NanoSci-ERA

NanoScience in the European Research Area

1st Transnational Call
for Collaborative Proposals
(2006)

NanoSci-ERA

Announcement of a Transnational Call for Collaborative Proposals in Nanoscience

Preamble

Nanoscience research is a multidisciplinary knowledge-generating activity that aims at an understanding of the laws that govern the behavior of nano-scale objects of physical, chemical, or biological interest. It studies the fundamental principles of these objects and the phenomena and laws that are particular to this length-scale, and which are usually not encountered in larger (macroscopic) scales.

NanoSci-ERA is a Consortium of national research agencies, constituted under the ERA-Net scheme of the 6th Framework Program for Research and Technological Development of the European Commission. Its aim is to contribute to the integration of the Nanoscience research community throughout the European Research Area (ERA). To this purpose NanoSci-ERA is launching the present Transnational Call for Collaborative Proposals, subsidiary to the national research programmes. The expected budget of this program is approximately 10 million € over three years.

The aim of this Call is to enable scientists working in nanoscience in different countries in the ERA to build an effective collaboration on a common research project based on ambitious and original ideas at the frontier of knowledge. Novel, multidisciplinary, high-risk projects in fundamental research are encouraged.

1. Scope of the call

1.1. Thematic scope

The present Call is limited to proposals that focus on the generation of new knowledge on the fabrication, study, control, or manipulation of **individual nanoscale objects**.

Note: A project may deal with a single nano-object or a collection of nano-objects whose properties should derive from their nano-scale size. However, in the case of a collection, at least one of the essential operations of the project (fabrication, study, control or manipulation) must be done on the nano-objects one-by-one. A project that does not explicitly involve work on individual nano-objects as a critical part of its novelty is outside the scope of this call.

1.2. Geographical scope

The Call is open to scientists working in Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

2. Application

2.1. Eligibility Criteria

All applicants to this call must fulfill national eligibility rules for research grant application as set by their national research funding organization. Clarifications on national rules can be obtained from the National Contact Persons listed at the end of this Announcement. In addition, one of the following criteria must be fulfilled. Applicants may be:

- Young researchers who have obtained their PhD degree in the past 8 years (thesis defense date **after January 1, 1998**), with allowance made for official career breaks (parental leave, military or civil service, but not for partial employment) equal to the length of the break. The Young researchers must provide evidence of scientific independence and initiative, such as constitution or leadership of a small research group.

- Senior researchers whose quality and involvement in nanoscience research is nationally recognized through a research contract awarded by a national program through a peer evaluation process in the last 5 years (**since 1/1/2001**). Each qualifying national contract may be used in support of only one applicant of one proposal.

Further regulations concerning the eligibility are listed below:

- Each applicant may enter in only one proposal.

- A proposal **must have at least one young researcher**.

- Each applicant must have a steady position in his/her institution for the duration of the project. In countries where the rules allow it, the applicant may hold a temporary position whose funding is requested as part of the proposal. In such a case the applicant must provide a letter from the hosting institution certifying that he/she will have access to all resources necessary for carrying out the project.

- Applicants outside the Consortium countries may be included in a proposal, if the coherence of the project so requires. However, such outside applicants cannot request funding from the Consortium and must declare that they have available all necessary resources for carrying out the project.

- Each applicant must be approved to submit by the person authorized to legally commit the applicant's institution.

- In countries where it is so required, the official applicant may be the researcher's institution. In such a case, the details on the researcher must be explicitly given in the application form.

Violation of any of the above conditions will cause the proposal to be disqualified.

2.2. Structure of the collaboration

Mandatory features:

- Each collaborative proposal must involve applicants whose research is based in at least 3 different participating countries. The minimum number of applicants per collaborative project is 3. The maximum number of applicants in a project is 5. In the case of 5 applicants, a minimum of 4 participating countries is required.

- The co-applicants designate a Project Leader among them.

- Proposals should not duplicate the work involved in their qualifying national contract or in other ongoing research contracts, but can further those projects by proposing additional new research.

- Proposals must have well-identified collaboration vectors (e.g. common PhD students, post-docs, samples circulating among project partners) demonstrating clearly the added value of transnational collaboration. Parallel-run national projects with little interaction are not acceptable.

Encouraged features:

- A premium will be placed on collaborations that include new partnerships.

- Female applicants are encouraged.

2.3 Contents of proposals

- Instructions and the necessary application forms may be downloaded from the Consortium's website (temporary address: http://www.nanosci-era.org).

- All material must be in English.

- Each proposal is submitted by its Project Leader on behalf of all the applicants.

The application procedure consists of two stages:

- Letters of Intent must be submitted in electronic form through the Consortium web site (temporary address: http://www.nanosci-era.org), **no later than 5:00 p.m. (CET) on Friday 19 May 2006.**

A Letter of Intent consists of:

1. The downloaded short application form with each applicant's details.

2. A text section, with a description of the project, the structure of the collaboration and a description of the contribution of each applicant.

- **Full Proposals** (consisting of the downloaded form with annexes) may be submitted only by applicants whose Letters of Intent were evaluated positively and were explicitly invited to participate in the second stage of submission. Full proposals must be sent **no later than 5:00 p.m. (CET) on Friday 8 September 2006** both in an electronic version (uploaded to the Consortium website (temporary address: http://www.nanosci-era.org) **and** in a signed paper version to the Joint Secretariat (Dr. Agnieszka HAC, NanoSci-ERA Joint Secretariat, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Kennedyallee 40, 53175 Bonn, Germany).

3. Funding

Funding provided within this call is intended to enhance the capacity of the applicants to collaborate. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. Projects will be funded for up to three years, starting on **January 1, 2007**. Extension for one additional year with no additional funding is possible upon request, particularly for projects in which national academic rules require 4-year PhD studentships.

3.1. Eligible budget items

- Stipend or salary for a PhD student, salary for a post-doctoral fellow (i.e. a temporary position for up to 3 years, financed according to national gross wages). In countries where national rules allow it, the salary of the young researcher may be included.

- Consumables.

- Small equipment (≤ € 30,000).
- Travel and visiting costs.
- User charges for facilities.
- Subcontracting (for example for the fabrication of samples at a specialized facility) if its need is demonstrated, according to national rules.
- Overheads and VAT according to national rules.

All budget items must conform to the national rules relevant for each applicant. National rules can be obtained from the contact persons whose details are given at the end of this announcement.

Table 1. Maximum budget for each applicant to finance the vectors of collaboration and local research necessary for the collaboration.

Country	Maximum budget per applicant	
	for 3 years	for 2 years
Austria (AT), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Israel (IL), Italy (IT), The Netherlands (NL)[2], Spain (ES), United Kingdom (UK)[3]	200.000 €	135.000 €
Poland (PL)	150.000 €	100.000 €
Portugal (PT), Slovakia (SK)	100.000 €	70.000 €

[2] The salary for the fourth year of a PhD studentship may be included within the amount given above.

[3] Applicants from the United Kingdom will have 80% of the full economic cost associated with the above budgetary items covered by the EPSRC in accordance with standard UK practice.

4. Time Schedule:

20 March 2006:	Announcement of the Call.
19 May 2006:	Deadline for submission of Letters of Intent.
7 July 2006:	Notification of applicants invited to submit Full Proposals.
8 September 2006:	Deadline for submission of Full Proposals.
9 October 2006:	Reviews sent to Project Leaders for rebuttal within a week.
November 2006:	Communication of evaluation results.
1 January 2007:	Start of successful projects.

5. National Contact Persons

For information on the Call and on the national rules regarding submission of a proposal, please contact

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Poland: name to be announced

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