

COMMISSION

Call 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 47/08)

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 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.

2. The present call for proposals for indirect RTD actions comprises the present general part and the specific conditions that are described in the Annex. This Annex indicates in particular, the dates 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.

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 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. These guides, as well as the work programme and other information relating to the call, can be obtained from the Commission via one of the following addresses:

European Commission
The NEST Information Desk
Directorate General RTD
B-1049 Brussels
Email address: rtd-nest@cec.eu.int
Internet address: www.cordis.lu/nest

5. Proposals for indirect RTD actions are submitted preferably in electronic format, either on CD-ROM or on diskette. In any case, proposals for indirect RTD actions may also be prepared and submitted using the forms in the guide for proposers (referred to as on paper).

⁽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 updated by the Commission Decision C(2003) 577, both documents unpublished.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 355, 30.12.2002, p. 23.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

Once the software tool within the electronic proposal submission system (EPSS) is available, proposals for indirect RTD actions may be prepared off-line or on-line and submitted on-line⁽⁶⁾. The EPSS software tool will be available via the Cordis website www.cordis.lu

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: FP6-2003-NEST-A)
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

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

'FP6 — Research Proposals'
(Call identifier: FP6-2003-NEST-A)
European Commission
Rue de Genève, 1
B-1140 Brussels

In both cases, proposals for indirect actions submitted on CD-ROM or on diskette must be accompanied, in the same envelope, by an identical paper version.

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 has not been supplied.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions may be submitted on-line⁽¹⁰⁾ via the Cordis website: www.cordis.lu

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on-line and which are incomplete⁽¹¹⁾, illegible⁽¹²⁾ or contain viruses will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions that are submitted on paper and which are incomplete⁽¹³⁾ will be excluded.

Proposals for indirect RTD actions submitted by e-mail⁽¹⁴⁾ 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. Proposals for indirect RTD actions arriving after this date and time will be excluded.

If foreseen in the relevant call, they will be taken up in the framework of a future evaluation.

8. In the case of successive submissions of a proposal in the same format, the Commission will examine the last version received before the closure date and time specified in the call.

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

9. In all correspondence relating to the call (eg, when requesting information, or submitting a proposal for an indirect RTD action), proposers are invited to cite the call identifier.

⁽⁶⁾ For information, the software tool for off-line preparation of proposals for indirect RTD actions should be available at the earliest in February 2003. The tool for on-line preparation and submission of proposals for indirect RTD actions should be available around the same time.

⁽⁷⁾ Courier services that ask for the recipient's telephone number should be given the following number: (32-2) 295 58 75 (Mr J-C Debouvere).

⁽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 6.

⁽¹¹⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹²⁾ See footnote 9.

⁽¹³⁾ See footnote 8.

⁽¹⁴⁾ This does not include proposals for indirect RTD actions that have been submitted on-line.

ANNEX

1. Specific Programme: Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area
2. Activity: Anticipating scientific and technological needs
3. Call title: New and Emerging Science and Technology — (call with two closure dates).
4. Call reference number/identifier: FP6-2003-NEST-A
5. Date of publication: 27 February 2003.
6. Date from which proposals are receivable: 1 April 2003; pre-registration of proposals, no later than three weeks before the relevant closure date, is strongly recommended.
7. Call closure dates: 14 May 2003 at 17.00 (Brussels local time); 22 October 2003 at 17.00 (Brussels local time) ⁽¹⁾.
8. Total indicative budget: EUR 28 million.
9. Areas called and Instruments:

Area	Instruments ^(*)
Insight	Streps, CAs
Adventure	Streps
Support Actions	SSAs

(*) STREP = specific targeted research project; CA = coordination action; SSA = specific support action.

10. Minimum number of participants ⁽²⁾:

Instrument	Minimum number
Streps and CAs	Three independent legal entities from three different MS or AS, with at least two MS or ACC
Specific support actions	One legal entity from one MS or AS

11. Restriction on participation: none.
12. Consortia agreements: It is not mandatory that participants in RTD actions resulting from this call conclude a consortium agreement although such agreements are strongly recommended.
13. Evaluation procedure:
 - The evaluation is carried out through a combination of referees (remote evaluation) and groups of experts that convene in Brussels.
 - Proposals for STREPs have to be submitted in two stages:
 - first an outline proposal of maximum five pages is submitted describing the key objectives methodology and motivation for the proposed work. Outline proposals are evaluated anonymously.
 - If the outline proposal is successful, the proposers are invited to submit a full proposal ⁽³⁾. The evaluation of full proposals is not anonymous.

⁽¹⁾ It is envisaged that this call will be re-opened in 2004 and subsequently to assure a continuing sequence of evaluation closure dates at approximately six-monthly intervals.

⁽²⁾ MS = Member States of the EU; AS (incl. ACC) = Associated States; ACC: Associated candidate countries.

⁽³⁾ In principle, by the next specified closure date.

-
- Proposals for CAs and SSAs have to be submitted as full proposals. Full proposals are evaluated non-anonymously.
 - Closure dates for the submission of the proposals: 14 May at 17.00 (Brussels local time) and 22 October 2003 at 17.00 (Brussels local time).
14. Evaluation criteria: For STREPs and CAs, see the criteria and thresholds for the different project types and instruments in section 8.2.4 of the Work-programme. SSAs will be evaluated according to the criteria in Annex B of the work programme.
15. Indicative evaluation and selection delays:
- Evaluation results for outline proposals: three months from the relevant closure date;
 - Evaluation results for full proposals: three months from the relevant closure date.
 - Contract signature: it is estimated that the first contracts related to this call will come into force seven months after the relevant closure date for evaluation of full proposals.
-