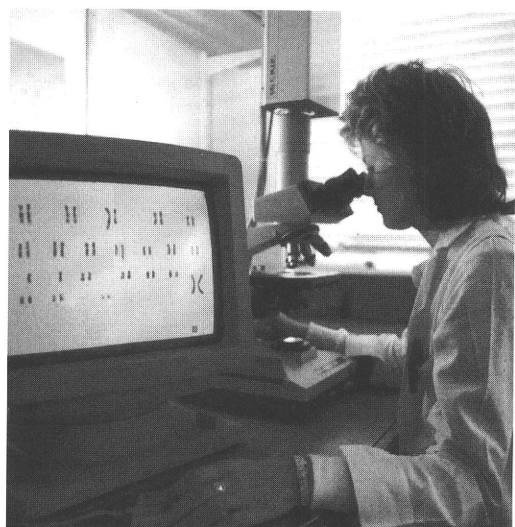


INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Innovating Research Programme Decisions

The first wave of specific research and technological development programmes within the Third Framework Programme has now been agreed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. This follows a long drawn out debate in the Council, Member States and European Parliament, during which, at one stage, the European Commission withdrew its proposals.

The new programmes were finally adopted more than a year and a half after the approval of the Third Framework Programme itself, which runs from 1990 to 1994. Decisions on the majority of the remaining programme proposals are expected in September or October this year. Further delays are however anticipated for some programmes in the nuclear energy area.

This hold-up in the decision-making machinery will also have repercussions affecting the adoption of the proposed "centralized action" for the dissemination and exploitation of research results (see *Innovation and Technology Transfer*, 1/91). The centralized action, which will continue and further develop the work of the VALUE programme, is not now expected to complete the approval procedure until well into 1992.

Community research policy should be based on a long or medium term strategy arrived at by consensus among Member States and European researchers. That is why the Commission initiated the Framework Programme which is now written into the Single Act. The Framework Programme sets out the priority research and technological development (RTD) areas which are to receive Community support, and defines the overall budget.

In order that similar delays in the approval and implementation of the specific programmes making up the Framework Programme are avoided in the future, the Commission has proposed that the Community's treaties be revised, so that the Framework Programme alone should require approval at the level of the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. Individual research programmes could then be implemented immediately. The other European institutions - the Council, Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee - would still be able to influence the overall direction of the priority areas in the Framework Programme. Strategic corrections and modifications, and changes to new sectors of research, would remain possible for each four-year period. Flexibility is also possible within certain limits in individual programmes.

This change would have immediate advantages for industry and researchers around Europe.

These proposals are currently being discussed by the Intergovernmental Conference that is considering plans for further European unity. Innovation is needed in the decision-making process for European research just as much as innovation is a prerequisite for the success of European industry.

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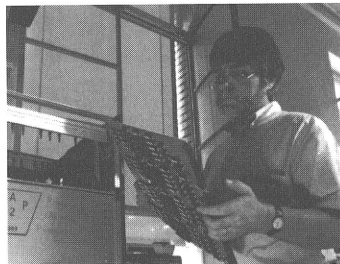
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Third Framework Programme for EC research and technological development, 90-94 **New specific programmes announced**

Five new specific programmes have been agreed on 7 June 1991 by the Council of Ministers within the Framework Programme which covers all Community funded research and technological development. The Commission is launching Calls for Proposals in the areas outlined below. The new programmes are:

1. Communications technologies

The programme focuses on eight priority areas including the provision of verification techniques and facilities. It will concentrate on areas of work which require the collaboration of two or more telecommunications sector organisations in the common interests of the Community.



- Area 1: IBC (Integrated Broadband Communications) R&D
- Area 2: Intelligence in networks/flexible communications resource management
- Area 3: Mobile and personal communications
- Area 4: Image and data communications
- Area 5: Integrated services technologies
- Area 6: Information security technologies
- Area 7: Advanced communications experiments
- Area 8: Test infrastructures and interworking (horizontal R&D area supporting the other priority areas).

This specific programme will cover three main types of work, namely: development of implementation strategies for IBC systems, services and applications; advanced communications technologies; and validation of standards and equipment and services to address generic applications.

2. Telematic systems of general interest

This programme covers six areas:

Area 1. Support for the establishment of trans-European networks between administrations. The objective is to carry out studies and research to link national administrations in a single market and for the provision of services necessary for the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital. In the first instance the priority sub-areas will be customs, social security, frontier police, indirect taxation and statistics.

Area 2. Transport services. This area includes sub-areas in road transport which will lead to a global strategy for the use of technology and telematic systems for communications and traffic control. A second sub-area will concentrate on approaches to automating air traffic control and improving safety.

Area 3. Health care. Based on the exploratory work of AIM (Advanced Informatics in Medicine), work will be concentrated on strategies for the use of technologies, telematic systems and services and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications; the development of telematic technology applied to medicine; and verification and integration.

Area 4. Distance learning. Based on the experience gained from the DELTA (Informatics in education) and other programmes, this area will cover the drawing up of implementation strategies, development of technologies and systems and validation and integration of services.

Area 5. Libraries. The objective is to facilitate user access, by the optimum use and development of equipment and telematic systems, to the wealth of knowledge held in libraries, while reducing the handicaps caused by the present disparate infrastructures in the Community.

Area 6. Linguistic research and engineering. The aim is to develop a basic technology which can be incorporated into a large number of computer applications where natural language is an essential ingredient. This requires the creation of linguistic resources (grammars, dictionaries, terminology collections and corpora of text) for the nine official Community languages and the definition of standards for these data.

Area 7. Telematic systems for rural areas.

3. Marine science and technology

A number of activities will build on initiatives undertaken under the MAST pilot programme. These will include the establishment of a European ocean data and information system; the preparation of norms and standards for marine science and technology; a modelling coordination initiative; development of a pilot communication system for exchange of information on research cruises and research facilities; studies on the scientific and design requirements for new large scale facilities; and new approaches to mapping and bathymetric/hydrometric surveying. Three areas are covered in the programme:

- Area 1. Marine science
- Area 2. Coastal engineering
- Area 3. Marine technology



4. Environment

The aim of the programme is to respond rapidly to the scientific challenges which arise from global change and to provide continuity in the scientific support to the environmental policy of the Community. The four areas cover the following aspects:

Area 1. Participation in global change programmes. Research carried out will include natural climatic change, anthropogenic climate change, climate change impacts (with an emphasis on modelling), tropospheric physics and chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem dynamics.

Area 2. Technologies and engineering for the environment. Assessment of environmental quality and monitoring, and technologies for protecting and rehabilitating the environment will be covered.