

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: 'structuring the European Research Area'**Call identifier: FP6-2005-INNOV-8**

(2005/C 91/06)

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: 'Structuring the European Research Area' (2002-2006) ⁽²⁾ (referred to as 'the specific programme').
2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions (referred to as 'the call') comprises the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the annex. The 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.

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the specific programme, the Commission of the European Communities (referred to as 'the Commission') has adopted on 30 September 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 to 2006) ⁽⁴⁾ (referred to as 'the rules for participation'), proposals for indirect RTD actions should be submitted under the terms of calls for proposals.

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.

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⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 232, 29.8.2002, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 294, 29.10.2002, p. 44.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2002)4791, as amended by Commission Decisions C(2003)635, C(2003)998, C(2003)1951, C(2003)2708, C(2003)4571, C(2004)48, C(2004)3330, and C(2004)4726, all unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, of 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 357, of 31.12.2002, p. 1.

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 call which contain information on the preparation and the submission of a proposal for an indirect RTD action. The Commission also makes available Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures⁽¹⁾. These guides and guidelines, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the call, can be obtained from the Commission via the following addresses:

European Commission
The FP6 Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/fp6

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are invited to be submitted only as an electronic proposal via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS⁽²⁾). In exceptional cases, however, a co-ordinator may request permission from the Commission to submit on paper in advance of a call deadline. This should be done by writing to the following address: rtd-infrastructures@cec.eu.int. The request must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought. Proposers wishing to use paper submission take the responsibility for ensuring that such requests for exemption and the associated procedures are completed in time for them to meet the call deadline.

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

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line. Part B of proposals for indirect RTD actions can only be submitted in PDF ('portable document format', compatible with Adobe Version 3 or higher with embedded fonts). Compressed ('zipped') files will be excluded.

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 that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete, illegible or contain viruses will be excluded.

Versions of proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted on a removable electronic storage medium (eg, CD-ROM, diskette), by email or by fax will be excluded.

Any proposal for indirect RTD actions that has been allowed to be submitted on paper and which is incomplete will be excluded.

Further details on the various proposal submission procedures are given in Annex J of the Guidelines on Proposal Evaluation and Selection Procedures.

6. 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.

7. 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.
8. If foreseen in the relevant call, proposals for indirect RTD actions could be evaluated in the framework of a future evaluation.
9. 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.

⁽¹⁾ C(2003)883 of 27.3.2003, as last modified by C(2004)3337 of 1.9.2004.

⁽²⁾ The EPSS is a tool to assist proposers to develop and submit their proposals electronically.

ANNEX

1. **Specific Programme:** Structuring the European Research Area

2. **Thematic priority/Domain:** Research and Innovation

3. **Call title:** Standards in support of innovative business solutions

4. **Call Identifier:** FP6-2005-INNOV-8

5. **Date of publication** ⁽¹⁾: 15 April 2005

6. **Closing date** ⁽²⁾: 19 July 2005

7. **Total indicative budget:** EUR 5,5 million

8. **Areas and instruments:**

Area		Instrument	Indicative budget
1.2.1.7	— Facilitating the integration of open standards into the design of new products and services — Facilitating the integration of open standards into business practices — Stimulating innovation through reference to standards in procurement	3 Coordination Actions	EUR 5,5 million

9. **Minimum number of participants:**

Instrument	Minimum no. of participants
Coordination Actions	In this call the minimum number of participants is 6 independent legal entities from 4 different Member States, Accession Candidate Countries or Associated States, with at least 4 participants coming from Member States.

10. **Restriction to participation:** None

11. **Consortium agreement:** In the case of consortia, participants resulting from this call are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

12. **Evaluation procedure:**

The evaluation shall follow a single stage procedure.

Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.

13. **Evaluation criteria:**

The evaluation criteria and weighting shall be as below.

No thresholds will apply to this call.

⁽¹⁾ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

⁽²⁾ Where the envisaged date of publication is anticipated or delayed (see footnote 1), closure date(s) will be adjusted accordingly in the published call for proposals.

Evaluation criteria	1.2.1.7
Relevance	20 %
Quality of the coordination action	20 %
Potential impact	10 %
Quality of the consortium	20 %
Quality of the management	15 %
Mobilisation of resources	15 %

Further information will be given in the Call for Proposals documentation.

14. Indicative evaluation and selection:

Evaluation results will be communicated to the contractors about four months after the date of closure of the call.

It is expected that the first contracts come into force six months after the date of closure of the call.
