

NanoMedicine - Nanotechnologies for Medical Applications

Technology Platform contacts: Dr. Ottilia Saxl, ottilia@nano.org.uk; Prof. David Williams, dfw@liverpool.ac.uk; Prof. Costas Kiparissides, cypress@alexandros.cperi.forth.gr; Dr. Patrick Boisseau, Patrick.boisseau@cea.fr;

Commission services contact: Uta Faure, DG Research (uta.faure@cec.eu.int)

Overall Context:

NanoMedicine is an emerging and quickly moving field with strong fragmentation and a lack of coordination. The need for a ETP has been identified by external stakeholders in order to:

Establish a clear strategic vision in the area, to identify research priority areas, to set up a strategic research agenda, to mobilise public and private investment, to alleviate fragmentation in nano-medical research and to strengthen innovation in nano-biotechnologies for medical use.

STAGE 1: Stakeholders getting together

How the platform is being set up / Stakeholders profile

- A strategic group of key stakeholders (big industry and SMEs, research centres, hospitals, reinsurance company, universities, EIB, industrial associations, coordinators of large projects in the area, different Commission services) has been invited by the Commission to:
- Investigate whether there is a need for a Technology Platform in nanomedicine,
- Identify priority areas,
- Start the set up of a vision document with wider consultation.

It is expected that the group will be enlarged mainly by industry after the official launch and will have the following profile identified by the stakeholders already now: Large industry and high-tech SMEs, industrial associations, research centres and universities;

Hospitals, patients' organisations (NGOs) as stakeholders for the civil society, Insurance companies, financial institutions like EIB, standardisation organisations like CEN, other interested stakeholders such as the specialised press. All Member States are interested as well as the Associated States and several regions as e.g. Rhône-Alpes (F) and Towns, e.g. Münster (D).

- **Formal launch** planned for Autumn 2005
- There will likely be a forum of stakeholders, a steering group (limited participants, possibly rotating), a "Sherpa" support group, a secretariat, MS mirror group and several working groups (when possible partly common or coordinated with the working groups of other related ETPs or other instruments).
- An exploratory meeting was held with a group of strategic key stakeholders on 6 October 2004 to investigate the need for a Technology Platform in NanoMedicine, to identify priority areas and to start the set up of a vision document with wider consultation. Seen the very favourable and unanimous reaction of the participants, a consultation process within the group took place in order to come up with a first draft vision document by beginning of December 2004.
- A second meeting with a small group of authors of the draft vision document will take place beginning of January 2005 to discuss an advanced draft and prepare a version for a meeting on 24 January 2005 with the whole initial group.
- The document will be put forward for a full consultation on the web(*) in order to result in a vision document countersigned by the most important key stakeholders in NanoMedicine. It will be used for launching officially the platform in autumn 2005.
- Meanwhile the consensus and participation of the broadest possible spectrum of stakeholders is searched.

(*) subject to acceptance by the stakeholders' group

Other relevant issues

The published vision document will be revised regularly during the life time of the platform and will serve as basis for the strategic research agenda to be defined by the stakeholders.

STAGE 2: Stakeholders define a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

Methodology: To be drawn up after the adoption of the vision document.

Timing, updating: End-2005 / Start-2006

STAGE 3: Implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda**Operational focus / Concrete projects**

There is preliminary agreement that collaborative research projects will be carried out as well as ancillary actions needed to promote the industrial take-up and use of the new nanotechnologies, e.g. nomenclature, metrology, IPR, regulations, public awareness,...

Industrial orientation

The ETP has a clear and recognised industrial orientation both in terms of participation and of its goals. Due to the highly innovative field, some industries "do not exist yet" but are spin-offs of current research projects.

Commitment of stakeholders

At present, the commitment is shown by the fact that stakeholders participate and work actively without any specific financial support by the Commission. New requests for participation from industry arrive in our office.

Outlook towards building a long-term public-private partnership

The field is favourable for public-private partnership research, technological development and industrial innovation initiatives. Hospitals represent a particular example.