because of the extended time frame of interest, and the changes in spellings, boundaries and languages which may have taken place over the centuries.

Consequently, when they are recording information about cultural heritage objects, museums still enter data into tightly structured databases. These databases constitute the bulk of digital information assets currently available in cultural heritage, and whilst technology may help overcome the barriers of data structures and data formats, we will not be able to share cultural heritage information without work on terminology standards, especially in a multicultural context.

What is the business model?

Then there are commercial issues. The basic relationships of product and market do not necessarily change just because the product is on-line.



In the pre-electronic age, cultural heritage organisations created diverse products from their two basic resources: *collections or buildings*, and the *information about them*. Their customers and users were the general public, the education and tourist industries, publishers and broadcasters, and museums dealt with them on a variety of terms:

- free access to everything
- free access to the core displays, or to one part of the site
- entry charge for special exhibitions, or to other parts of the building or site
- entry charges for all visitors
- free access for some visitors (local residents, school children, etc.)
- annual block contracts with (e.g) local education departments
- free search facilities and enquiry services
- chargeable search facilities and enquiry service
- licence fees for use of copyrighted items, images, know how
- in house publishing for profit
- voluntary donations at the door
- subsidy through their local or national taxes.

In an on-line world this diversity remains, and the question of who will pay, who *should* pay, how much, and for what, will not go away. At the very least electronic trading will need to recognise and support differential access rights and terms, but no governments have so far shown any interest in direct subsidy for electronic access to cultural heritage.

What is the product?

The Internet has vastly increased the quantity of data available but not necessarily the quality of information, much less the quality of the user-experience.

The cultural heritage community has learned a lot about making a visit more than just a stroll past ranks



of objects in cases or a scramble over bare ground to a pile of stones. Yet we still have only a limited feel for how to use information technology to make the on-line visit rewarding. Technology is only half of the story. Charlie Chaplin did not invent the film camera, but he knew how to use it to communicate and to entertain. Creativity is the missing ingredient.

So far, no one is really using the screen as "space" in the same way that a

designer uses gallery space. We need to break out of the two-dimensional mind-set and really "use" interactive space. Most of the on-line cultural heritage is little more than brochure-ware, and the only successful electronic publications have been art CD-ROMs. Some of these are little more than electronic coffee-table books. They draw little added value from their hyperlinks, and do not begin to exploit the potential of the immediacy of being on-line.



What are the raw materials?

Europe's cultural heritage assets are more diverse (and challenging to render electronically) than two-dimensional works of art. They range from knitting pins to space craft, from cave paintings to cathedrals. They include evidence of the natural world, its landscapes, seascapes, and the evidence of mankind's life and work within it. The most interesting or important aspects of European heritage may not be the most photogenic.

Nor may their exploitation be achieved simply by trading existing cultural heritage information assets. Raw data may be neutral but information is almost always context specific. The progression from *data* to *information* to *understanding* and *enjoying* involves more and more "mediation" of the information assets, and depends more and more on what we call associated information. For example, understanding the process of flight helps a visitor relate to an aeroplane; knowing something about the rituals of a society helps bring an ancient burial ground to life.

Yet much of the digitised information currently in museums or about the built heritage was collected for audit or management purposes. Those databases cannot be searched by the words that speak of common human experiences. At present, much of the necessary associated information is often housed else-

where, in books and libraries, and is assembled anew for each one-off project.



Where are the digital information assets?

Finally, there is the question of all those paper records. Technology will not give access to information that is not there. The task of capturing and digitising cultural heritage information is mammoth. Public/private partnerships may finance the digitisation of the high profile, photogenic items, but that will still leave 99% of Europe's cultural heritage closed off to the information society.

It is also not always realised that a huge amount of cultural heritage information is currently on index cards or forms, filled in by hand or by typewriter. Character recognition, even once it can deal with the vagaries of handwriting, cannot accommodate the fact that people filling in forms did not respect the boundaries of the boxes. As ever, the devil is in the detail.

Conclusion

EC activity for cultural heritage and the information society has been generally helpful. It has moved matters forward in many areas, especially information technologies, information engineering, and the legal infrastructures supporting electronic commerce and rights management. The continuing thrust to address remaining problems under the Fifth Framework Programme is to be welcomed.

The vision of a buoyant business sector trading in access to the full diversity of Europe's cultural heritage is still some way from realisation. The key lies in two areas.

Firstly, enabling of electronic commerce. Once on-line transactions are common currency, proper market demand may

build. Once market needs can be mapped, development capital for digitisation may be forthcoming, under public-private partnerships with fair shares of costs and profits for all players in the value chain.

However, the really elusive element is the nature of the product itself. Information technology is good at providing substitute products (e.g. a searchable database as opposed to a card-index). The Internet has enabled some new complementary products and processes (brochure-ware, on-line price lists).

The user explosion will come when the "impresario" joins with the technologist to add real, new value through real new products. That will probably require partnerships that move beyond the heritage community and the technological players. The skills and the vision probably lie in the entertainment industry, and it is hoped that MILIA was the right place to start the dialogue.

Multimedia content: new research perspectives



Advanced multimedia content is to get a strong boost in European research well into the next millennium. Multimedia Content and Tools is one of the new key actions proposed in the EU's Fifth Framework Programme 1998-2002, under the general heading of the

Userfriendly Information Society. Other priority topics are: systems and services for the citizen, electronic commerce and essential technologies and infrastructures.

Research in this area is already underway, but reviews by industry and government experts have pointed to the need to focus EU actions in this area, to help keep up Europe's long-standing creativity and strengths in the knowledge-based industries.

Multimedia content, as provided through publishing, media, cultural bodies or individuals is vital to the information society. It is a key strength of Europe in the value chain of research and new knowledge-based products. Research will help explore some of the new issues facing information providers and users:

- multimedia content is going 100% digital: can users and providers cope with all-digital content in today's paper-based systems?;
- multimedia content is becoming interactive, non-linear and intuitive: radically new interfaces are needed for non-expert users;
- multimedia content requires new business models to cope with the economics of commerce in content, as well as technologies to safeguard intellectual property rights, down to individual fragments of data, image or sound;
- multimedia content needs more multilingualism for linguistic and cultural diversity on global information networks, in business and leisure;
- multimedia content needs to be 'smart', and bear knowledge and meaning so that it can be more readily understood by computers;
- multimedia content is increasingly a global commodity and should be platform-free;
- multimedia content will be distributed amongst heterogeneous retrieval systems, and will need to be easily aggregated, in a dynamic and personalised way;
- multimedia content of lasting value must be preserved for posterity. Nobody yet knows for certain how

long digital storage media last, or what kind of retrieval systems will prevail in the next decades;

- multimedia content is still too hard to retrieve. Information filtering for benign purposes or for preventing illegal and harmful content is increasingly important.

The research will cover innovative forms of multimedia content, such as digital audiovisual, animation with high-quality colour rendering, voice synthesis, personalised and dynamic content with in-built algorithms, linguistic metadata, and of course virtual reality objects. Today's authoring tools, management systems, search engines, billing and accounting systems and filtering software cannot easily keep up. New approaches to the design, management and use of multimedia content are needed, building on global standards and taking full account of Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

The Commission's proposal aims to stimulate industrial and applications research through collaborative research in four inter-locked areas: interactive electronic publishing, as well as cultural and library-based systems; education and training systems; human language technologies; information access, handling and filtering technologies.

Projects will be well upstream of INFO2000 activities, taking on board new and innovative technologies. The proposal is currently with the Council and the European Parliament, and further details will be available in the coming months.

Readers can find out about current research projects related to multimedia content through:

<http://www.echo.lu> for Telematics Applications projects and <http://www.tagish.co.uk/ethos/news/default.htm>, the central site for the Telematics Applications Programme. News about the Fifth Framework Programme can be found on <http://www.cordis.lu/fifth/src/whatsnew.htm>

The rules governing procedure in the award of public procurement contracts

The exploitation of content resources in the public sector is one of the most important aims of INFO2000. Related to this is the exploitation of the real content of data which has already been made available for public use. Since the legal framework concerning TED and the contextual background against which the information on public procurement is placed is essential to its users, we will continue with our overview in four parts of the rules governing the procedure in the award of public procurement contracts.

Details relative to **Part I** (the political context, the economic importance of public procurement, the Community legal context and international agreements on public procurement) can be found in issue 3/97, pp. 6-7.

Part II: The directives on public supplies, works and services

The scope of contracts

Public contracts are defined as contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between a supplier, contractor or service provider and a public purchaser, termed a 'contracting authority' in the three relevant directives (the consolidated Supplies Directive No 93/36/EEC, the consolidated Works Directive No. 93/37/EEC and the Public Services Directive No 92/50/EEC).

Public supply contracts relate to the delivery of products. It includes purchase, lease, rental or hire purchase, with or without the option to buy.

Public works contracts cover the execution and design of works, the execution by whatever means of a work corresponding to the requirements specified by the contracting authority. A work is defined by the directive as the outcome

of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole that is sufficient of itself to fulfil an economic and technical function. Contracting authorities frequently choose to rely on a general contractor who designs the works according to their requirements and coordinates execution of the entire project, or else prefer to conclude a project development or management contract whereby the work is financed and executed entirely by the contractor, whom they then of course reimburse. Public service contracts are defined very broadly in the directive. The definition covers all contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between a service provider and a contracting authority for the execution of these services, to the exclusion of:

- public supply and public works contracts;
- contracts awarded in the water, energy, transport or telecommunications sector.

We can state among others: Studies, advertising, consultants, transport, maintenance and repair, engineering, financial, computer and legal services.

Contracting authorities

The following are regarded as contracting authorities:

- the state;
- regional or local authorities (town councils, municipalities, Länder, regional administrations);
- bodies governed by public law;
- associations formed by regional or local authorities.

A list of legal persons governed by public law and subject to the GATT agreement is annexed to the Supplies Directive.

The Public Supplies, Works and Services Directives define in the same way the concept of bodies governed by public law. Bodies governed by public law are defined by the Works and Services Directives according to a set of cumulative criteria:

- established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
- having legal personality, and
- financed for the most part by the state, regional or local authorities, or subject to management supervision by those bodies, or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the state, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law.

Value thresholds*

The threshold above which public supply contracts are subject to Community rules is ECU 200 000, except that under Directive No 93/36/EEC a lower threshold of ECU 128 771 applies to certain public supply contracts covered by the GATT agreement. The ECU 128 771 threshold has 1 January 1994 (it is revised every two years) to public supply contracts awarded by central governments and certain central entities listed in Annex I of Directive No. 93/36/EEC.

In the case of public works contracts, the threshold is ECU 5 million. In the case of public services contracts, the threshold is ECU 200 000.

Where a contract is subdivided into several lots, the total value of all the lots must be taken into account for the purpose of determining whether the threshold specified in the relevant directive is reached. This rule is laid down explicitly in the Works, Supplies and Services Directives.

No procurement requirement for a given quantity of supplies or services and no

* The value of the thresholds as laid down in the directives shall, in principle, be revised every two years as of 1 January 1996.

work or contract may be split up with the intention of keeping it outside the scope of the directives.

In the case of subsidised works or service contracts, Member States must take the necessary measures to ensure that contracting authorities comply or ensure compliance with the Works Directive where they subsidise directly by more than 50% a works contract worth not less than ECU 5 million awarded by an entity other than themselves. This rule applies, however, only to contracts covered by Class 50, Group 502 of NACE and relating to building work for hospitals, facilities intended for sports, recreation and leisure, school and university buildings and buildings used for administrative purposes. In the Service Directive, the same applies to service contracts worth not less than ECU 200 000 and awarded in connection with a subsidised works contract as defined above.

Who can participate?

The directives provide for three types of award procedure that contracting authorities can use:

- open procedure: all interested suppliers, contractors or service providers may submit tenders;
- restricted procedure: only those suppliers, contractors or service providers invited by the contracting authority may submit tenders;
- negotiated procedure: the contracting authority consults suppliers, contractors or service providers of its choice and negotiates the terms of the contract with one or more of them. Two types of negotiated procedure may be used: with or without publication of a notice in the Official Journal. The cases in which these two types of negotiated procedure may be used are listed exhaustively in each directive.

For public supply, works and service contracts, the contracting authority has the choice between open and restricted procedures. They are both the general procedure. The negotiated procedure may be used only in justified cases and

if the conditions required for its use are fulfilled.

In all cases, the contracting authority must draw up a written report including a number of particulars such as the name and address of the contracting authority, the subject and value of the contract, the names of the candidates or tenderers admitted and rejected as well as the reasons for their selection and rejection, the name of the successful tenderer and the reason why this tender was selected and, if known, any share of the contract which he may intend to subcontract to third parties. In the case of negotiated procedures, the circumstances referred to in the relevant directive which justify the use of these procedures.

The report, or its main features, must be communicated to the Commission at its request.

It should be stressed that, in open and restricted procedures, all negotiation with candidates or tenderers on fundamental aspects of contracts, in particular prices, is ruled out. However, discussions with candidates or tenderers may be held but solely for the purpose of clarifying or supplementing the content of their tenders or the requirements of the contracting authorities and provided this does not involve discrimination.

Information

The directives' aim is to make contract procedures more transparent, and they form part of a major effort to improve the flow of information through action on three main fronts:

- prior information on procurement programmes;
- publication of tender notices;
- publication of a contract award notice for each contract.

The Commission has taken action to simplify the task of drawing up tender notices for publication in the Official Journal (OJ) by recommending the use of standard forms (see Commission Recommendation No 91/561/EEC, OJ L 305 and the standard forms published in



	Time-limits for receipt of requests to participate		Time-limits for receipt of tenders	
	Normal	Urgent	Normal	Urgent
Open procedures	/	/	not less than 52 days ⁽¹⁾	/
Restricted procedures	not less than 37 days	not less than 5 days	not less than 40 days ⁽²⁾	not less than 10 days
Negotiated procedures	not less than 37 days	not less than 5 days	/	/

(1) Reduced to 36 days in the case of works and service contracts where an indicative notice has been published.
(2) Reduced to 26 days in the case of works and service contracts where an indicative notice has been published.

OJ S 217A-N). Interested firms have a better grasp of the requirements for bidding for a contract thanks to the common language used in these forms. The Commission has also set up a simplified standard tender notice applicable to all directives.

Prior information should enable firms to be aware of the intentions of contracting authorities at a sufficiently early stage. The Public Works Directive requires contracting authorities to publish, before the launch of the award procedure, an indicative notice in the OJ summarising the essential characteristics of the works contracts which they intend to award and the estimated value which must not be less than ECU 5 000 000. The Public Supplies and Services Directives require contracting authorities to make known, as soon as possible after the beginning of their budgetary year and by means of an indicative notice, the total procurement by product area which they envisage awarding during the subsequent 12 months, whereby the total estimated value must not be less than ECU 750 000.

The **publication of tender notices** must follow in accordance with the models annexed to the directives. The date of publication marks the point when the contract award procedure begins. The minimum periods that contracting authorities must allow under the different types of procedure are set out in the table featured at the top of this page.

This is followed by the **publication of contract award notice** for each contract under all directives, laying down the details of how contracts have been awarded. The notice must be drawn up in accordance with the model annexed to the directives and be sent not later than 48 days after the contract in question has been awarded. It must give particulars such as the date of award of the contract, the award criteria, the number of offers received, the name and address of the successful tenderer(s), and the price or range of prices paid.

All directives also require contracting authorities to inform, within 15 days of the date on which the request is received, any eliminated candidate or tenderer who so requests on the reasons for rejection of his/her application or tender, and, in the case of a tender, the name of the successful tenderer (in addition to the written report mentioned before).

Selection criteria

To prevent discriminatory practices, the three directives list a number of possible selection criteria. These relate to the good repute, professional qualifications, economic and financial standing and technical knowledge or ability of the supplier, contractor or service provider.

Special conditions for participation

The following applies to all the three directives:

The contracting authority may ask the tenderer to indicate in his tender any share of the contract he may intend to subcontract to third parties.

Groups are allowed to submit tenders without having to be set up in advance in a particular legal form.

Should the contracting authority supply certain information on the requirements relating to working conditions at the works site or place where the services are to be performed (in particular the name and address of the responsible authority), the contractor or service provider must indicate whether he has taken the relevant requirements into account when drawing up his tender.

A contracting authority may lay down conditions not covered by the directives, provided that they comply with the four basic principles as laid down in the Treaty of Rome (see part I) and are mentioned in the tender notice.

Award criteria

Supply, works and service contracts may be awarded on the basis of one of two criteria:

- either the lowest price;
- or the most economically advantageous tender.

For the purpose of determining the most economically advantageous tender, the directives give a non-exhaustive list of criteria that may be applied: Price, delivery or completion date, technical merit, quality, aesthetic and functional characteristics, running costs, cost-effectiveness, after-sales services and technical assistance. In this case, the contracting authority shall state in the contract notice all the criteria they intend to apply to the award, where possible in descending order of importance.

If a tender appears to be abnormally low, a contracting authority is not free to reject it automatically. The three Directives establish a procedure in which the contracting authority has to request, in writing, details of the constituent elements of the tender and verify them in the light of explanations received.

Source:

European Commission
DG XV, Unit XV/B/3
rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Fax: (+32-2) 296 09 62.

Part III of this series will cover the directive on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors. **Part IV** will consider the problem of ensuring compliance with the directives.

Further information on TED in general can be obtained from:

ECHO
B.P. 2373
L-1023 Luxembourg
ted@echo.lu

News on ECHO databases and services

ECHO users should note that the Eurolib, Ecosoc and Thesauri databases have been removed from the ECHO host. However, we are pleased to inform you that Ecosoc can be accessed via the following URL:

<http://www.esc.eu.int/en/docs>

The ECU service has also been withdrawn and can now be found at the following URL:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg02/xecud.htm>

Further information on EUROLIB can be obtained from: Mrs Alcalá,
Tel.: +39-55-468-53-59;
E-mail: alcala@datacomm.ieu.it

We look forward to launching the new web site for the ever-popular TED database in February 1998.

MIDAS-NET Node profiles

MIDAS-NET DANMARKS opgaver

- fungerer som katalysator for videnformidling om og brug af multimedie baseret information i Danmark. Der lægges vægt på brug af information som et strategisk hjælpemiddel for danske firmaer - og for befolkningen som sådan, gennem biblioteker; målretter vores aktiviteter mod danske SMV'er for at styrke deres evne til at operere på globalt plan;
- støtter den danske multimedie industri gennem etableringen af tæt kontakt mellem brugere og producenter og mellem den danske multimedie industri og multimedie industrier i andre EU-lande;
- informerer om INFO2000 programmet og tilbyder råd og støtte med hensyn til Call For Proposals (CFPs) og Partnersøgning.

Mission of the MIDAS-NET node in DENMARK

- act as a catalyst for the awareness and the use of multimedia information content in Denmark. The emphasis is on the use of information as a strategic resource amongst Danish companies and amongst the public, through libraries;
- target our activities to support Danish SMEs in strengthening their capabilities to operate in a global market place;
- stimulate the Danish Multimedia industry by establishing close contacts between users and producers, between the Danish multimedia industry and the multimedia industry in other EU countries;
- spread the knowledge of INFO2000 as broadly as possible and offer advice and support regarding CFPs and partner searches.

URL: <http://midasweb.dti.dk/>



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Beskrivelse: EuroCentre tilbyder danske virksomheder erhvervsrettet EU-information. EuroCentre stiller sin viden til rådighed via informationsmøder, nyhedsblade, direct mail samt EuroWeb og EuroCentre online. EuroCentre driver en help-desk, hvor der besvares spørgsmål om EU fra danske virksomheder. Help-desken kan kontaktes via telefon, fax, e-mail, brev, EuroWeb, EuroCentre online og personligt fremmøde.

Description: Spreading information to Danish SMEs concerning relevant EU matters. Running a help-desk and electronic services with EU information. Conducting awareness activities, arranging meetings and other activities.

Partners

Dansk BiblioteksCentre
Tempovej 7-11
DK-2750 Ballerup

Contact: Ms. Suzanne Hemmet
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Beskrivelse: Dansk Biblioteks Centre er en central virksomhed i den danske biblioteks-, dokumentations- og informationssektor. Virksomheden er center for bibliografisk registrering og publicering og forestår den fælles edb-infrastruktur i det samarbejdende biblioteksvæsen.

Description: The Danish Library Centre is a central company in the Danish library sector and its mission is information service, bibliographic registration and publishing for all kinds of libraries in Denmark.

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Beskrivelse: har til formål at styrke konkurrenceevnen i dansk erhvervsliv - herunder også SMV'er. Dette gøres primært ved at tilbyde rådgivning og viden om strategisk brug af information og informationsteknologi. MarkedsService er specialister i effektiv og målrettet indsamling af markeds- og teknologiinformation samt intern organisering, formidling og anvendelse af information som et led i virksomheders forretningsudvikling.

Description: The purpose of DTI Market Service is to strengthen the Danish corporate sector, primarily SMEs, by providing them with knowledge that can help them to become more competitive. This knowledge is presented in the form of individual, results-oriented information about markets, technology and finance, for instance, or in the form of solutions for groups of companies. Also offered are training and consulting, with IT as the basic tool.

Euro Info Centre Herning (EIC-DK054)
Herning Ikast Erhvervsråd

Birk Centerpark 7, Birk
DK-7400 Herning
Contact: Ms. Hanne Mølbak Thårup
Tel.: (+45-97) 12 92 00
Fax: (+45-97) 12 92 44
E-mail: herning@inet.uni-c.dk

Beskrivelse: Formålet med Euro Info Center i Herning er at bidrage til den regionale udvikling indenfor handel. Vores service består af information og råd til SMV'er om europæiske forhold. Vi har specialiseret os i følgende felter: miljøudvikling/uddannelse, teknologiudvikling og kvalitetsstyring/uddannelse.

Description: The objective of the Euro Info Centre in Herning is to contribute to the regional development of businesses. Services consist of information and advice to SMEs on European issues. The centre is specialised in environmental development/training, technology development and quality management/training.

MIDAS-NET's oppgifter i SVERIGE

MIDAS-NET i Sverige är ett mänskligt och elektroniskt nätverk, som ska stimulera både användare och producenter till en ökad efterfrågan, produktion och användning av europeiska multimedieprodukter och elektroniska informationstjänster. MIDAS-NET i Sverige leds av ett konsortium bestående av UR, SISU, KTH, NUTEK, Statskontoret och Swedish TelePedagogic Knowledge Centre.

Mission of the MIDAS-NET node in SWEDEN

The national MIDAS-NET node for Sweden is implemented by a consortia of Swedish organisations that have extensive networks and involvement configurations in the multimedia market. The Swedish MIDAS-NET node addresses specifically twelve sectors/actor categories to which MIDAS-NET information and support could contribute to their ambitions for further development.

URL: <http://www.ur.se/midas-net/>

Co-ordinator

UR - Swedish Educational Broadcasting Company
Tulegatan 7
S-113 95 Stockholm
Contact: Ms. Ing-Marie Olofsdotter
Tel.: (+46-8) 784 40 00
Fax: (+46-8) 612 71 32
E-mail: midas-net@ur.se

Beskrivning: Utbildningsradion (UR) är ett public serviceföretag som erbjuder utbildnings- och folkbildningsprogram samt kurser via TV, radio och informationsteknik till barn, ungdomar och vuxna. UR är aktiv inom MIDAS-NET i Sverige för att sprida kunskap om och främja användningen av informationsteknik hos allmänheten och hos URs målgrupper skolan, folkbildningen och AVMedia. UR är koordinator inom MIDAS-NET i Sverige och sköter MIDAS-NETs www-sidor.

Description: An educational company for radio and TV broadcasting, as well as publishing information and educational material for the Swedish national market. It is one of three companies which constitute the Swedish public broadcasting system. Production and broadcasting of educational programmes on the national and regional/local networks.

Partners

EIC NUTEK - Swedish National Board for Industrial and Technical Development
Liljeholmsvägen 32
S-117 86 Stockholm
Contact: Ms. Jeanette Randen
Tel.: (+46-8) 681 91 00
Fax: (+46-8) 744 40 45
E-mail: jeanette.randen@nutek.se

Beskrivning: Närings- och teknikutvecklingsverket (NUTEK) är Sveriges centrala myndighet för frågor som rör näringslivets tillväxt och förnyelse. NUTEK är värddorganisation för Euro Info Centre (EIC) NUTEK som ingår i EU-kommissionens nätverk av informationskontor för småföretag. EIC NUTEK arbetar sedan 1993 med information om EU till företag i hela landet. Inom

MIDAS-NET i Sverige skall EIC NUTEK arbeta med information om EU's initiativ inom multimediaområdet gentemot små- och medelstora företag.

Description: NUTEK is Sweden's central public authority for matters concerning the growth and renewal of industry and the promotion of technical research, industrial development and the creation of SMEs, for instance. NUTEK is the host of the Euro Info Centre network.

KTH - Royal Institute of Technology
S-100 44 Stockholm
Contact: Mr. Peter Graham
Tel.: (+46-8) 790 6515
Fax: (+46-8) 10 25 10
E-mail: graham@nada.kth.se

education, and extension courses. The institute's library (KTHB) is the national resource library for technology and related sciences.

Statskontoret - Swedish Agency for Administrative Development
P.O. Box 2280
S-103 17 Stockholm
Contact: Mr. Sören Lindh
Tel.: (+46-8) 454 46 00
Fax: (+46-8) 791 89 72
E-mail: soren.lindh@mailbox.swipnet.se

Beskrivning: Statskontoret är ett statligt verk vars uppgift är att ge regeringen och departementen stöd i arbetet att ompröva, effektivisera och styra statlig och statligt finansierad verksamhet. Statskontoret biträder också i övrigt departement, kommittéer och arbetsgrupper inom regeringskansliet. Statskontoret är programansvarig för INFO2000 i Sverige och finns med i styrkommittén Infocom. Statskontoret skall i MIDAS-NET i Sverige var en länk till offentlig förvaltning med dess många informationsproducenter och användare. Statskontoret skall bidra till att främja policyarbetet när det gäller innehåll och tillgång till informationstjänster.

Description: As an advisor to the government, it carries out surveys and other commissions on efficiency and effectiveness. It provides the Cabinet of Ministries with proposals and documentation decisions, and participates in a number of projects, working groups and committees. The agency has ordering responsibility for national statistics and compiles information on developments in the public sector.

SISU - Swedish Institute for Systems Development
Electrum 212
S-164 40 Stockholm

Contact: Mr. Yngve Pavasson
Tel.: (+46-8) 752 16 00
Fax: (+46-8) 752 68 00
E-mail: yngve@sisu.se

Beskrivning: Svenska Institutet För Systemutveckling (SISU) är ett industri-forskningsinstitut inom IT-området vars

syfte är att verka för ett rationellt användande av IT inom den verksamhet som bedrivs av svenska företag och av offentliga institutioner. SISU skall i sin verksamhet samarbeta med sina instressenter, med svenska och utländska universitet, högskolor och FoU-institutioner samt med branschinstitut. SISU är aktiv inom MIDAS-NET i Sverige för att via inventering utbyta och överföra erfarenheter samt att sprida information om framgångsrika exempel och god praxis vid användningen av multimediatekniker.

Description: SISU acts as a bridge between research institutions (such as universities and institutes of higher learning) and industry, business and administration. Founded in 1984, it has extensive experience in research and development projects.

STPKC - Swedish TelePedagogic Knowledge Centre
Magasinsgatan 4
S-611 30 Nyköping
Contact: Mr. Kennet Lindquist
Tel.: (+46) 155 214 222
Fax: (+46) 155 287 872
E-mail: kennet.lindquist@noesis.se

Description: A networking company, binding together the expertise and innovative actors in Sweden and Europe as well as the rest of the world. It has become a recognised national and European "knowledge broker" and is also a national co-ordinator for a range of collaborative actions, such as user group formation, user support and implementing national events related to EU initiatives.

Beskrivning: Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (KTH) är en modern och teknisk högskola med utbildning och forskning i världsklass. KTH svarar för en tredjedel av Sveriges kapacitet inom ingenjörs-utbildning och teknisk forskning på högskolenivå. Utbildnings- och forskningsprogrammet täcker ett brett område från naturvetenskap till samtliga grenar inom tekniken. KTHs bibliotek (KTHB) är ett nationellt ansvarsbibliotek för teknologi och dess grundvetenskaper. Som partner i MIDAS-NET i Sverige svarar KTH för startseminariet, HelpDesk samt seminarier, kurser och utställningsdeltagande.

Description: A modern technical institute with first class education and research. Provides one third of Sweden's capacity for engineering studies and technical research at post-secondary level. Research activities cover a broad spectrum. KTH implements undergraduate studies, engineering and continuing

CORDIS mobile facility touring six European cities



A newly launched European tour arrived in Luxembourg on 15 - 18 December 1997 to show enterprises the shortest way to innovation. The CORDIS tour, officially launched in Luxembourg on 16 December in the presence of European Commission officials, local Innovation Relay Centres and Luxembourg press, is aimed at informing European businesses and organisations as well as any interested citizens about the service.

Shortly after the Christmas holidays, the tour moved to London to coincide with the beginning of the UK's Presidency of the European Union. The CORDIS display vehicle stayed next to St. Paul's Cathedral in the heart of London until 9 January; visitors included London based enterprises and universities, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and EC affiliated organisations.

The CORDIS tour in London generated awareness of the United Kingdom Council Presidency R&D Information Service, which was pre-launched at On-line '97 in mid-December of last year. This service was jointly developed by CORDIS and the UK Office of Science and Technology (OST), part of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). To help communicate information in the area of research and technological development (R&D) during the

UK's term of office, the arrival of CORDIS in London highlighted UK specific areas.

CORDIS is touring Bonn (19-20 January) and Bochum (21-22 January) before moving to Paris, Milan and Brussels. The tour will be concluded on 12 February after 40 days on the road. Containing four terminals with access to the CORDIS Web site, the Commission's vehicle provides the essentials for CORDIS hands-on practice sessions and demonstrations, open, free of charge, to all interested enterprises. CORDIS Customer service personnel offer short practice sessions for those interested from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for four days in every city.

"The tour is an excellent opportunity for organisations or institutes to discover the benefits of European Commission Research and Development programmes," states Peter Finch of DG XIII/D2.

For further information on this and other CORDIS-related aspects, please do not hesitate to contact:

CORDIS Customer Service
2, rue Pletzer
L-8080 Helfent-Bertrange

Tel.: +352-441012-2240
Fax: +352-441012-2248
E-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu



CORDIS reminder! Open call until 26 March 1998

The European Commission's (DG XIII) call for tender relating to the Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) is still open. Any interested contractors may request application documents, describing in greater detail the work to be carried out, from the following address:

European Commission
DG XIII – Telecommunications,
Information Market and Exploitation of
Research DG XIII/D-2
Jean Monnet Building (EUFO 2/188)
Plateau du Kirchberg
L-2920 Luxembourg
Fax: +352-4301-34989.

The closing date for requesting tender documentation is 21 March 1998. The deadline for submission of tenders is 26 March (date of postmark).

CORDIS can be viewed at the following Web site:

<http://www.cordis.lu/>

I am interested in receiving
information on CORDIS

Name

Organisation/Company
.....

Address

City

Country

CORDIS Customer Service
2, rue Pletzer
L-8080 Helfent-Bertrange

Tel.: +352-441012-2240

Fax: +352-441012-2248

E-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu

The five categories for the EuroPrix contest are:

- knowledge and discovery;
- valorisation of European culture;
- support of SMEs in the market place;
- improve democracy with multimedia;
- first steps in multimedia.

The EuroPrix contest will run from February to the end of June and the MIDAS-NET nodes will promote the contest in all regions of the continent. This extensive promotion will ensure that every multimedia producer will have a fair chance to participate. In addition, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation will work with other leading broadcasters and media partners to publicise the contest.

An expert jury will select three nominees per category in July and the three products and their producers will be showcased at a special presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 1998.

In December 1998, around the time of the Governmental Conference of the Austrian EU Presidency, a special gala event will be held in Vienna where the awards will be presented to the winners. A CD-ROM and a printed catalogue will be produced to publicise the products and their achievements.

Further information can be obtained from:

EuroPrix Secretariat
 Techno-Z FH Forschung & Entwicklung GmbH
 Jakob Haringer-Strasse, 5
 A-5020 Salzburg.

Tel.: +43-662-454888-700

Fax: +43-662-45-61-74

E-mail: organisers@europrix.org

<http://www.europrix.org>

Official Notice

Charges for the use of TED have changed:

- On-line connection – free-of-charge;
- 'All' format (full text, per document) – 1.2 ECU;
- 'Extra' format (reduced format, per document) – 0.6 ECU.

Legal Internet issues on I*M Europe

Providing an overview of the Information Society's legal obstacles



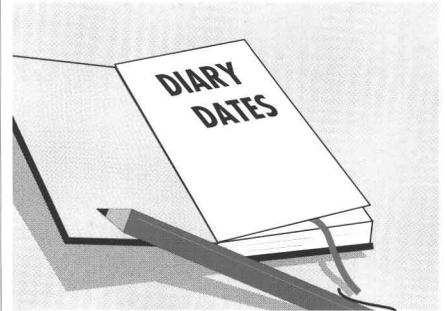
The Information Society poses an almost endless list of legal issues, above all concerning the Internet. The Action Plan on Promoting Safe Use of the Internet is the most recent example of legal action taken in this field and the I*M-Europe server is probably the best medium to provide up-to-date information about such issues and how they are being dealt with. I*M Europe offers a rich section on legal issues as an integral part of the INFO2000 programme's action line on triggering European multimedia potential. In this section you find the monthly newsletter of the Legal Advisory Board (LAB), a press release and a Commission communication with further information on the Action Plan. There is a lot of other useful information and links to the resources, as well as a link to LAB's legal homepage at the following URL:

<http://www.echo.lu/legal/en/news/>

This regularly updated (at least once a week) and multilingual (selected sections are in English, German, French, Italian and/or Spanish) homepage therefore makes it an excellent tool to enter the world of European legal issues.

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The INFO2000 Central Office will be represented at the following events:

Hanover	CEBIT '98 20-25 March 1998
Paris	I.D.T. 09-11 June 1998
Hanover	Cebit Home '98 30 August to 4 September 1998
Frankfurt 50.	Frankfurter Buchmesse 07-12 October 1998
London	On-line/CD-ROM Information 08-10 December 1998



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