

Calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'

(2003/C 303/05)

1. In accordance with Decision No 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 June 2002, concerning the sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002-2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').
3. Natural or legal persons fulfilling the conditions stated in the rules for participation and that do not fall under any of the exclusion cases in the rules for participation or in Article 114(2) of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾ (referred to as 'the proposers') are invited to submit to the Commission proposals for indirect RTD actions subject to the conditions in the rules for participation and in the call concerned being fulfilled.

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as 'the Commission') has adopted on 9 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (referred to as 'the work programme') setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities of the specific programme, and the timetable for implementation.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 16 December 2002, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in, and for the dissemination of research results for, the implementation of the European Community Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as 'the rules for participation'), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

2. The present calls for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as 'the calls') comprise the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the annexes. The annexes indicate in particular, the date of closure for the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instruments and the areas concerned, the evaluation criteria for the evaluation of proposals for indirect RTD actions, the minimum number of participants, and any applicable restrictions.

The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiation of the indirect RTD action. Before that however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, of 23 December 2002, laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁶⁾.

The European Community has adopted an equal opportunities policy and, on this basis, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals for indirect RTD actions or participate in the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions.

4. The Commission makes available to proposers guides for proposers relating to the calls which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. These guides, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the calls, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussel

Internet address: www.cordis.lu/fp6

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are submitted preferably in electronic format, via the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 4789, as modified by C(2003) 577, C(2003) 955, C(2003) 1952, C(2003) 3543, C(2003) 3555, and C(2003) 4609, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

Within this context, proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Those prepared with the EPSS off-line version could, as an alternative, be submitted either on CD-ROM or diskette (a paper copy of the proposal for an indirect RTD action must in either case be attached).

The EPSS software tool (for off-line or on-line usage) is available via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as 'on paper').

6. Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on CD-ROM, diskette, or paper by post must be received by the Commission at the following address, and labelled as follows:

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
(Call identifier: ...)
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels.

For deliveries by hand or by representatives (including by private courier services ⁽⁷⁾), the delivery should be to the following address, and labelled as follows:

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
(Call identifier: ...)
European Commission
Rue de Genève, 1
B-1140 Brussels.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted on-line via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted either on CD-ROM or on diskette which are incomplete ⁽⁸⁾, illegible ⁽⁹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded if a complete corresponding paper version, in the same envelope, has not been supplied.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete ⁽¹⁰⁾, illegible ⁽¹¹⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and which are incomplete ⁽¹²⁾ will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted by e-mail ⁽¹³⁾ or by fax will be excluded.

7. Proposals for indirect RTD actions have to reach the Commission at the latest on the closure date and at the time specified in the call concerned. Proposals for indirect RTD actions arriving after this date and time will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions not satisfying the conditions relating to the minimum number of participants indicated in the call concerned will be excluded.

This also applies regarding any additional eligibility criteria given in the work programme.

8. In the case of successive submissions of the same proposal for an indirect RTD action, the Commission will examine the last version received before the closure date and time specified in the call concerned.

Where the same proposal for an indirect RTD action is submitted on paper and in electronic format (CD-ROM, diskette, on-line), the Commission will only examine the text submitted under the electronic formats.

9. If foreseen in the relevant call, proposals for indirect RTD actions could be taken up in the framework of a future evaluation.
10. In all correspondence relating to a call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the relevant call identifier.

⁽⁷⁾ Users of courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should give the following number (32-2) 295 58 75 (Mr J.-C. Debouvère).

⁽⁸⁾ All proposals for indirect RTD actions must contain two parts: the forms (Part A) and the content (Part B).

⁽⁹⁾ Proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted in PDF ('portable document format', version 3 or higher with embedded fonts) or RTF ('rich text format').

⁽¹⁰⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹¹⁾ See footnote 9.

⁽¹²⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹³⁾ This does not include proposals for indirect RTD actions that have been submitted on-line.

ANNEX 1

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area.
2. **Activities:** Priority thematic area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
3. **Call title:** Thematic call in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-NMP-NI-3.
5. **Date of publication:** 13 December 2003.
6. **Closure date(s):** For Integrated project (IP) and Network of excellence: (first stage), 2 March 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 245 million (*)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
IP and NE	245

(*) Considering the indicative budget available for this call, about 20 proposals are expected to be supported.

8. Areas called and Instruments

Area	Instrument
Nano-metre-scale engineering techniques to create materials and components	
3.4.1.3-1. Nanostructured surfaces	IP
3.4.1.3-2. Industrially relevant production of nanoparticles	IP
Development of fundamental knowledge	
3.4.2.1-1. Understanding materials phenomena	NE
Technologies associated with the production, transformation and processing of knowledge-based multi-functional materials and bio-materials	
3.4.2.2-2. Development of nanostructured materials	IP
3.4.2.2-4. Tribology-related surfaces engineering for multi-functional materials	IP
Engineering support for materials development	
3.4.2.3-2. New knowledge-based higher performance multi-materials for macro-scale applications	IP
Development of new processes and flexible intelligent manufacturing systems	
3.4.3.1-1. New and user-friendly production technologies and their incorporation into the factory of the future	IP
3.4.3.1-2. New production technologies for high added-value products, exploiting and using nano-scale precision engineering techniques	IP
Systems research and hazard control	
3.4.3.2-1. Hazard reduction in production plant and storage sites	IP

Area	Instrument
Integration of nanotechnologies, new materials and new production technologies for improved construction, chemicals and surface transport	
3.4.4.1. Human-friendly, safe and efficient construction	IP
3.4.4.2. New generation of multifunctional materials and technologies for surface transport	IP
3.4.4.3. Mastering chemicals and creating new eco-efficient processes and synthesis routes	IP, NE

9. Minimum number of participants

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
IP and NE	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.

11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in IP and NE are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. Evaluation procedure

— For IP and NE, the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. An outline proposal (stage 1), of a maximum of 20 pages (font size 12), addressing only a reduced set of the evaluation criteria i.e.:

- For IP: relevance, potential impact and S/T excellence
- For NE: relevance, potential impact,

shall be submitted at the closure date mentioned under item No 6 above. Proposals having passed the minimum thresholds required in the first stage (12 out of 15 for IP and 8 out of 10 for NE) will be retained for the second stage ('go' proposals). Coordinators of 'go' proposals will be requested to provide a complete proposal, which will be evaluated against the whole set of evaluation criteria. The closure date for the second submission will be included in the invitation to complete the proposal (indicative closure date: 22 June 2004).

— Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. Evaluation criteria

- See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
- For Integrated Projects and Networks of Excellence attention will be given to the focus of the proposals with regard to the general objectives of Priority 3 as well as the specific objectives described for each topic covered by the call.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within 2 months after the closure date;
- Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by the end of 2004.

ANNEX 2

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area.
2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
3. **Call title:** Thematic call in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
4. A. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-NMP-TI-3-main (see below 6A).
B. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-NMP-TI-3-ncp (see below 6B).
5. **Date of publication** 13 December 2003.
6. A. **Closure date:** 12 May 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time) for all areas except for 3.4.6 — Call identifier: FP6-2003-NMP-TI-3-main.
B. **Closure date:** 2 March 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time) for topic 3.4.6 (Coordination of activities in an enlarged Europe — CA) only — Call identifier: FP6-2003-NMP-TI-3-ncp.
7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 105 million (*)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
STREPs, CAs and SSAs	105

(*) Considering the indicative budget available for this call, about 50 proposals are expected to be supported.

8. Areas called and Instruments

Area	Instrument
Long term interdisciplinary research into understanding phenomena, mastering processes and developing research tools	
3.4.1.1-1. Self-organisation and self-assembling	STREP
3.4.1.1-2. Molecular motors	STREP
3.4.1.1-3. Expanding knowledge in size-dependent phenomena	SSA
Nano-biotechnologies	
3.4.1.2-1. New knowledge on interfaces for new applications	STREP
Development of handling and control devices and instruments	
3.4.1.4-1. Characterisation and/or manipulation devices and techniques	STREP
Applications in areas such as health and medical systems, chemistry, energy, optics, food and the environment	
3.4.1.5-1. Impact on human health and environment	SSA; CA
3.4.1.5-2. Ethical, legal, social aspects of research in nanotechnology	SSA

Area	Instrument
Development of fundamental knowledge	
3.4.2.1-1. Understanding materials phenomena	CA
3.4.2.1-2. Modelling and design of multi-functional materials	STREP
Technologies associated with the production, transformation and processing of knowledge-based multi-functional materials and bio-materials	
3.4.2.2-1. Materials processing by radically innovative technologies	STREP
3.4.2.2-3. 'Intelligent' bio-materials for tissue repair and regeneration	STREP
Engineering support for materials development	
3.4.2.3-1. Materials by design: bio-inspired materials and organic/inorganic hybrid materials	STREP
3.4.2.3-3. Measurement and testing of new multi-functional materials	CA
3.4.2.3-4. Mapping and foresight activities on Multifunctional materials	SSA
Development of new processes and flexible intelligent manufacturing systems	
3.4.3.1-1. New and user-friendly production technologies, and their incorporation into the factory of future	CA
Optimising the life-cycle of industrial systems, products and services	
3.4.3.3-2. New life-cycle optimised, safety and environmental technologies for industrial production	STREP
3.4.3.3-3. Increasing the 'user awareness' for sustainable consumption	CA; SSA
3.4.6. Coordination of activities in an enlarged Europe	CA

9. Minimum number of participants

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
STREP and CA	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC.
SSA	1 legal entity

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.

11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in STREP, CA and SSA resulting from this call are encouraged, but not required, to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. Evaluation procedure

- For STREP, CA and SSA proposals, the evaluation shall follow a single-stage procedure;
- Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. Evaluation criteria

- See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument;
- Attention will be given to the relevance of the proposals with regard to the general objectives of priority 3 as well as the specific objectives described for each topic covered by the call.

14. Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable

- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within 2 months after the closure date;
- Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by the end of 2004.

ANNEX 3

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area.
2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
3. **Call title:** Dedicated call for IPs for SMEs in the area of 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.
4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-NMP-SME-3.
5. **Date of publication:** 13 December 2003.
6. **Closure date(s):** For Integrated project (IP) (1st stage), 2 March 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
7. **Total indicative budget**

Instrument	EUR (millions)
IP	80

8. Areas called and Instruments

Area	Instrument
3.4.3.1-3. Support to the development of new knowledge-based added-value products and services in traditional less RTD intensive industries	IP dedicated to SMEs
3.4.3.3-1. Support to the development of new knowledge-based and sustainable processes and eco-innovation	IP dedicated to SMEs

9. Minimum number of participants

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
IP dedicated to SMEs	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC

10. **Restriction on participation:** Proposals should be clearly led by SMEs (see also section 3.6.5).

11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in IP are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. **Evaluation procedure**

— For IP dedicated to SMEs, the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. An outline proposal (stage 1) of a maximum of 20 pages (font size 12), addressing only a reduced set of the evaluation criteria, i.e.: relevance, potential impact and S/T excellence, shall be submitted at the closure date mentioned under item No 6 above. Proposals having passed the minimum thresholds (12 out of 15) required in the first stage will be retained for the second stage ('go' proposals). Coordinators of 'go' proposals will be requested to provide a complete proposal, which will be then evaluated against all set of evaluation criteria. The closure date for that second submission shall be mentioned in the request (indicative closure date: 22 June 2004).

— Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. **Evaluation criteria:** See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.

14. **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable**

— Evaluation results: estimated to be available within 2 months after the closure date;

— Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by the end of 2004.

ANNEX 4

1. **Specific Programme:** Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area.

2. **Activities:** Priority Thematic Area of research 'Nanotechnology, ... processes and devices'.

3. **Call title:** Dedicated call in the area of 'Very low CO₂ Steel Processes', launched in coordination with the 2003 and 2004 calls of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, as referred to in the Council Decision 2003/78/EC (OJ L 29, 5.2.2003, p. 28).

4. **Call identifier:** FP6-2003-NMP-STEEL-3.

5. **Date of publication:** 13 December 2003.

6. **Closure date(s):** 17 March 2004 at 17.00 (Brussels local time)

7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 20 million for Priority 3 and EUR 5 million(*) for Research Fund for Coal and Steel (**) outside the 6th Framework Programme budget)

Instrument	EUR (millions)
IP	25 (20 for Priority 3, 5 for RFCS)

8. **Areas called and Instruments**

Area	Instrument
3.4.5.1. Very low CO ₂ and greenhouse gas steel production processes – target 2020	IP

9. **Minimum number of participants**

Instrument	Minimum number of participants
IP	3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AS, with at least 2 MS or ACC

10. **Restriction on participation:** None.

11. **Consortia agreements:** Participants in IP are required to conclude a consortium agreement.
12. **Evaluation procedure:**
- For IPs the evaluation shall follow a single-stage procedure.
 - Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
13. **Evaluation criteria**
- See Annex B of the work programme for the applicable criteria (including their individual weights and thresholds and the overall threshold) per instrument.
 - For Integrated Projects attention will be given to the focus of the proposals with regard to the general objectives of priority 3 as well as the specific objectives described for each topic covered by the call. This will imply particular references to a substantial participation and leadership of industry under the criteria 'relevance', 'quality of consortium', 'management' and 'mobilisation of resources'.
14. **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable**
- Evaluation results: estimated to be available within 3 months after the closure date;
 - Conclusion of first contracts: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into effect by the end of 2004.

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area'

Thematic call in the area of 'Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health'

(2003/C 303/06)

1. In accordance with Decision No 1513/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 June 2002, concerning the sixth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002 to 2006) ⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted on 30 September 2002 the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as 'the Commission') has adopted on 9 December 2002 a work programme ⁽³⁾ (referred to as 'the work programme') setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities of the specific programme, and the timetable for implementation.

In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in, and for the dissemination of research results for, the implementation of the European Community Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as 'the rules for participation'), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as 'call') comprises the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annex. This Annex indicates in particular the date of closure for the submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions, an indicative date for the completion of the evaluations, the indicative budget, the instruments and the areas concerned, the evaluation criteria for the evaluation of proposals for indirect RTD actions, the minimum number of participants, and any applicable restrictions.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 4789, as modified by C(2003) 577, C(2003) 955, C(2003) 1952, C(2003) 3543, C(2003) 3555, and C(2003) 4609, all decisions unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.