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/Slovakia/Slovenia/Spain/Sweden/Switzerland/The Netherlands/United Kingdom

# **MNT ERA-Net Transnational Call 2008**

## **Guide for Proposers**

**14 December 2007**

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## 1 What is MNT ERA-Net?

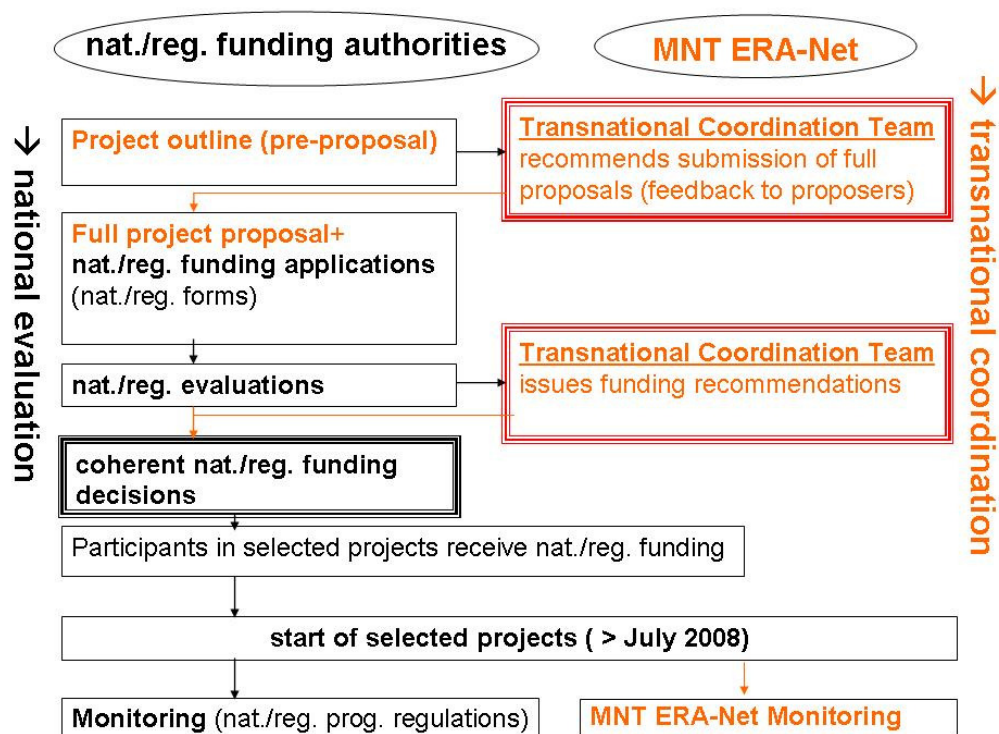
MNT ERA-Net is a network of regional and national funding programmes for Micro and Nano Technologies (MNT) with the aim to reduce fragmentation of R&D funding in Europe. MNT ERA-Net makes these funding programmes accessible to transnational consortia and opens calls for proposals for transnational R&D projects in the MNT area.

## 2 Structure of the Coordinated Call

The objective of the coordinated MNT ERA-Net call is to enable transnational applied R&D projects to be executed by partners receiving funding from the regional/national programmes which cooperate in the MNT ERA-Net project.

Figure 1 shows the schematic workflow of the coordinated call. Benefits are combined in one approach: On the one hand the regional/national agencies apply their own well-established funding rules and procedures known to their applicants, and on the other hand the MNT ERA-Net provides transnational coordination expertise:

- The **announcement and dissemination** activities of the call are performed collaboratively, but evaluation of funding applications will be done by national/regional programme owners solely according to their rules.
- The **coordination and the first assessment** of the transnational project proposals are performed by a Transnational Coordination Team. (TCT meeting)
- The final funding decisions are made by regional/national agencies.



**Figure 1:** Schematic workflow of the MNT ERA-Net procedure

### 3 Call Announcement

#### 3.1 Objectives and Topics

The aim is to fund **trans-national, application oriented, high risk R&D projects related to Micro and Nano Technologies**. Proposals will typically be smaller than proposals submitted to the EU Framework Programme. They will typically be **market-oriented** and will benefit from accelerated funding decisions.

**All topics of Micro and Nano Technologies** are covered in this call, but the respective regional/national thematic programme focus must be taken into account. To obtain detailed programme priorities **it is strongly recommended to contact your regional/national funding agency**.

#### 3.2 Funding rules

In this call all funding rules of the regional/national agencies apply. **Each project partner has to apply individually for regional/national funding**.

Information about the specific funding rules will be provided by the **contact** persons from the respective regional/national agencies (see annex 1 for details).

#### 3.3 Eligible project structure

- Project consortia consisting of **at least two parties from two different participating regions / countries** (see annex 1 for details) can apply for funding. The consortia may involve as many partners as necessary.
- The consortium must demonstrate **how to commercialise** the expected results.
- National/regional funding rules apply; therefore in some cases only certain topics or types of project partners are eligible (e.g. some programmes fund only industrial but no academic partners).

A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funding (after final funding decision). The purpose of the consortium agreement is to clarify:

- the responsibilities of the partners
- decision processes inside the project
- management of any change of partners
- IPR issues

#### 3.4 Project budget

No overall limits have been defined on MNT ERA-Net level but national/regional limits regarding the level of funding will apply.

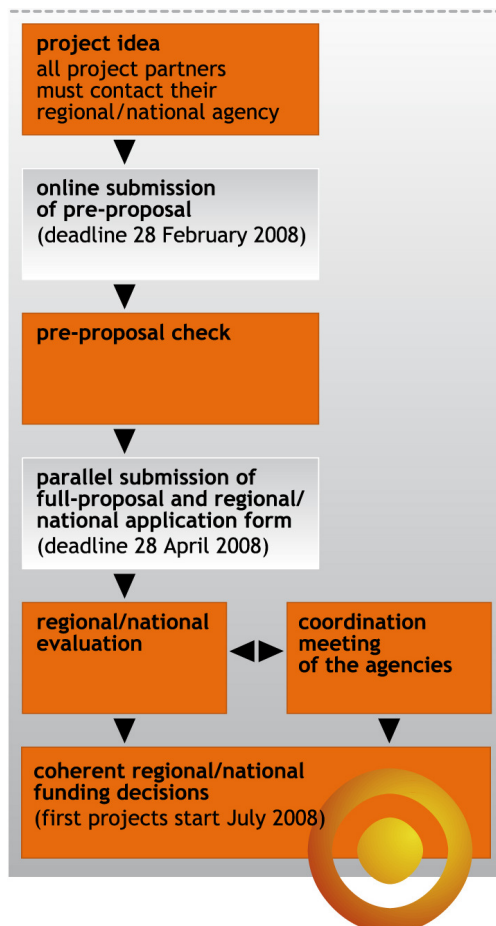
#### 3.5 Project duration

The coordinated call focuses on application-oriented R&D projects. The project duration **is limited to a maximum of 3 years**.

### 3.6 Dates and deadlines

Action	Date	Place
Call Announcement	14 December 2007	
Call open	14 December 2007 – 28 April 2008	
Deadline for pre-proposals	28 February 2008	online
Deadline for a) full proposals and b) funding application forms	28 April 2008	a) online b) regional/national agencies
Regional/national funding decisions	June – October 2008	regional/national agencies
Start of first projects	July 2008	

## 4 Application process



1. Before submitting a proposal, all project partners **must** contact their respective regional/national programme agency in order to discuss the project line-up and the funding conditions.

2. A pre-proposal is mandatory. It has to be submitted by the coordinator through an online application form available at [www.mnt-era.net](http://www.mnt-era.net)

3. Applicants will be provided with feedback after the review of their pre-proposal.

4. The full proposal must be submitted by the project coordinator through an online application form available at [www.mnt-era.net](http://www.mnt-era.net)  
At the same time regional/national funding applications must be submitted to each of the involved agencies according to their specific rules.

5. The regional/national agencies carry out their own evaluation based on the full project proposal and the respective regional/national funding application. A meeting of the MNT ERA-Net TCT finally ranks the proposals balancing the evaluation results.

6. MNT ERA-Net TCT recommends the funding of projects to the respective funding agencies. **The regional/national agencies make the final funding decision.**

### 4.1 Pre-proposal

The pre-proposal gives an overview on the whole project. It is mandatory and has to be submitted by the project coordinator through an online application form available at [www.mnt-era.net](http://www.mnt-era.net).

The following items have to be addressed:

1. Summary
2. Consortium description
3. Project description
4. Transnational added value
5. Project costs
6. Exploitation of results

After deadline for pre-proposals the MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team (TCT) gives advice to the project coordinators and recommends/does not recommend the submission of full proposals.

#### **4.2 Full proposal and regional/national funding applications**

The full proposal gives an overview of the whole project and describes all national project parts. In addition to the full proposal (online submission) the corresponding regional/national funding application form has to be submitted to the respective funding agencies. To achieve funding, the national parts of the project must fulfil the same criteria as purely national/regional projects. This will create different submission and financing situations for partners from different countries. Each funding application must contain the full transnational project proposal as a mandatory annex.

#### **4.3 Confidentiality**

Proposals and any information relating to them will be kept confidential. Proposals will not be used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the applications, making funding decisions and monitoring of the project. International experts are required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to evaluating proposals.

### **5 Evaluation**

MNT ERA-Net aims at providing a transparent, fast and straight forward assessment of the submitted project proposals. Thus, the regional/national evaluation will be carried out in cooperation with the MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team.

### **6 Decision**

#### **6.1 Decision process**

The MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team prepares the recommendations for funding. The final funding decisions are **exclusively** made by the regional/national agencies/funding bodies.

## **6.2 Funding**

### **6.2.1 Contract**

Funding contracts are concluded directly between the project partners and their national/regional funding agencies.

### **6.2.2 Start and Instalments**

A pre-condition for transferring the first funding instalments is the existence of a consortium agreement including IPR related issues.

As the national funding contracts may not all become effective at the same time, a project

- need not start,
- will not receive the instalments,
- will not be reviewed

at exactly the same time. However, MNT ERA-Net will help to minimise these gaps.

## **7 Monitoring**

### **7.1 National/regional project review**

The progress of each individual contract will be monitored by the respective regional/national agencies through specific project review processes.

### **7.2 MNT ERA-Net Reporting**

Apart from the regional/national project review, the transnational cooperation aspects will be monitored on MNT ERA-Net level, e.g. by using online questionnaires.

### **7.3 Change in active projects**

Any substantial change in an ongoing project must be reported immediately to the involved agencies. The project partners should be aware that changes might have effects on funding.

## **8 Dissemination**

A reference to MNT ERA-Net is requested in publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information concerning results of the projects.

## **9 Support**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** are listed in the website ([www.mnt-era.net](http://www.mnt-era.net)).

In addition, all Funding Agencies participating in the Call will provide assistance to project proposers in case of questions.

## Annex 1: Participating funding bodies

Country/Region	MNT ERA-Net member	Contact	phone	mail	web	Thematic priorities
Austria	FFG	Roland Brandenburg	+43- 5 77 55 5090	roland.brandenburg@ffg.at	www.ffg.at	All MNT topics
Belgium/Flanders	IWT	Lieve De Doncker	+32- 2 209 09 34	lidd@iwt.be	www.iwt.be	All MNT topics
Belgium/Wallonia	DGTRE	Baudouin Jambe	+32- 81 33 56 71	b.jambe@mrw.wallonie.be	www.recherche-technologie.wallonie.be	All MNT topics
Finland	Tekes	Markku Lämsä	+358- 10 60 55 77 793	markku.lamsa@tekes.fi	www.tekes.fi	Nano technologies
France	OSEO Innovation	Nathalie Trannois Gregorie Mariau	+33- 1 41 79 80 59 +33- 1 41 79 89 69	nathalie.trannois@oseo.fr gregoire.mariau@oseo.fr	www.oseo.fr	All MNT topics
France/Midi-Pyrénées	CRMP	Hélène Baron Hervé Dexpert	+ 33- 5 61 33 57 56 + 33- 5 62 25 78 01	helene.baron@cr-mip.fr hdexpert@cemes.fr	www.midipyrenees.fr	All MNT topics
Germany/Bavaria	MST Bavaria	Peter Hahn	+49- 30 310078 276	hahn@vdivde-it.de	www.mst-bayern.de	Microsystems
Ireland	Enterprise Ireland	Andrew Connell	+353- 21 4800239	andrew.connell@enterprise-ireland.com	www.enterprise-ireland.com	All MNT topics
Luxembourg	Fonds National de la Recherche	Christiane Kaell	+352- 261 925 34	christiane.kaell@fnr.lu	www.fnr.lu	All MNT topics
Poland	MSHE/ITE	Piotr Dumania	+48- 22 5487 880	pdumania@ite.waw.pl	www.ite.waw.pl	All MNT topics
Romania	PUB CNMP	Corneliu Trisca-Rusu Speranta Rasan	+40- 21 311 28 55 +40- 21 311 59 92	ctrisca2002@yahoo.com speranta_rasan@cnmp.ro	www.matnantech.pub.ro www.cnmp.ro	All MNT topics



Slovakia	SAS	Simona Klingova	+421- 257 510 103	klingova@up.upsav.sk	www.sav.sk	All MNT topics
Slovenia	MHEST	Taja Cvetko	+386- 1 478 46 24	taja.cvetko@gov.si	www.rtd.si	All MNT topics
Spain/Basque Country	Basque Government	Garbiñe Larrauri	+34- 94 491 30 97	glarrauri@eurobulegoa.com	www.eurobulegoa.com	All MNT topics
Sweden	Vinnova	Anders Maren	+46- 8 473 3188	anders.maren@vinnova.se	www.vinnova.se	Designed materials
Switzerland	KTI/CTI TEMAS	Roland Bühler Annemarie Gemperli	+41- 31 324 71 41 +41- 71 446 50 30	roland.buehler@bbt.admin.ch annemarie.gemperli@temas.ch	www.kti-cti.ch www.temas.ch	All MNT topics
UK / Northern Ireland	Invest NI	Nigel Carr	+44- 28 9069 8829	nigel.carr@investni.com	www.investni.com	All MNT topics

## **Annex 2: MNT ERA-Net Evaluation Criteria**

The following checklist offers a selection of relevant issues to be addressed in the project proposal and will be used by the evaluators.

### **A. The following criteria are relevant for the PRE-PROPOSAL and the FULL PROPOSAL**

Eligibility criteria: MUST BE “YES” ON ALL ISSUES

Does the project have participation from at least two MNT ERA-Net members?

Is it a Micro- and/or Nanotechnology related project?

Is the project directed at a product, process, technology or service?

Is the objective of the project clearly described?

Is the project outcome sufficiently close to the market (one to three years after project conclusion)?

*Note: pure industrialisation and marketing tasks are not eligible for public funding.*

Is there an added value through transnational cooperation?

### **B. The following criteria are relevant only for the FULL PROPOSAL**

#### **Summary**

Is it technology driven or market driven?

Are the technical objectives presumed to be realistic, the proposed time frame and the resources?

Is there a sufficient degree of innovation, in terms of technology and in terms of product?

Does the project result have a large geographical or sectorial impact?

#### **Consortium description**

Is the role of each partner clear, with good complementarities and little overlap?

Is the partnership well-balanced?

Does each partner and each partner country benefit from the project outcome?

#### **Work plan**

Is the work plan clear and well-structured?

#### **Cost calculation**

Is the cost calculation reasonable and well balanced?

#### **Exploitation of results**

Is there a clear exploitation strategy (e.g. licensing of developed technology, sales of process equipment,...)?

Is the potential economic impact sufficient to justify the project cost?