



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to SEI's European Programme Update No.6.

SEI is the National Delegate and National Contact Point (NCP) for the Research and Technological Development (RTD) 7th Framework Programme and the NCP for Intelligent Energy Europe Programme. This Update is one aspect of SEI's European Energy Programme information dissemination strategy. SEI has employed Pat Bell of ENTRAC Consulting to assist in delivering the FP7 National Contact Point services. Further assistance on developing FP7 and IEE proposals can be obtained by contacting SEI at euprog@sei.ie

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3rd Call for Research Infrastructures-Energy

The Commission plans to launch the third call for proposals on research infrastructures (RI) later this year, under FP7 Capacities programme. The overall objective of the 'Research infrastructures' part of the FP7 Capacities Programme is to optimise the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe. It is tentatively expected that the budget will be approximately 275M Euro with proposals being submitted between November 2007 and February 2008. Energy Research Infrastructures include five priority topic areas: biofuels, H₂/FC, Ocean, Concentrated Solar and Smart grids. Once finalised, further information on this Call will be made available at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-infrastructures_en.html



Intelligent Energy Europe II

The second Intelligent Energy - Europe programme started in early 2007 as part of a broader EU programme called Competitiveness and Innovation. The 2007 call for proposals is available on the IEE website at call documents. Approximately 52 million euro in funding is available for the 2007 Call, with a deadline for receipts of applications at 28 September 2007. A number of additions are available within this Programme, namely the funding support per project has increased from 50% to 75% of the eligible project costs. Furthermore, the new call has an integrated initiatives strand focussing on local areas or on subjects considered of particular interest, such as bio-businesses, co-generation or energy services.



Funding for the creation of new local or regional energy agencies will continue to be available to public authorities, with a requirement for only one applicant.

Further information on the call is available at:



http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html



Energy Configuration of the Cooperation 2008 Work Programme

Work has commenced on the development of topic areas for the 2008 Call for Proposals under Energy- TREN and RTD. It is expected that the call will be formally made in November 2007 with an expected date for receipt of proposals by April 2008. Further details will be provided on this call in the next EU Programmes newsletter.



The Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF)



A Risk-Sharing Finance Facility has been established to improve access to the European Investment Bank debt finance for participants of large scale European R&D projects. It consists of a contribution from the European 7th Research Framework Programme to the European Investment Bank. Such a mechanism was specifically called for by the European Council in its decision on the Financial Perspectives for 2007-2013. By sharing the risk with the EIB, this facility will allow a larger volume of loans for R&D projects and the

financing of bankable projects with a higher risk than would otherwise be possible for the EIB. Moreover, the EU contribution can be reused over time and hence stimulate loans over an extended period.

Partners in large projects supported by FP7, such as joint technology initiatives, collaborative projects and research infrastructures, will be automatically eligible. Eligible requests will then be examined by the EIB according to the usual banking practice.

More information on the RSFF is available from the EIB at:



<http://www.eib.org/rsff/index.htm>



Call for expressions of interest for the Wind Energy Technology Platform



The Technology Platform is looking for high-level experts for the Finance Working Group and each of the Working Groups. A Group is a small number (e.g. 20) of high-level persons willing to provide intellectual inputs, participate to the work and attend the meetings of the Technology Platform. Applications are open to representatives from public and private sector at Senior and Director level. Membership is subject to validation by the Steering Committee.



Application forms must be sent to the Secretariat of the Technology Platform: secretariat@windplatform.eu by August, 31st 2007.



Financial Supports to Irish participants in FP7 Projects

Enterprise Ireland has launched new financial supports for FP7 participants. Researchers based in Irish companies, higher education institutions and public research bodies who want to participate in FP7 can now avail of the following financial supports:

Proposal Preparation Support for Companies, Proposal Preparation Support for Academic Coordinators and Travel Support for Researchers.

Full details are available at:



<http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/FP7/Financial+Support.htm>



CORDIS relaunches Research Openings service



This service provides details of calls for applications from experts and specialists in various aspects of EU RTD policy. You will also find information on career opportunities through research fellowships and in the European Institutions, new project partnership needs arising from competitive calls, and links to other EU, national and regional openings websites.

Further information is available at:



http://cordis.europa.eu/research_openings/home_en.html



Applications for ERC starting grants exceed expectations

A total of 9,167 proposals have been received by the European Research Council (ERC) Scientific Council in response to its first call for proposals, targeting young researchers. The deadline for submitting proposals for the Starting Independent Investigator Grants (ERC Starting Grants) passed on 25 April. Peer review panels, the members of whom were announced by the Scientific Council on 26 April, must now evaluate each application. Some 20 panels have been established, each with 10 members.

The ERC Starting Grants provide funding for researchers who completed their doctoral studies between two and nine years ago, and who now wish to make the transition to becoming independent research leaders. Scientific quality will be the sole criteria used by evaluators when assessing the proposals. Applicants whose proposals have passed the first round of evaluation (due by July 2007) will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal for the second stage evaluation that will take place in autumn 2007. The first awards should be granted by the end of the year.



Information on the ERC is available at: <http://erc.europa.eu/>



Update on Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI)

With the 7th EU RTD Framework Programme, the European Commission has introduced the concept of Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI) as a new way of realising public-private partnerships at European level, in order to define and implement a programme of research, technological development and demonstration in a more efficient

manner. The European Commission has made available a Commission staff working document on "Joint Technology Initiatives: Background, State-of-Play and Main Features" [SEC(2007) 692] in its version as of 15 May 2007. The document has four main purposes: Firstly, it sets out the origins and definition of JTIs. Secondly, it highlights a number of potential positive leveraging and mobilising effects of JTIs on research investment. Thirdly, it assesses possible implications with regard to competition policy. Fourthly, recognising the novelty of the instrument, it sets out a number of common features for JTIs.

This document can be downloaded at:



https://www.hfpeurope.org/uploads/2130/COMM_NATIVE_SEC_2007_0692_1_EN_DOCUMENTDETRAVAIL.pdf



Focus on the proposed JTI on Hydrogen and Fuel cells

What is it?

A new way of realising public-private research partnerships at European level. Bringing public and private interests together into a new implementation structure will ensure that the jointly defined research programme will better match industry's needs and expectations, and accelerate the hydrogen and fuel cell technology acquisition process. Its purpose is to define and execute a target-oriented European programme of industrial research, technological development and demonstration on hydrogen and fuel cells in the most efficient manner, to prepare for the deployment of these technologies. The JTI is a joint venture, between the Community (represented by the European Commission) and industry. The JTI entity will define the detailed Work Programme for the JTI and decide how it will be implemented - primarily through calls for proposals and calls for tender and will directly manage all aspects of the implementation of the JTI programme, including organising calls, proposal evaluation, project selection, negotiation and signature of contracts, project follow-up and reporting.

Goals

To deliver robust hydrogen and fuel cell technologies developed to the point of commercial take-off in 2015, with a view to large-scale mass market rollout by 2020, for transport applications; and to provide the technology base to initiate market growth for stationary fuel cell domestic and commercial CHP) and portable applications from 2010-2015.

Budget and Progress

Tentatively, it may be possible for the EC to contribute around 80-100 MEuro/year to the 250 MEuro/year public funding identified as being required by the European hydrogen and fuel cell technology platform. It is expected that the JTI will be formally launched in November 2007, ready to commence activities in 2008.



European Commission suggests ways to close knowledge gap on climate change



The European Commission has published a Green Paper outlining the EU policy areas where action is needed in order to minimise the threat of climate change in Europe. The three other policy areas identified by the Green Paper are: integrating climate change adaptation actions into existing and forthcoming legislation, policy responses and funding programmes; integrating global adaptation needs into the EU's external relations and building a new alliance with partners around the world; and setting up a European advisory group on adaptation to climate change to analyse coordinated strategies and actions.

Further information is available at:



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

This Update represents a new departure for SEI as it attempts to provide relevant information on EU Programmes, and their impact, in Ireland. SEI will continuously try to improve this Update and welcomes all comments and suggestions for improvement. If you know someone else who would like to be placed on our EU Programmes mailing list, please advise them to email their details to:

euprog@sei.ie