

Call for tenders for co-financed projects within the scope of the Synergy programme for 1999

(98/C 247/06)

Synergy is the Community programme for international cooperation with third countries in the energy sector. This programme institutes cooperation projects for the elaboration, formulation and implementation of energy policy in areas of mutual interest, in addition to promotional actions for industrial cooperation between the Community and non-member countries, in the energy sector. Synergy helps to meet the Union's energy policy objectives: security of supply, over-all competitiveness and environmental protection.

Synergy was implemented by Council Regulation (EC) No 701/97 (OJ L 104, 22.4.1997), for a period of one year ending on 31 December 1997. This was later extended to 31 December 1998 by Council Regulation (EC) No 2598/97 (OJ L 351, 23.12.1997). This call for project tenders is contingent on the continuing activities of this programme in 1999.

In addition to projects launched at the European Community's initiative, the Synergy programme can also make financial contributions to projects proposed by third parties. This call for tenders is destined solely for the latter category of project.

Financial assistance may be requested for projects involving a proposer from a Member State and/or a proposer from a non-member country. The Community contribution shall not exceed 50 % of the total project cost and should not, in principle, be more than ECU 200 000.

Proposed projects must concern the following fields of action:

- energy policy advice and training,
- energy analysis and forecasting,
- reinforcement of dialogue in terms of energy policy and information sharing, particularly through the organisation of conferences and seminars,
- cross-border regional cooperation support,
- improvement of industrial energy cooperation structures.

Neither energy-related investment and infrastructure financing at any stage, nor research, demonstration, development or innovative technology dissemination projects are eligible.

Generally speaking, any action which can obtain or has obtained financing from another Community instrument is not admissible.

Proposed projects must aim to meet at least one of the following objectives:

- security of the European Union's energy supply,
- improved competitiveness and support for European enterprises trying to settle in non-member countries,
- environmental protection and improvement, notably through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The projects must be mutually beneficial for the European Union and the non-member countries. Synergy is open to energy actors from both European and non-member countries. During evaluation, priority shall be given to projects bringing together several partners from several Member States and one or several partners from non-member countries.

For information only, the non-exclusive list of entities that are eligible to propose projects is as follows: specialised international and regional organisations, national energy ministries or commissions, companies or groups of companies, regulation or privatisation organisations, financial institutions, energy and/or environmental agencies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, etc.

Taking account of the priorities defined in the indicative action programme of Annex III to the Council proposal of 18 November 1997 adopting a multiannual framework programme for actions in the energy sector (1998 to 2002) COM(97) 550 final, on the one hand, and the need to avoid duplications with other Community programmes in operation in each country, on the other hand, the priorities per geographical region are as follows:

Central and East European countries

- cooperation in terms of reinforcing energy policy with a view to preparing for accession to the European Union,
- relations between energy policies and environmental protection,
- regional energy cooperation, particularly for inter-connections.

Newly independent States

- promotional actions for industrial cooperation,
- reinforcement policies for energy efficiency.

India and China

- energy policy promotion,
- reinforcement of energy efficiency.

Rest of Asia

- support for the market-penetration efforts of European energy industries,
- promotion of regional integration.

Latin America

- participation of European enterprises in liberalising the energy market,
- relations between energy policies and environmental protection.

Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific

- implementation of national energy policies contributing to sustainable development,
- reinforcement of local structures for cooperation in energy matters.

Mediterranean

- development of energy networks,
- industrial cooperation in the energy sector,
- relations between energy policies and environmental protection.

Each applicant must complete the application form available at the address listed below. Completed forms may not be sent by fax; they must be posted. These forms can also be downloaded from the Internet site listed below.

Each application must specify, as indicated on the form, the context, general and specific objectives, expected results (direct and indirect), the methodology, human and financial resources, the timetable and any other relevant justifications.

Requests may be presented by a coordinator settled either in the Member State or the non-member country in question. The application must include letters of intent for other sources of finance for the project and adequate information on their financial capacity to carry out the project to completion, including presentation of financial accounts.

Enterprises interested in this call for tenders should send four copies of their offer to the address listed below by Friday, 30 October 1998 at the latest. Applications must be either posted or given in person with a receipt. They can also be sent by e-mail to the following address: yolanda.lok@bxl.dg17.cec.be. The postmark or the date of acknowledgement of receipt on the e-mail shall be taken into account for the proposal deadline.

Any offers sent or handed in after this date and those failing to include the requested number of copies will in no case be taken into consideration.

Information — form — receipt of applications

Synergy programme
European Commission,
Directorate-General for Energy — XVII,
Directorate A — Unit A4,
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Internet sites:

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/synergy.htm>

<http://www.cordis.lu/synergy/home.html>

Application deadline: Friday, 30 October 1998.