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II

(Information)

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COMMISSION

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty**Cases where the Commission raises no objections****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2007/C 227/01)

Date of adoption of the decision	13.6.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 863/06
Member State	Germany
Region	Freistaat Sachsen
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Avancis GmbH
Legal basis	Investitionszulagengesetz 2005 und 2007; 35. GA-Rahmenplan
Type of measure	Individual aid
Objective	Regional development
Form of aid	Direct grant, Tax allowance
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 38,93 million
Intensity	15,36 %
Duration	10.11.2006-31.12.2009
Economic sectors	Electrical and optical equipment

Name and address of the granting authority	Finanzamt Oschatz Dresdner Straße 77 D-04758 Oschatz Oschatz und Sächsische Aufbaubank Förderbank Pirnaische Straße 9 D-01069 Dresden
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	10.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 899/06
Member State	Portugal
Region	Alentejo
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Artensa (Artenius) — Produção e Comercialização de Ácido Tereftálico Purificado e Produtos Conexos, SA
Legal basis	Decreto-Lei n.º 409/99 de 15 de Outubro — regulamenta a concessão de Benefícios Fiscais; Decreto-Lei n.º 70-B/2000 de 5 de Maio — aprova o enquadramento legal de referência para apoio directo e indirecto as empresas
Type of measure	Individual aid
Objective	Regional development
Form of aid	Soft loan, Tax advantage
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 80,09 million
Intensity	19,43 %
Duration	2007-31.12.2009
Economic sectors	Chemical and pharmaceutical industry
Name and address of the granting authority	API — Agência Portuguesa para o Investimento, E.P.E.
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	10.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 907/06
Member State	Hungary
Region	Heves
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Mátrai Erőmű Zrt
Legal basis	A társasági adóról és az osztalékadóról szóló, 1996. évi LXXXI. törvény, a 373/2004 (XII.26.) kormányrendelettel módosított, a fejlesztési adókedvezményről szóló 275/2003 (XII.24.) kormányrendelet
Type of measure	Individual aid
Objective	Regional development
Form of aid	Tax advantage
Budget	Overall budget: HUF 12 378 million
Intensity	9,14 %
Duration	2013-2020
Economic sectors	Electricity, gas and water supply
Name and address of the granting authority	Pénzügyminisztérium
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2007/C 227/02)

Date of adoption of the decision	10.5.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 682/06
Member State	Belgium
Region	Vlaanderen
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Maatregel van de Vlaamse regering ter ondersteuning van het intermodaal vervoer over de binnenwateren
Legal basis	Jaarlijkse decreten van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap en een toepassingsbesluit
Type of measure	Subsidy per container that will be transhipped to an inland container terminal from or to an inland waterway vessel
Objective	To shift the transport of containers from road to inland waterways
Form of aid	Grants
Budget	EUR 11,25 million for three years
Intensity	30 %
Duration	2007, 2008 and 2009
Economic sectors	Transport
Name and address of the granting authority	Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV/De Scheepvaart NV namens het Vlaams Gewest Oostdijk 110 B-2830 Willebroek
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	10.5.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 770/06
Member State	Czech Republic
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Státní záruka pro potřeby financování nákupu železničních vozů společností České dráhy
Legal basis	Zákon o poskytnutí státní záruky České republiky na zajištění úvěru určeného na financování nákupu železničních vozů, poskytnutého společností EUROFIMA

Type of measure	State guarantee to cover a loan
Objective	To facilitate the purchase of new passenger railway rolling stock
Form of aid	Guarantee
Budget	The State guarantee will be granted to cover a loan up to EUR 30 million, including interest and charges from EUROFIMA
Intensity	The amount covered by the guarantee is 95 % of the loan, the remaining 5 % is covered by Czech Railways own resources
Duration	The State guarantee will remain valid until 31 December 2019
Economic sectors	Transport
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerstvo dopravy L. Svobody 12 CZ-110 15 Praha 1
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	30.5.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 780/06
Member State	The Netherlands
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Onderzoek en ontwikkeling composiet scheepsconstructie en multi-purpose laadruim; het „CompoCaNord”-project
Legal basis	Conceptbeschikking subsidieverlening DGTL Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat Beschikingsnummer: DGTL/05.008739
Type of measure	Individual aid
Objective	The objective of the project is to develop an innovative, multi-purpose, light-weight, composite inland shipping vessel. This revolutionary new type of ship for inland navigation is called ‘the CompoCaNord’
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	EUR 610 000
Intensity	30 %
Duration	2 years

Economic sectors	Inland navigation
Name and address of the granting authority	—
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	10.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 791/06
Member State	Sweden
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Business Case Norrköping
Legal basis	Privaträttsliga avtal
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Start-up aid for new air routes from a regional airport
Form of aid	Measure not constituting aid
Budget	SEK 3 million
Intensity	Measure not constituting aid
Duration	36 months
Economic sectors	Aviation
Name and address of the granting authority	Nya Norrköping
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	5.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 10/07
Member State	Poland
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Pomoc horyzontalna na inwestycje służące redukcji emisji ze źródeł spalania paliw (PL 12/2004)

Legal basis	Art. 405 Ustawy z 27 kwietnia 2001 r. Prawo ochrony środowiska. Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z 27 kwietnia 2004 r. w sprawie szczegółowych warunków udzielania pomocy publicznej na inwestycje służące redukcji emisji ze źródeł spalania paliw
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Environmental protection
Form of aid	Direct grant, Debt write-off, Interest subsidy
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 100 million
Intensity	70 %
Duration (period)	1.1.2007-31.12.2012
Economic sectors	Energy
Name and address of the granting authority	Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej, PL-02-673 Warszawa, ul. Konstruktorska 3a oraz wojewódzkie fundusze ochrony środowiska i gospodarki wodnej
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	5.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 11/07
Member State	Poland
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Pomoc horyzontalna na inwestycje służące dostosowaniu do wymogów najlepszych dostępnych technik (PL 8/2004)
Legal basis	Art. 405 Ustawy z 27 kwietnia 2001 r. Prawo ochrony środowiska. Rozporządzenie Rady Ministrów z 27 kwietnia 2004 r. w sprawie szczegółowych warunków udzielania pomocy publicznej na inwestycje służące dostosowaniu do wymogów najlepszych dostępnych technik
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Environmental protection
Form of aid	Direct grant, Debt write-off, Interest subsidy
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 120 million
Intensity	30 %

Duration (period)	1.1.2007-31.12.2010
Economic sectors	All sectors
Name and address of the granting authority	Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej, PL-02-673 Warszawa, ul. Konstruktorska 3a oraz wojewódzkie fundusze ochrony środowiska i gospodarki wodnej
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	17.7.2007
Reference number of the aid	N 112/07
Member State	Germany
Region	—
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	THESEUS (Technologien für Services und Effiziente Unterstützung der Suche im Internet)
Legal basis	Jährliches Haushaltsgesetz, Einzelplan 09 — Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie, Titel 68664
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Research and development, Innovation
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 120 million
Intensity	80 %
Duration	Until 31.12.2011
Economic sectors	—
Name and address of the granting authority	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie Scharnhorststr. 34-37 D-10115 Berlin
Other information	—

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND
BODIES

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**26 September 2007**

(2007/C 227/03)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate
USD US dollar	1,4127	RON Romanian leu	3,3801
JPY Japanese yen	162,93	SKK Slovak koruna	34,083
DKK Danish krone	7,4560	TRY Turkish lira	1,7212
GBP Pound sterling	0,70050	AUD Australian dollar	1,6153
SEK Swedish krona	9,2095	CAD Canadian dollar	1,4208
CHF Swiss franc	1,6527	HKD Hong Kong dollar	10,9730
ISK Iceland króna	87,87	NZD New Zealand dollar	1,8995
NOK Norwegian krone	7,7710	SGD Singapore dollar	2,1153
BGN Bulgarian lev	1,9558	KRW South Korean won	1 301,17
CYP Cyprus pound	0,5842	ZAR South African rand	9,8258
CZK Czech koruna	27,590	CNY Chinese yuan renminbi	10,6164
EEK Estonian kroon	15,6466	HRK Croatian kuna	7,2871
HUF Hungarian forint	250,94	IDR Indonesian rupiah	12 941,74
LTL Lithuanian litas	3,4528	MYR Malaysian ringgit	4,8406
LVL Latvian lats	0,7060	PHP Philippine peso	63,875
MTL Maltese lira	0,4293	RUB Russian rouble	35,2850
PLN Polish zloty	3,7763	THB Thai baht	44,990

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

COMMISSION

Call for proposals: Services in support of business and innovation

(2007/C 227/04)

1. Context

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is established to contribute to the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the Community with particular attention to the needs of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It brings together several existing EU activities that support business and innovation.

As a major component of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), one of the three CIP sub-programmes, the European Commission implements a measure to provide SMEs with integrated services in support of business and innovation. These services will be delivered through a single network to be established through this call for proposals. *Article 21 (CIP)* and *Annex III (CIP)* detail the overall framework under which these services shall be delivered ⁽¹⁾.

- A first call for proposals resulted in awarding proposals for services in support of business and innovation that will cover most of the territory of the European Union ⁽²⁾. This call for proposals aims at filling the uncovered geographic areas that emerged after the first call for proposals and is restricted to the territories that fulfil the criteria described in point 7 below.

The key elements of this call concern:

- the provision of an integrated and performing network of business support services building on the experience achieved with the currently operating networks of 270 Euro Info Centres (EIC) and 250 Innovation Relay Centres (IRC),

- the increase in synergies among all network partners, with the objective of ensuring the provision of integrated services,
- improved access and proximity for SMEs to services ('No wrong door' concept),
- lighter administrative procedures,
- professionalism and quality of services provided.

In this context, will be rejected any proposal directly or indirectly contrary to EU policy or against public health, human rights, citizen's security and freedom of expression.

2. Objectives

The main objective of this call is to complete the geographical coverage for a *single network* providing *integrated services* in support of business and innovation, based on *Article 21 (CIP)*.

The individual objectives are to:

- increase the synergies among network partners through the provision of integrated services,
- maintain and continually improve the access, proximity, quality and professionalism of the integrated services provided by the network,
- raise awareness — in particular among SMEs — regarding Community policy issues and the services offered by the network, including the improvement of environmental awareness and eco-efficiency of SMEs and the Cohesion policy and Structural funds,

⁽¹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm

⁽²⁾ ENTR/CIP/007/001, JO C 306, 15.12.2006.

- consult businesses and obtain their opinions on Community policy options,
- ensure that the network offers complementarities with other relevant services providers,
- reduce the administrative burden for all parties.

To implement these objectives, proposals will include the following services:

- information, feedback, business co-operation and internationalisation services (*Article 21(2) (CIP), Module a*),
- services for innovation and for the transfer of both technology and knowledge (*Article 21(2) (CIP), Module b*),
- services encouraging the participation of SMEs in the Community framework programme for RTD (*Article 21(2) (CIP), Module c*).

To ensure services of highest quality for SMEs and to implement a single network, the following general provisions apply for the whole network and for each network partner:

- implementing the 'No wrong door' concept,
- excellence, proximity and professionalism of network partners.

The Commission expects that proposals from single organisations or consortia will provide *integrated services of all service modules*. It is also expected that proposals show a balance of activities between services as described in *Module a and b of Article 21(2) (CIP)*. Services related to *Module c of Article 21(2) (CIP)* must be covered in *each proposal*. The priority for integrated services will be reflected in the evaluation process and respective awarding decision.

Scheduled start date for the action: January 2008.

3. Budget

The estimated budget available for the call is **EUR 6,8 million for the period 2008-2013**, available for the defined countries and regions in the EU27 as listed under point 7. The Commission will provide a co-financing of **up to 60 %** of eligible costs. The final percentage will be subject to the overall budget requested by successful applicants, the total budget available and the quality of proposals.

Moreover, it is expected that the budget allocation within proposals will reflect the range and complexity of services in each module with a fairly even distribution between services and costs for *Modules a and b of Article 21(2) (CIP)*. Services and costs for *Module c* will constitute a smaller portion of the budget than either *Module a or b*, but also need to be sufficiently considered.

While there is no pre-defined allocation of budget by Member State, the distribution will reflect to a certain extent the socio-economic criteria that correspond approximately to the total population in Member States.

4. Contractual requirements

Successful applicants will sign a Framework Partnership Agreement (the 'FPA') and its annexes, which includes a Specific Grant Agreement. The FPA specifies the contractual terms and conditions to which applicants will be expected to agree if their proposal receives an award for funding.

The FPA is the formalised relationship between the Commission and its partners. It details the role of the Commission and the role of the partners. If concluded with a consortium, the FPA details the responsibility of the co-ordinator and the responsibility of co-partners.

Every partner shall supply evidence of the co-financing provided, either by way of own resources, or in the form of financial transfers from third parties.

Please note that one action may give rise to the award of *only one grant from the budget* to any partner.

The Commission reserves the right to award a grant of less than the amount requested by the applicant. Grants will not be awarded for more than the amount requested.

The publication does not guarantee the availability of funds for the above action.

A network brand will be adopted in due time: all network partners will be required to use it for all network activities and actively promote it.

5. Content of proposals

Proposals to be submitted will mainly be constituted by the following two parts:

- a proposed *Implementing Strategy*, notably on the integration, access and proximity of services, having a 6 year time horizon (2008-2013) that will define, for a given geographical area and for each of the services defined in *Article 21(2), Modules a to c (CIP)*, the objectives, the justification and the methodology for implementation. This document will constitute the annex I of the FPA if the proposal is awarded,
- a *Preliminary Work Programme* that will translate the implementing strategy into detailed actions during the first 36 months with the corresponding estimated budget. This document will constitute the Annex I of the first Specific grant agreement if the proposal is awarded.

The European Commission will conduct a mid-term evaluation of the performance of the network. The results of the evaluation will have an impact for the Work Programmes to be sent to the Commission by the end of 2010 to prepare the next Specific grant agreements, including a possible modification of the financing arrangements.

6. Applicants

Proposals may be made by single organisations able to provide the services as described above or by consortia comprising a group of host organisations. However, given the likely size of the proposals, it is expected that most proposals will be made up of consortia.

A consortium shall be understood as a flexible structure based on national good practices and must fit with the domestic setup of services in support of business and innovation.

Each consortium will be represented by a co-ordinating host organisation for contractual and administrative purposes. For other matters, the Commission will maintain direct relations with each host organisation within a consortium and exchange views about policy issues and strategic views of the single network development.

In addition, each host organisation will have direct access to products and services provided by a technical and administrative support structure (the Commission is going to delegate to the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) the implementation of these activities) for the implementation of the single network. A constant dialogue between this structure and all host organisations will be promoted. This will not be affected by the contractual relationship between this structure and the consortium coordinator.

There is no theoretical limit to the number of host organisations within a consortium. However, the co-ordination arrangements generally become more critical as consortia grow. Arrangements for internal co-ordination of consortia shall be explicit and be an important aspect in selecting consortia.

Co-operation with international organisations with intergovernmental agreements is welcomed.

7. Geographical coverage

The Commission seeks a complete geographical coverage of services in support of business and innovation, without duplication of activities in any geographic area.

The first call for proposals mentioned in point 1 resulted in awarding proposals for services in support of business and innovation that will cover most of the territory of the European Union. This call for proposals mainly aims at filling the not covered geographic areas that emerged after the first call for proposals and is, therefore, restricted to the following territories within the European Union ⁽¹⁾:

- France: Départments d'outre-mer (NUTS code: FR9),
- Germany: Bremen (DE5),
- Luxemburg: Luxemburg (LU0),
- Romania: Macroregiunea unu (RO1), Macroregiunea doi (RO2), Macroregiunea patru (RO4),
- Spain: Baleares islands (ES53),
- United Kingdom: South West (UKK).

For territories within the EU27, the present call is restricted to the above-mentioned geographic areas and countries.

Furthermore, **for countries outside the European Union**, the first call for proposals (ENT/CIP/07/001) has resulted in awards for applications from the following countries and geographic areas, subject to the successful conclusion of negotiations by these countries to join the CIP:

- Chile,
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- Iceland,
- Israel,
- Norway,
- Turkey: Istanbul (TR1), Bati Marmara (TR2), EGE (TR3), Bati Anadolu (TR5), Orta Anadolu (TR7), Kuzeydogu Anadolu (TRA).

In addition proposals for co-operation based on Article 21(5) (self financing basis) have been considered for Switzerland and Armenia.

For countries outside the EU27, the present call is restricted to all geographic areas and countries **NOT** covered by the above mentioned list.

Applicants should provide in their proposal a detailed description of coherent, accessible and integrated services to be offered within a *clearly delimited geographical area*. The geographical area covered by the proposal should therefore be sufficiently large to demonstrate that quality services will be provided to a significant target population.

⁽¹⁾ This call is also open to Third countries in conformity with Articles 4 and 21(5) (CIP) and according to Point 8 below and the submission set, except for Armenia, Chile, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland, and the following regions in Turkey: Istanbul, Bati Marmara, EGE, Bati Anadolu, Orta Anadolu, Kuzeydogu Anadolu.

For most countries, it is expected that the typical size of geographical area will more or less correspond to the NUTS1 nomenclature ⁽¹⁾. Applying consortia may assign the responsibility for serving smaller areas within these geographical areas to particular host organisations within a consortium (NUTS2).

Where the NUTS1 level does not correspond to domestic structures, alternative geographical area of comparable size may be considered ⁽²⁾.

Consortia offering the described services in a *cross-border* area are eligible if all host organisations in the consortia are eligible. A cross-border consortium shall demonstrate that services under all modules are accessible for clients from the geographical area covered, either through a sufficient number of host organisations in the consortium or through a non-discriminatory access to services in the countries involved.

Although formally eligible, trans-national consortia not operating in neighbouring geographical areas are not encouraged. Experience has shown that the added value from a closer co-operation of two separate geographical areas within the same consortium does not balance the extra cost for co-ordination. Specific co-operation activities between two or more geographical areas might be included as special services or activities in the respective modules.

Proposals of host organisations wishing to provide services in geographical areas larger than the NUTS1 level will be eligible.

8. Eligibility

Applicants and applications must comply with the following conditions in order to be eligible:

- applicants must be legal entities established in EU 27, Candidate countries, EEA member countries, the Western Balkan countries and other Third countries as defined in Article 4 of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and explained in V.1 of the Submission set,
- corporate bodies must be properly constituted and registered under the law,
- applications must be signed, dated and complete, using the submission requirements indicated in section 11 of the present document,
- applications must be received before the closing date,
- only applications for projects that are strictly non-profit-making and/or whose immediate objective is non-commercial shall be eligible.

Moreover, according to Article 93 of the Financial Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1605/2002) mentioned below,

- ⁽¹⁾ NUTS = Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88; Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council); for further information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/comm/eurostat/ramon/nuts>
- ⁽²⁾ Please note that the use of NUTS1 serves purely as an indication for this specific call for proposals. It does not prejudice any other current or future initiatives related to the NUTS classification.

candidates shall be excluded from participation in a grant procedure if:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

By using the 'Exclusion Form' (attached to the 'Submission Set'), applicants shall declare on their honour that they are not in one of the situations listed above. The authorising officer responsible may however request the evidence described in the 'Exclusion Form' above mentioned. In such case, applicants shall be bound to supply such proof, unless there is a material impossibility recognised by the authorising officer responsible.

In addition, and according to Article 94 of the Financial Regulation mentioned below, grants may not be awarded to candidates who, during the award procedure:

- (g) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (h) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

Please note that, according to Article 96 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 and according to Article 133 of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 as last modified by Regulation (EC) No 1248/2006 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed by the Commission on applicants who are excluded in relation to points (a) to (h) above mentioned.

Applicants may act individually or in consortium with partner organisations; partners of applicants must satisfy the same eligibility criteria as those for applicants

9. Selection

The selection will be based on the applicants' financial and technical capacity to complete the proposed project.

Financial capacity

For the *financial capacity*, applicants must show that they have stable and sufficient sources of finance to ensure the continuity of their host organisation throughout the project and to play a part in financing it.

To that end, they must include in the proposal their annual accounts for the last two financial years (i.e. profit and loss accounts; balance sheet). In conformity with Article 176 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, the verification of financial capacity will not be applied to public bodies.

Where the proposed amount requested from the Commission exceeds EUR 500 000 per host organisation, an audit report on those accounts must be provided before conclusion of the FPA. For applying consortia, the threshold concerning the audit report is applicable at the level of individual host organisations and not at the level of the consortium.

Technical capacity

To assess the *technical capacity* of applicants, they must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity to complete the operation and demonstrate their capacity to manage a large-scale activity corresponding with the size of the project described in the proposal. In particular, the team responsible for the project must have adequate professional qualifications and experience.

The list of criteria that will be used to assess the technical capacity is available in the 'Submission set'.

Applicants must be *directly* responsible for the preparation and management of the project, not acting as an intermediary. They must provide information about the capacity to provide the service and demonstrate their experiences in working with other parties, in trans-national projects and in providing the services expected.

10. Award

An evaluation of the quality of proposals, including the proposed budget, will be carried out in accordance with the following award criteria:

1. Relevance	/30
2. Quality	/30
3. Impact	/15
4. Visibility	/10
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness	/15
Maximum total score	/100

If a total score lower than 70 points or a score lower than 50 % for any of the above five criteria is obtained, the proposal will not be evaluated further.

The complete selection and evaluation procedure is described in part VIII of the Submission set.

Indicative scheduled month for closing the award procedure: February 2008.

Please note that, in case of award, the partners authorise the Commission, according to Article II.5.2 of the Draft grant agreement, to publish the following information in any form and medium, including via the Internet:

- the partner's and co-partner's name and the address,
- the subject and purpose of the grant,
- the amount granted and the proportion of the action's total cost covered by the funding.

11. Submission of proposal

The proposal must be drafted using the specific submission set available for this call.

The submission set can be downloaded from the CIP call website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/cip/index.htm>

Proposals must be submitted electronically. A user guide is available in the standard submission set.

The Electronic Proposal Submission Tool (EPSS) can be accessed via the abovementioned website.

Reminder: Late delivery will lead to the applicant being excluded from the award procedure.

- Main documents to attach to the submission set: Full proposal and description of the project/action. Legal documents: Official registration certificate, Articles of association/Statutes, List of directors/executive board members (names and forenames, titles or positions in the applicant organisation), organisation chart, rules of procedure. Evidence of technical capacity: Curriculum vitae of persons

to be performing work in connection with the operation. Financial capacity: Annual accounts (audited, where applicable) for the last two financial years (or annual budget in the case of a public body). Idem for partners.

12. Equal opportunity

The European Community has the task to promote equality between women and men and shall aim in all its activities to eliminate gender inequalities (Articles 2 and 3 of the EC Treaty). In this context, women are particularly encouraged to be involved in proposal submission.

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY

COMMISSION

Notice of initiation of a partial interim review of the countervailing measures applicable to imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) originating in India

(2007/C 227/05)

The Commission has decided on its own initiative to initiate a partial interim review limited to the level of subsidization for certain Indian exporting producers pursuant to Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2026/97 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Community ('the basic Regulation') ⁽¹⁾.

1. Product

The product under review is polyethylene terephthalate with a coefficient of viscosity of 78 ml/g or higher, according to ISO Standard 1628-5, originating in India ('the product concerned'), currently classifiable within CN code 3907 60 20. This CN code is given only for information.

2. Existing measures

The measures currently in force are a definitive countervailing duty imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 193/2007 ⁽²⁾ on imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) originating in India.

3. Grounds for the review

There is sufficient *prima facie* evidence available to the Commission, that the circumstances with regard to subsidisation on the basis of which measures were established have changed and that these changes are of a lasting nature.

Indeed, the benefits from two subsidy schemes (the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme ('DEPBS') and the Income Tax Exemption under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act ('ITES')) appear to have significantly decreased. This is due to the modification of the relevant basic Indian laws on which these schemes are based.

As a consequence, the level of subsidisation is likely to have decreased for those companies whose measures are based either

fully or partly on benefits obtained from one or both of the aforesaid two schemes in the investigation period used in the investigation that led to the determination of the level of the existing measures.

This indicates that the measures mentioned in the preceding paragraph on imports of the product under review at their present level may no longer be necessary to counteract the current subsidisation. Therefore, the measures should be reviewed for the companies in question.

These companies include those listed in the Annex and any other producer of the product under review that makes itself known to the Commission within the deadline set in point 5(b)(i) below and demonstrates within the same time limit that (1) it enjoyed benefits from one or both of the two schemes mentioned above during the investigation period used in the investigation that led to the determination of the level of the measure to which they are subject (1 October 1998-30 September 1999), and that (2) given the structural changes in these schemes as mentioned above, the benefit accruing from these schemes has decreased.

In addition, if the review investigation shows or any interested party provides sufficient *prima facie* evidence within the deadline set in point 5(a)(i) below that exporters of the product concerned that are concerned by the current review are benefiting from subsidy schemes other than those mentioned above, an investigation of these schemes may also be made within the framework of the current review.

Insofar as the modified subsidy margins resulting from the current investigation could have an impact on the measures applicable for cooperating companies in the investigation that set the level of the measures and/or on the residual measure applicable for all other companies, these rates may be revised accordingly.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 288, 21.10.1997, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 461/2004 (OJ L 77, 13.3.2004, p. 12).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 59, 27.2.2007, p. 34.

It should be noted that, for those companies who are subject to both anti-dumping and countervailing measures, the anti-dumping measure may be adjusted accordingly should there be a change in the countervailing measure.

4. Procedure

Having determined, after consulting the Advisory Committee, that sufficient evidence exists to justify the initiation of an *ex officio* partial interim review, the Commission hereby initiates a review in accordance with Article 19 of the basic Regulation.

The investigation will assess the need for the continuation, removal or amendment of the existing measures in respect of those companies having benefited from one or both subsidy schemes mentioned above and, for those companies, in respect of other schemes where sufficient evidence is provided as mentioned in point 3, paragraph 6 above. The investigation will also assess the need, depending on the findings of the current investigation, to revise the measures applicable to other companies that cooperated in the investigation that set the level of the existing measures and/or the residual measure applicable for all other companies.

(a) Sampling

In view of the apparent number of parties involved in this proceeding, the Commission may decide to apply sampling, in accordance with Article 27 of the basic Regulation.

(i) Sampling for exporters/producers

In order to enable the Commission to decide whether sampling is necessary and, if so, to select a sample, all exporters/producers, or representatives acting on their behalf, are hereby requested to make themselves known by contacting the Commission and providing the following information on their company or companies within the time limit set in point 5(b)(i) and in the formats indicated in point 6:

- name, address, e-mail address, telephone, and fax numbers and contact person,
- the turnover in local currency and the volume in tonnes of the product concerned sold for export to the Community during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007,
- the turnover in local currency and the sales volume in tonnes of the product concerned sold on the domestic market during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007,
- whether the company intends to claim an individual subsidy rate (individual subsidy rates can only be claimed by producers) ⁽¹⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Individual margins may be claimed pursuant to Article 27(3) of the basic Regulation for companies not included in the sample.

- the precise activities of the company with regard to the production of the product concerned and the production volume in tonnes of the product concerned, the production capacity and the investments in production capacity during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007,
- the names and the precise activities of all related companies ⁽²⁾ involved in the production and/or selling (export and/or domestic) of the product concerned,
- whether the company received benefits under the DEPBS and/or the ITES in (i) the investigation period used in the investigation that led to the determination of the level of the measure to which it is currently subject (1 October 1998-30 September 1999) and/or (ii) in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007,
- any other relevant information that would assist the Commission in the selection of the sample,
- by providing the above information, the company agrees to its possible inclusion in the sample. If the company is chosen to be part of the sample, this will imply replying to a questionnaire and accepting an on-the-spot investigation of its response. If the company indicates that it does not agree to its possible inclusion in the sample, it will be deemed to not have co-operated in the investigation. The consequences of non-cooperation are set out in point 7 below.

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for the selection of the sample of exporters/producers, the Commission will, in addition, contact the authorities of the exporting country, and any known associations of exporters/producers.

(ii) Final selection of the sample

All interested parties wishing to submit any relevant information regarding the selection of the sample must do so within the time limit set in point 5(b)(ii).

The Commission intends to make the final selection of the sample after having consulted the parties concerned that have expressed their willingness to be included in the sample.

Companies included in the sample must reply to a questionnaire within the time limit set in point 5 (b)(iii) and must co-operate within the framework of the investigation.

⁽²⁾ For guidance on the meaning of related companies, please refer to Article 143 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code (OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1).

If sufficient co-operation is not forthcoming, the Commission may base its findings, in accordance with Articles 27(4) and 28 of the basic Regulation, on the facts available. A finding based on facts available may be less advantageous to the party concerned, as explained in point 7.

(b) *Questionnaires*

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the sampled companies and to the authorities of the exporting country concerned.

(c) *Collection of information and holding of hearings*

All interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information other than questionnaire replies and to provide supporting evidence. This information and supporting evidence must reach the Commission within the time limit set in point 5(a)(i).

Furthermore, the Commission may hear interested parties, provided that they make a request showing that there are particular reasons why they should be heard. This request must be made within the time limit set in point 5(a)(ii).

5. Time limits

(a) *General time limits*

- (i) For parties to make themselves known, to submit questionnaire replies and any other information

All interested parties, if their representations are to be taken into account during the investigation, must make themselves known by contacting the Commission, present their views and submit questionnaire replies, in particular the authorities of the exporting country concerned, or any other information, including that mentioned in point 3 sixth paragraph, within 40 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, unless otherwise specified. Attention is drawn to the fact that the exercise of most procedural rights set out in the basic Regulation depends on the party's making itself known within the aforementioned period.

(ii) *Hearings*

All interested parties may also apply to be heard by the Commission within the same 40-day time limit.

(b) *Specific time limit in respect of sampling*

- (i) The information specified in point 4(a)(i) should reach the Commission within 15 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, given that the Commission intends to consult parties concerned that have expressed their willingness to be included in the sample on its final selection within a period of 21 days of the publication of this notice.
- (ii) All other information relevant for the selection of the sample as referred to in point 4(a)(ii) must reach the Commission within a period of 21 days of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
- (iii) The questionnaire replies from sampled parties must reach the Commission within 37 days from the date of the notification of their inclusion in the sample.

6. Written submissions, questionnaire replies and correspondence

All submissions and requests made by interested parties must be made in writing (not in electronic format, unless otherwise specified) and must indicate the name, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the interested party. All written submissions, including the information requested in this notice, questionnaire replies and correspondence provided by interested parties on a confidential basis shall be labelled as 'Limited' ⁽¹⁾ and, in accordance with Article 29(2) of the basic Regulation, shall be accompanied by a non-confidential version, which will be labelled 'FOR INSPECTION BY INTERESTED PARTIES'.

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission
Directorate General for Trade
Directorate H
Office: J-79 4/23
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 295 65 05

7. Non-co-operation

In cases in which any interested party refuses access to or does not provide the necessary information within the time limits, or significantly impedes the investigation, findings, affirmative or negative, may be made in accordance with Article 28 of the basic Regulation, on the basis of the facts available.

⁽¹⁾ This means that the document is for internal use only. It is protected pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43). It is a confidential document pursuant to Article 29 of the basic Regulation and Article 12 of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

Where it is found that any interested party has supplied false or misleading information, the information shall be disregarded and use may be made, in accordance with Article 28 of the basic Regulation, of the facts available. If an interested party does not cooperate or cooperates only partially, and use of facts available is made, the result may be less favourable to that party than if it had cooperated.

8. Schedule of the investigation

The investigation shall be concluded, according to Article 22(1) of the basic Regulation, within 15 months of the date of the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

9. Other interim reviews under Article 19 of the basic Regulation

The scope of the current review is as set out in point 4 above. Any party wishing to claim a review on the basis of other grounds may do so in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the basic Regulation.

10. Processing of personal data

Please note that any personal data collected in this investigation will be treated in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data ⁽¹⁾.

ANNEX

— Pearl Engineering Polymers Ltd

— Reliance industries Ltd

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

OTHER ACTS

COMMISSION

Publication of an application for registration pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin of agricultural products and foodstuffs

(2007/C 227/06)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within six months from the date of this publication.

SUMMARY

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 510/2006**‘AIL DE LA DROME’****EC No: FR/PGI/005/0537/27.03.2006****PDO () PGI (X)**

This summary sets out the main elements of the product specification for information purposes.

1. *Responsible department in the Member State:*

Name: Institut National des Appellations d'Origine (I.N.A.O)
Address: 51, rue d'Anjou
F-75 008 Paris
Telephone (33-1) 53 89 80 00
Fax (33-1) 42 25 57 97
E-mail: info@inao.gouv.fr

2. *Group:*

Name: Association des Producteurs d'Ail de la Drôme
Address: Chambre d'Agriculture
ZI de Gournier
F-26 200 Montelimar
Telephone (33-4) 75 53 91 10
Fax (33-4) 75 53 50 92
E-mail: —
Composition: Producers/processors (X) Other ()

3. *Type of product:*

Class 1.6 — Fresh or processed fruit, vegetables and cereals

4. Specification:

(Summary of requirements under Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006)

4.1. Name: 'Ail de la Drôme'

- 4.2. Description: 'Ail de la Drôme' is an edible garlic intended for sale either fresh, semi-dried or dried. It is a white garlic (of the autumn variety), sometimes featuring violet-coloured markings, and is large in size. It is characterised by a slightly sweet, 'fresh' (as opposed to rancid), medium-strength taste, a short-lasting aftertaste, a pleasant feel and a soft texture in the mouth. Two local historical varieties of white garlic are used: 'Messidrôme' and 'Thermidrôme'.

The bulbs must be classified as category I or Extra, as defined by the ECE standardisation. The minimum diameter is fixed at 45 mm.

'Ail de la Drôme' may be marketed in bulk (in a tray or bag) or in retail packaging.

Three types of presentation are authorised: loose in its container, in bunches, and, for dried and semi-dried garlic, in strings.

- 4.3. Geographical area: The geographical area is made up of 118 municipalities spread over 13 districts of the department of Drôme.

Districts completely covered by the geographical area: Crest Sud, Grignan, Loriol, Marsanne, Montélimar I et II, Pierrelatte, Saint Paul Trois Châteaux and Portes lès Valence. Districts partly covered by the geographical area: Buis les Baronnies, Chabeuil, Crest Nord, Dieulefit and Nyons.

The geographical area is defined on the basis of the historical and current areas of garlic cultivation, established using general agricultural census data and climate data indicating geographical areas whose combined daily temperatures reach 1 000 °C more than 8 times out of 10 between 1 November and 15 April, guaranteeing that the garlic reaches optimum maturity and quality.

The following stages in the cultivation process must be carried out in the geographical area of the PGI: seed production, growing, harvesting, drying, scrubbing and sorting of the garlic.

- 4.4. Proof of origin: Land parcels in the geographical area of the PGI are identified by means of an inventory. The origin of certified seeds is guaranteed by invoices and 'Service Officiel de Contrôle' (Official Inspection Authority) labels. Cultivation operations, from planting to drying, are recorded on the crop information sheet.

Using the computerised traceability system, it is possible to trace the packaged product offered to consumers back to the parcel from which it originated. Each lot is identified using the information on the crop information sheet (name of producer, parcel, year), making it possible to identify the origin of the product.

The inspection body ULASE carries out regular external inspections and guarantees compliance with the specification.

- 4.5. Method of production: Parcels used for cultivation of the garlic must be located in the defined geographical area. The soil should be slightly stony and clayey (this is important for ensuring a good keeping quality), containing at least 10 % clay (this is checked by analysing the soil in which the crop is planted).

Two local historical varieties of white garlic are used: 'Messidrôme' and 'Thermidrôme'. However, there is a protocol on introducing new varieties, covering productivity, size, colour, bulb shape, number of layers of outer skin, keeping quality and adaptation to local soil and climate conditions. Varieties must belong to the 'variety group III', as defined in the botanical classification of former INRA researcher CM Messiaen, and correspond to the defined organoleptic profile. The authorised varieties all originate from seeds certified by the *Service Officiel de Contrôle* and produced in the geographical area of the PGI. The minimum density of seedlings is 900 kg/ha.

In order to interrupt the cycle of certain garlic diseases and parasites, previous cropping of the following crops is prohibited: maize, onion, shallot, leek. The rotation applied is for a maximum of two garlic crops every five years.

Basic dressing and nitrogenous fertilizing are rationed according to the needs of the crop.

Pre-emergence weeding is recommended. Subsequent post-emergence weeding is permitted if weeds have appeared, at the following triggering thresholds:

- dicotyledons: from 10 seedlings at the two-leaf stage per m²,
- grasses: seedlings 10 cm or higher.

Treatments are applied according to the level of pest and disease pressure, on the basis of the observations of producers and/or local technical services. Spraying against rust is compulsory and employed as a preventive measure.

The use of germination inhibitors on crops is prohibited.

Any plant-health treatments used must have a Marketing Authorisation and the authorised doses must be respected.

Irrigation must be rationed and used as a back-up rather than systematically, and should be employed at the bulbing stage.

The harvesting of the garlic may be carried out by hand or mechanically. If the latter method is used, the height of fall is limited to a maximum 50 cm. Harvesting begins following measurement of the bulb weight/leaf weight ratio or observation of the drying of the leaves, depending on the climate conditions.

The drying stage should begin within 24 hours of picking, and should take the form either of natural drying or forced ventilation. The drying of garlic that has had its root removed and which has been harvested mechanically must be carried out via forced ventilation. Garlic harvested by hand may be dried either naturally or by forced ventilation. Drying must be carried out within the area of the PGI. The garlic should be dried for a minimum 21 days after picking for dried garlic and for a minimum of the first three days after picking for semi-dried garlic.

The use of germination inhibitors and treatment with ionising radiation for conservation and storage are prohibited.

Cold storage is authorised, at a temperature of between – 1 °C and 0 °C.

The garlic is scrubbed, sorted and blanched. The roots are cut off flush with the bulb; this does not apply for garlic intended for sale in bunches. For garlic sold loose, the stalks are cut. For garlic sold in bunches, the stalks are cut to equal length.

4.6. Link:

- Garlic cultivation, which is most often traditional in nature, is passed on from generation to generation. Garlic has been known to be produced in the department of Drôme for a long time, as evidenced by the reference made to it in 1600 in the book 'Le Théâtre d'Agriculture et Mesnage des Champs' (The Theatre of Agriculture and the Tending of the Fields) by Olivier de Serres. In 1793, garlic could be found for sale at the market in Valence.
- Since the 1960s, researchers at INRA (the National Institute for Agricultural Research) have been studying garlic. Using artificial selection, they produced two clones of the 'Blanc de la Drôme' population, known as 'Messidrôme' and 'Thermidrôme'.

- The cultivation of garlic in the department of Drôme has developed on the basis of these new varieties obtained by INRA, generating a significant source of income for many medium-sized farms.
- It is worth noting that currently more than 85 % of seeds certified by the *Service Officiel de Contrôle* sold in France originate from the Drôme production area.
- Starting in the 1980s, producers of edible garlic in the department of Drôme began to be more organised: in 1981, the 'Association des producteurs d'Ail Drômois' (Association of Drôme garlic producers) was established; in 1986, the first edition of the 'Sauzet Garlic Fair' was held; in 1993, the 'National Inter-professional Garlic Association' (ANIAIL) was established (at the initiative of Drôme garlic producers) to represent the interests of the garlic sector with the public authorities; in 1994, an Integrated Agricultural Development Programme (IADP) was signed; in 1996, the 'Confrérie de l'Ail de la Drôme' (Drôme Garlic Producers Guild) was established.
- As a result of studies on the physiology and development of garlic and the collating of meteorological data for the department, a zoning of conditions favourable to the cultivation of garlic has been drawn up. The sunny and windy climate of the area of the PGI is highly favourable to production, being particularly conducive to the drying of garlic. Soil type does not limit the cultivation of garlic, which adapts well to the different soil types found in the area of the PGI. In fact, the soil and climate conditions as a whole in the area contribute to the production of garlic of a high quality. 'Ail de la Drôme' requires very little cleaning, thanks to the favourable climate conditions in the area of the PGI, which promotes peeling. Producers' expertise is particularly felt in determining the optimum date for harvest and in the drying process.
- The Association of Drôme Garlic Producers is seeking to develop the production of 'Ail de la Drôme', based on a rich tradition of garlic cultivation, a strong reputation in Southeastern France, well-adapted land, and a local producers' organisation keen to see the tradition passed on to future generations.

4.7. Inspection body:

Name: ULASE
Address: Place du Champ de Mars
F-26 270 LORIOU sur DROME
Telephone (33-4) 75 61 13 00
Fax (33-4) 75 85 62 12
E-mail: —

ULASE is an approved and accredited certification body in accordance with standard EN 45011.

- 4.8. Labelling: The label shall include the following indications: the sales description 'Ail de la Drôme' and the wording 'Indication Géographique Protégée' or the Community PGI logo.
-