

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on a “User-friendly information society (1998 to 2002)” (*The IST Programme*)

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 22, 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002¹ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of January 25, 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on a “User-friendly information society (1998 to 2002)”² (hereinafter referred to as the specific programme), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme³, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect RTD actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to:
 - Proposals, specified under Part 1 of Point 4 of this call, called by a fixed deadline following which evaluation will take place. Proposals not having met this deadline will not be considered under this call notice.
 - Proposals, specified under Part 2 of Point 4 of this call, called under a continuous submission scheme, under which proposals will be evaluated at intervals that depend on the number received, but which will not exceed 3 months. Proposals under this scheme may be submitted at any time up to the date of closure of the scheme.

Proposals are invited to be submitted in one step, except when clearly marked, under Point 4, as being invited to be submitted in two steps. The deadline applicable to the second step is given in writing to those successful in the first.

3. The specific programme is implemented through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programme.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programme, the Council Decision of December 22, 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the

¹ OJ No L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

² OJ No L 64, 12.3.1999, p. ...

³ European Commission Decision C/99/586: The Information Society Technologies (IST) 1999 Work Programme

implementation of the fifth framework programme⁴ (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programme. The fifth framework programme Manual of Proposal Evaluation Procedures⁵, along with its annex on this specific programme, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination⁶, provide further details.

Information on these rules and on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the Guide for Proposers, which can be obtained, along with the work programme and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

*European Commission
The IST Information Desk
Directorate General XIII
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium*

*Email: ist@cec.be
Fax: +32-2-2968388
Web: www.cordis.lu/ist*

For specific information relating to the Marie Curie Industry Host Fellowship scheme, proposers should use the following addresses:

*European Commission
Marie Curie Fellowships (Unit XII-F2)
Directorate General XII
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium*

*Email: Improving@dg12.cec.be
Fax: +32-2-2969926
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/improving>*

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programme are hereby invited to submit proposals that address the following parts of the work programme:

Part 1a (proposals for RTD projects)

[Call part identifier: IST-99-1-1A]

Key Action I

Actions lines I.2.1, I.2.2, I.2.3, I.3.1, I.4.1, I.5.1, I.5.2, I.6.1, and

⁴ OJ No L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁵ European Commission Decision C/99/ ...

⁶ European Commission Decision C/99/ ...

I.6.2 (road and air transport only);

Key Action II

Actions lines II.1.2, II.2.1, II.2.2, II.2.3, II.3.1, II.3.2, II.3.3, II.4.1, II.4.2, and II.4.3;

Key Action III

Actions lines III.2.1, III.2.2, III.2.3, III.3.1, III.3.2, III.3.3, III.4.1, and III.4.2;

Key Action IV

Actions lines IV.1.1, IV.2.1, IV.2.2, IV.2.3, IV.2.4, IV.2.5, IV.3.1, IV.3.2, IV.3.3, IV.3.4, IV.4.1, IV.4.2, IV.5.1, IV.5.2, IV.5.3, IV.5.4, IV.6.1, IV.7.1, IV.7.2, IV.7.3, IV.8.1, IV.8.2, IV.8.3, and IV.8.4;

Others

Actions lines V.1.1 (CPA1), V.1.2 (CPA2), V.1.3 (CPA3), V.1.4 (CPA4 - tools & methods and applications only), VI.2.1 FET P1, VI.2.2 FET P2, and VI.2.3 FET P3.

Deadline for proposals: June 16th, 1999 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

Part 1b (proposals for take-up actions)

[Call part identifier: IST-99-1-1B]

Key Action IV

Action lines IV.7.2⁽⁷⁾, IV.7.3⁽⁸⁾, IV.8.1⁽⁹⁾, IV.8.3⁽¹⁰⁾, and IV.8.4⁽¹¹⁾.

Deadline for proposals: June 16th, 1999 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

Part 2a (proposals for RTD projects)

[Call part identifier: IST-99-1-2A]

⁷ Including take-up “assessment of advanced equipment” and “access to advanced subsystem integration technologies”.

⁸ Including take-up “assessment for advanced prototype equipment” and “access to prototyping and small volume manufacture, design and customer support services, research and development networks”.

⁹ Including take-up “access to advanced technologies for prototyping and small volume manufacture, access to CAD tools for learning, and access to advanced CAD tool support infrastructures for researchers”.

¹⁰ Including take-up “assessment for advanced prototype equipment”.

¹¹ Including take-up “access to advanced microelectronics technologies for researchers”.

Action line VI.1.1 FET O⁽¹²⁾.

Closure of scheme: September 15th, 1999 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

Part 2b (proposals for support measures)

[Call part identifier: IST-99-1-2B]

Action lines VIII.2.1, VIII.3.1, and VIII.5.1.

Closure of scheme: September 15th, 1999 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

When submitting a proposal for an RTD project, a demonstration project, a combined project or a concerted action, proposers may include an application for a *Bursary for young researcher from Developing Countries*. Further information on this scheme is given in the Guide for Proposers.

SME specific measures (Action Line VIII.4.1, ie, exploratory awards, co-operative research) are implemented through the continuous submission scheme for support measures. More information on this can be obtained from the SME Helpdesk (website: www.cordis.lu/sme; email: sme@cec.be; fax: +32-2-2957110).

The indicative budget available for this call is 800 million euro of Community contribution.

5. Proposals must be sent before the deadline¹³ applicable to that type of indirect RTD action by one of the following methods:

- Post, preferably registered, as confirmed by the postmark, to:

*European Commission
The Research Proposal Office (ORBN 8)
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium*

- Courier¹⁴ or hand-delivery, as confirmed by acknowledgement of receipt, to:

*European Commission
The Research Proposal Office
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium*

¹² FET Open will follow the two-step submission procedure, see Guide for Proposers for further information.

¹³ For the case of the continuous submission scheme, the date and time associated with the closure of the scheme corresponds to the deadline applicable.

¹⁴ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use +32-2-2960245.

- Electronic submission, the details of which are given in the Guide for Proposers. When packaging a proposal for electronic submission, two files are created. The first is a small validation file which provides basic information on the proposal and a unique identification code. This validation file must be received by the European Commission before the deadline specified above. The second file contains the proposal and must be received unmodified, as verifiable from the unique identification code, not later than 48 hours after this deadline.

Proposals sent by post must be posted before the relevant deadline. Proposals received by the European Commission up to 10 working days after this deadline will be accepted if both sent by post and clearly postmarked before the deadline. Proposals sent by courier service or hand-delivered must be received before the deadline.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In the case of an eligible proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be evaluated.

6. In all correspondence relating to this call (eg, when requesting information, or submitting a proposal) please make sure to cite the applicable call part identifier.

In submitting a proposal, either on paper or electronically, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member States and Associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policy-making. This knowledge must have been generated by those RTD actions supported as a result of this call and which addressed a part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.