

Calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'

(2004/C 304/07)

1. In accordance with Decision No 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 June 2002, concerning the sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002 to 2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as 'the Commission') has adopted on 9 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (referred to as 'the work programme') setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities of the specific programme, and the timetable for implementation.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 16 December 2002, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in, and for the dissemination of research results for, the implementation of the European Community Sixth Framework Programme (2002 to 2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as 'the rules for participation'), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

2. The present calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as 'the calls') comprise the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the annexes. The annexes indicate in particular, the dates of closure for the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instruments and the areas concerned, the evaluation criteria for the evaluation of proposals for indirect RTD actions, the minimum number of participants, and any applicable restrictions.

3. Natural or legal persons fulfilling the conditions stated in the rules for participation and that do not fall under any of the exclusion cases in the rules for participation or in Article 114(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾ (referred to as 'the proposers') are invited to submit to the Commission propo-

sals for indirect RTD actions subject to the conditions in the rules for participation and in the call concerned being fulfilled.

The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiation of the indirect RTD action. Before that however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, of 23 December 2002, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁶⁾.

The European Community has adopted an equal opportunities policy and, on this basis, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals for indirect RTD actions or participate in the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the calls which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. The Commission also makes available Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures ⁽⁷⁾. These guides and guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the calls, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/fp6

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are invited to be submitted only as an electronic proposal via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS ⁽⁸⁾). In exceptional cases, however, a co-ordinator may request permission from the Commission to submit on paper in advance of a call deadline. This should be done by writing to one of the following addresses: European Commission, Directorate General RTD, Directorate G, Office: CDMA 6-121, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, Tel. (32-2) 299.83.15, Fax (32-2) 296.70.23 or rtd-nmp@cec.eu.int. The request must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought. Proposers wishing to use paper submission take the responsibility for ensuring that such requests for exemption and the associated procedures are completed in time for them to meet the call deadline.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002)4789, as modified by C(2003)577, C(2003)955, C(2003)1952, C(2003)3543, C(2003)3555, C(2003)4609, C(2003)5183, C(2004)433, C(2004)2002, C(2004)2727, C(2004)3324, and C(2004)4178, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, of 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, of 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ C(2003)883 of 27/3/2003, as last modified by C(2004)3337 of 1.9.2004.

⁽⁸⁾ The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.

All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Part B of proposals for indirect RTD actions can only be submitted in PDF ('portable document format', compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed ('zipped') files will be excluded.

The EPSS software tool (for off-line or on-line usage) is available via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete, illegible or contain viruses will be excluded.

Versions of proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on a removable electronic storage medium (eg, CD-ROM, diskette), by email or by fax will be excluded.

Any proposal for indirect RTD actions that has been allowed to be submitted on paper and which is incomplete will be excluded.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J of the Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures.

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions have to reach the Commission at the latest on the closure date and at the time specified in the call concerned. Proposals for indirect RTD actions arriving after this date and time will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions not satisfying the conditions relating to the minimum number of participants indicated in the call concerned will be excluded.

This also applies regarding any additional eligibility criteria given in the work programme.

7. In the case of successive submissions of the same proposal for an indirect RTD action, the Commission will examine the last version received before the closure date and time specified in the call concerned.

8. If foreseen in the relevant call, proposals for indirect RTD actions could be evaluated in the framework of a future evaluation.

9. In all correspondence relating to a call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the relevant call identifier.

ANNEX I

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area
2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
3. **Call title:** Thematic call in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-NMP-NI-4
5. **Date of publication** ⁽¹⁾: December 8, 2004
6. **Closure date(s)** ⁽²⁾: For Integrated project (IP): (first stage), 17 March 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 150 million (*)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
IP	150

8. **Areas called and Instruments:**

Area	Instrument
Applications in areas such as health and medical systems, chemistry, optics, food and the environment	
3.4.1.5-1 Nanotechnology-based targeted drug delivery	IP
Technologies associated with the production, transformation and processing of knowledge-based multi-functional materials	
3.4.2.2-2 Development of nanostructured porous materials	IP
Development of new processes and flexible, intelligent manufacturing systems	
3.4.3.1-1 New production technologies for new micro-devices using ultra precision engineering techniques	IP
3.4.3.1-2 Next generation of flexible assembly technology and processes	IP
3.4.4.1 Multifunctional material-based factory of the future	IP
3.4.4.2 New construction products and processes for high added value applications	IP
3.4.4.3 Mastering 'Industrial Biotechnology' — Environmental Technology for sustainable production of added value products	IP

9. **Minimum number of participants:**

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
IP	Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC.

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in IP and NE are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

⁽¹⁾ The Director-General responsible for the publication of this call may publish it up to one month prior or after its envisaged publication date.

⁽²⁾ When the envisaged date of publication is either advanced or delayed (see previous footnote), closure date(s) will be adjusted accordingly.

^(*) Considering the indicative budget available for this call, about 15 proposals are expected to be supported.

12. Evaluation procedure:

- For IPs, the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. An outline proposal (stage 1), of a maximum of 20 pages (font size 12), addressing only a reduced set of the evaluation criteria i.e.: relevance, potential impact and S/T excellence shall be submitted at the closure date mentioned under item 6 above. Proposals having passed the minimum thresholds required in the first stage (12 out of 15 for IP) will be retained for the second stage ('go' proposals).

Coordinators of 'go' proposals will be requested to provide a complete proposal, which will be evaluated against the whole set of evaluation criteria. The evaluation procedure will include 'hearings'. The closure date for the second submission will be included in the invitation to complete the proposal (indicative closure date: 15 September 2005).

- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. Evaluation criteria:

- See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
- For Integrated Projects attention will be given to the focus of the proposals with regard to the general objectives of Priority 3 as well as the specific objectives described for each topic covered by the call.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within two months after the closure date.
 - Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by early 2006.
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ANNEX II

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area
2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
3. **Call title:** Thematic call in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-NMP-TI-4
5. **Date of publication** ⁽¹⁾: December 8, 2004
6. **Closure date** ⁽²⁾: 15 September 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 120 million ^(*)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
STREPs, CAs and SSAs	120

8. **Areas called and Instruments:**

Area	Instrument
Long-term interdisciplinary research into understanding phenomena, mastering processes and developing research tools	
3.4.1.1-1 Towards 'converging' technologies	STREP
3.4.1.1-2 Standardisation for nanotechnology	SSA
Nano-biotechnologies	
3.4.1.2-1 Using nature as model for new nanotechnology-based processes	STREP
Nano-metre-scale engineering techniques to create materials and components	
3.4.1.3-1 Three dimensional nano-structures based on elements other than carbon	STREP
Applications in areas such as health and medical systems, chemistry, optics, food and the environment	
3.4.1.5-2 Interaction of engineered nanoparticles with the environment and the living world	STREP
Development of fundamental knowledge	
3.4.2.1-1 Interfacial phenomena in materials	STREP
3.4.2.1-2 New generation of tools for advanced materials characterisation	STREP
3.4.2.1-3 Methods of computational modelling of multifunctional materials	CA
Technologies associated with the production, transformation and processing of knowledge-based multifunctional materials	
3.4.2.2-1 Advanced materials processing	CA
3.4.2.2-3 Multifunctional ceramic thin films with radically new properties	STREP

⁽¹⁾ The Director-General responsible for the publication of this call may publish it up to one month prior or after its envisaged publication date.

⁽²⁾ When the envisaged date of publication is either advanced or delayed (see previous footnote), closure date(s) will be adjusted accordingly.

^(*) Considering the indicative budget available for this call, about 65 proposals are expected to be supported.

Area	Instrument
Engineering support for materials development	
3.4.2.3-1 Materials by design: multifunctional organic materials	STREP
3.4.2.3-2 Materials for solid state ionics	STREP
Development of new processes and flexible, intelligent manufacturing systems	
3.4.3.1-3 New concepts for global delivery	STREP
3.4.3.1-4 Roadmapping and foresight studies on the future of manufacturing (Manufuture)	SSA
3.4.3.1-5 Coordination of European Manufacturing Research Activities	CA
3.4.5.1 Basic materials and industrial process research on functional materials for fuel cells	STREP
3.4.5.2 Improved, energy efficient hydrogen storage systems especially for transport	STREP
3.4.5.3 Cooperation with Third Countries in the field of nanotechnology, advanced multi-functional materials and new ways of production research	SSA

9. Minimum number of participants:

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
STREP and CA	Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC.
SSA	One legal entity

10. Restriction on participation: None.

11. Consortia agreements: Participants in STREP, CA and SSA resulting from this call are encouraged, but not required, to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. Evaluation procedure:

- For STREP, CA and SSA proposals, the evaluation shall follow a single stage procedure
- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. Evaluation criteria:

- See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
- Attention will be given to the relevance of the proposals with regard to the general objectives of priority 3 as well as the specific objectives described for each topics covered by the call.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within two months after the closure date;
- Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by early 2006.

ANNEX III

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area
2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
3. **Call title:** Dedicated call for IPs for SMEs in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices' (NMP)
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2004-NMP-SME-4
5. **Date of publication** ⁽¹⁾: December 8, 2004
6. **Closure date(s)** ⁽²⁾: For Integrated project (IP) (1st stage), 17 March 2005 at 17.00 (Brussels local time);
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 100 million ^(*)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
IP	100

8. **Areas called and Instruments:**

Area	Instrument
3.4.4.4 Multi-functional technical textiles for construction, medical applications and protective clothing	IP dedicated to SMEs
3.4.4.5 Simultaneous engineering and production of integrated high-tech components for European transport	IP dedicated to SMEs
3.4.4.6 Biomaterials technologies for implants	IP dedicated to SMEs
3.4.4.7 Nanotechnological approaches for improved security systems	IP dedicated to SMEs

9. **Minimum number of participants:**

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
IP dedicated to SMEs	Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC.

10. **Restriction on participation:** Proposals should be clearly led by SMEs (see also section 3.6.5).
11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in IP are required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. **Evaluation procedure:**
 - For IP dedicated to SMEs, the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. An outline proposal (stage 1) of a maximum of 20 pages (font size 12), addressing only a reduced set of the evaluation criteria, i.e.: relevance, potential impact and S/T excellence, shall be submitted at the closure date mentioned under item 6 above. Proposals having passed the minimum thresholds (12 out of 15) required in the first stage will be retained for the second stage ('go' proposals). Coordinators of 'go' proposals will be requested to provide a complete proposal, which will be then evaluated against all set of evaluation criteria. The evaluation procedure will include 'hearings'. The closure date for that second submission shall be mentioned in the request (indicative closure date: 15 September 2005).
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.

⁽¹⁾ The Director-General responsible for the publication of this call may publish it up to one month prior or after its envisaged publication date.

⁽²⁾ When the envisaged date of publication is either advanced or delayed (see previous footnote), closure date(s) will be adjusted accordingly.

^(*) Considering the indicative budget available for this call, about 20 proposals are expected to be supported.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within two months after the closure date;
 - Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by early 2006.
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