Frequently Asked Questions for call applicants 2008

Scope of the call

Q: What kind of proposals are expected ?
A: The aim is to fund transnational market-oriented RTD projects in all fields of micro- and nanotechnology (MNT). For information on national / regional restrictions please contact your national / regional agency and see the "Guide for Proposers".

Eligibility

Q: Who can apply ?
A: The eligibility of participants depends on the involved national /regional funding programmes. This call focuses on market-oriented RTD projects; thus, in some cases academic institutions may need an industrial partner in order to have access to funding.

Q: What is the minimum size of a consortium ?
A: MNT ERA-Net is **not asking for large consortia**. Small consortia of 2 or 3 partners are welcome.

Q: How many countries must be involved in a project ?
A minimum of 2 countries or regions (e.g. funding programmes) participating in this call (see detailed list in call announcement) is required. The benefit of transnational cooperation has to be demonstrated.

Q: Is it allowed to include partners from countries which are not participating in this call ?
A: It is possible to include partners from countries which are not directly involved in this coordinated call via a national funding programme. For such countries, no advice can be provided on potential national funding sources. National evaluation procedures are not centrally monitored by the MNT ERA-Net TCT (Transnational Coordination Team).
Participants from these countries cannot be coordinators of projects submitted to this call.

Q: Can applicants be involved in more than one proposal ?
A: Yes, the participation in more than one proposal is possible.

(Pre-) Proposal preparation and submission

Q: What is the aim of a pre-proposal ?
A: The pre-proposal should give an overview on the whole project. Based on the pre-proposal the MNT ERA-Net TCT will give advice concerning the submission of a full project proposal. See Guide for Proposers for further details.

Q: What is the difference between the pre- proposal and the full proposal?
A: The template is the same for both. For the pre-proposal only a minimum of information has to be provided (max. 10 pages), full proposals should contain more details but not exceed 20 pages.

Q. Where can I find all necessary forms for submitting a proposal ?
A: All documents can be downloaded from www.mnt-era.net.

Q: How do I submit a proposal ?
A:
Step 1: Pre-proposal is submitted through an online application form available on the MNT ERA-Net website by the coordinator.

Step 2: a) Full Proposal must be submitted through an online application form available on the MNT ERA-Net website by the coordinator.

Step 2: b) Regional/national application must be submitted by all partners to their respective agencies.

Q: Will I receive a confirmation after submission ?
The coordinator will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Q: Can I submit a full proposal without submitting a pre-proposal ?
A: No.

Q: Is it allowed to submit the same proposal to both calls (MNT ERA-Net and MATERA) ?
A: No. We strongly advise you to select the suitable call for your topic and consortium structure. Only one call can be selected for the submission of the same proposal. Double submission is not possible. If a proposal is submitted to both calls the coordinator will be asked to select one call and withdraw the other submission.

Q: Is it possible to submit a proposal in national languages as well ?
A: Pre-proposals and full project proposals can be submitted only in English. The language of national funding applications depends on the respective national funding programmes. Please check with national agencies.

Q: Is it necessary to provide a consortium agreement ?
A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funded projects. In particular IPR issues have to be addressed. Examples for consortium agreements can be found on the website of the IPR helpdesk:
http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/controlador/principal?seccion=principal&len=de

Q: Can I request an extension of the deadline to submit a pre-proposal or full proposal ?
A: No.

Q: Is it possible to receive a list of potential consortia and/or contact details of project leaders in order to explore the chances of joining a consortium ?
A: No, all submissions are treated confidentially.

Q: How can I find potential partners ?
A: Please contact your national /regional agency for partner search information. In addition, it may be helpful to search the databases of the IRC (http://www.innovationrelay.net), CORDIS Technology Marketplace (http://cordis.europa.eu/marketplace) or FP7 Expressions of Interest (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html).

Evaluation

Q: How are proposals evaluated ?
A: The pre-proposals are evaluated by the TCT which will then provide feedback to the coordinators. Full project proposals and individual funding applications will be subject to the usual national/regional evaluation procedures. Please check the Guide for Proposers for details.

Q: What is the TCT ?
A: The Transnational Coordination Team (TCT) consists of up to two representatives nominated by each of the national/regional agencies participating in the call. It meets to discuss all pre-proposals to elaborate advice for proposal submissions, to discuss all proposals in order to match the projects and bring them in accordance with the budgets available. It also prepares recommendations about funding projects to the regional/national funding bodies.

Q: What happens if the feedback on the pre-proposal is negative ?
A: The consortium can still submit a full project proposal. The advice for the improvement of the proposal given by the TCT should be taken into account.

Funding

Q: Is there a central budget for this call ?
A: No, a common European source of funds is not provided in this call. National or regional funds are available.

Q: What exactly is funded ?
A: All usual (regional/national) programme rules apply. The regional/national agencies can provide detailed information (see detailed list in call announcement).

Q: Is the funding the same as for purely national projects or is there any bonus for this call ?
A: While some national programmes may provide a bonus for transnational cooperations others may not. Please check with your national contact point (see list in call announcement).

Q: Can additional public or private sponsors be involved ?
A: Additional public or private contributors are acceptable as long as the co-financing arrangements are fully transparent and provided with the submitted documents.

Q: Could it happen that only some partners in the consortium are funded by their national agencies whereas others do not receive funding ?
A: Yes, but after submission of the full project proposals the TCT meets in order to coordinate the funding decisions. Therefore, a proposal should achieve the same status in all involved countries. That means that usually either all partners will be funded or in case of negative decisions no partner will be funded.

Project implementation

Q: How long does it take before the projects can actually start ?
A: First funding decisions are expected for July 2008.

Q: Is it a problem if a project starts before the final decision by the national agencies ?
A: The project should normally start after the contract has been signed. The starting date of the project could however be a fixed date before the signing of the contract at own risk.

General information

Q: What is ERA-NET ?
A: ERA-NET is a part of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6) with the aim to better coordinate national funding. Please check (http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.cfm?p=9_eranet) for details.