

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

**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)**

(1999/C 278/09)

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002 ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 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 programme ⁽³⁾, 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 in those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to:

- Proposals, specified under part I 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 may be submitted at any time. Proposals will be evaluated at intervals that depend on the number received, but which will not exceed three 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 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme ⁽⁴⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programme. The fifth framework programme Manual of Proposal Evaluation Procedures ⁽⁵⁾, along with its annex on this specific programme, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination ⁽⁶⁾, provide further details.

Information 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.

E-mail: ist@cec.be
Fax (32-2) 296 83 88
Web: www.cordis.lu/ist

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 20.

⁽³⁾ European Commission Decision C/99/586 of 18 March 1999 on the Information Society Technologies (IST) 1999 Work Programme.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽⁵⁾ European Commission Decision C/99/710 of 24 March 1999.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

European Commission
 Marie Curie Fellowships (Unit XII-F2)
 Directorate General XII
 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
 B-1049 Brussels.
 E-mail: Improving@dg12.cec.be
 Fax (32-2) 296 99 26
 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, demonstration, and combined RTD/demonstration projects)

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

Deadline for proposals: 17 January 2000 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Key Action I

Actions lines I.1.1, I.4.2, I.6.1 (GNSS applications and receivers only), I.6.2 (rail and waterborne transport only), and I.6.3.

Key Action II

Action line II.1.1.

Key Action III

Actions lines III.1.1, III.2.4, III.5.1 and III.5.2.

Key Action IV

Actions lines IV.1.1, IV.2.1, IV.2.4, IV.3.1, IV.3.4 and IV.6.1.

Others

Actions lines V.1.4 (CPA4 — indicators only) and VII.1.2.

Part 1b (proposals for take-up action) ⁽⁷⁾

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

Deadline for proposals: 17 January 2000 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Key Action I

Intelligent Transport and Mobility Management Initiative: action line I.6.1 for trials and best practice actions.

Key Action II

New Methods of Work and Electronic Commerce Initiative: action 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 for trials and best practice actions.

Key Action III

Authoring, Personalised Learning and Multilinguality Initiatives: action lines III.2.1, III.3.1 and III.4.1 for trials.

Key Action IV

— Component-based Software Initiative; action lines IV.2.1, IV.2.2, IV.2.4, IV.3.2, IV.4.1 and IV.4.2 for trials; action lines IV.2.1, IV.3.1, IV.4.1 and IV.4.2 for best practice actions.

— Open Advanced Interfaces Initiative: action lines IV.4.1, IV.4.2 (complementing III.5.2) and IV.6.1 for trials and best practice actions.

— Access to and Experimentation with Essential Technologies and Infrastructures Initiative; action lines IV.7.2, IV.7.3, IV.8.1 and IV.8.4 for access actions; action lines IV.5.2, IV.5.3, and IV.5.4 for trials.

— Displays, Subsystems, Microsystems & Microelectronics Experiments Initiative; action lines IV.6.1, IV.7.2, IV.7.3 and IV.8.2 for first-user actions; action lines IV.7.2, IV.7.3 and IV.8.1 for trials; action line IV.8.1 for best practice actions.

— Semiconductor Equipment Assessments (SEA) Initiative: action lines IV.6.1, IV.7.2, IV.7.3 and IV.8.3 for assessments.

Details of the focus to be given to proposals for each take-up initiative are specified under Point 5 of this call.

Part 2a (proposals for RTD, demonstration, and combined RTD/demonstration projects)

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

Action line VI.1.1 FET O ⁽⁸⁾.

Proposals may be submitted at any time up to 15 September 2000 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time), by which time this action line is expected to be further extended.

Part 2b (proposals for support measures)

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

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

⁽⁷⁾ See Guide for Proposers for further information.

⁽⁸⁾ FET Open will follow the two-step submission procedure, see Guide for Proposers for further information.

Proposals may be submitted at any time up to 17 January 2000 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) ⁽⁹⁾.

In addition notice is hereby given that partial support for conferences, workshops, seminars, and exhibitions that address any part of the specific programme may also be requested using the standard grant application forms as given in the Guide for Proposers, where more information on this scheme is available. Grant applications, which must be received at least five months in advance of the event for which support is requested, may be made at any time up to 14 June 2002. The evaluation of these applications, which are considered accompanying measures as defined in the IST 1999 Work Programme Action Line VIII.3.1, follows the procedure laid down in the Manual of Proposal Evaluation Procedures.

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, cooperative 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; e-mail: sme@cec.be; fax (32-2) 295 71 10).

The indicative budget available for this call is EUR 400 million of Community contribution.

5. With respect to take-up, this call only covers individual actions within ten focused initiatives. The support and coordination needed for each initiative including take-up support nodes (covering the individual actions across Europe) will be put in place either through calls for tender or through calls for proposals ⁽¹⁰⁾. Preparations are expected to run in parallel so that the necessary facilities are in place by the time take-up actions resulting from this call are launched.

Key Action I

Intelligent transport and mobility management are fields in which European take-up initiatives can play a key role in

⁽⁹⁾ Please note that by the call planned to be published on 15 January 2000, the continuous submission scheme is expected to be reopened by the IST 2000 Work Programme which is due out at the end of this year.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Individual take-up actions may, in fact, be directly contracted through these support and coordination structures. Please consult the Guide for Proposers for further details.

integrating the telematics systems being progressively deployed by individual transport authorities.

Trials and best practice actions are required to facilitate the introduction of intelligent transport systems in cities and regions. These measures are to be undertaken by users (authorities, operators etc.) willing to adopt the technology in their areas of responsibility and technology providers who see trials and best practice as an integral part of their exploitation strategy. Individual actions will take place within a co-ordination framework that ensures progressive convergence of approach, and effective dissemination of results.

Key Action II

New methods of work and electronic commerce are areas in which innovation and change are occurring at an unprecedented pace. This puts increasing pressure on European innovators to rapidly validate their new solutions and quickly move them to the market. It also creates a strategic need for well-targeted, and carefully coordinated take-up actions, aimed at helping SMEs and other organisations take advantage of opportunities provided by the latest technologies and business practices in this area. In this context, synergies amongst the individual take-up actions are considered to be essential to achieving the necessary critical mass for sustained exploitation, and the overall success of such a limited-scale, European-level initiative.

As a first priority for this call, take-up in Key Action II will focus on best practice actions and trials. These may draw on and combine elements of multiple action lines within the key action, as found to be necessary and appropriate. Take-up measures of both types will be expected to clearly identify and exploit synergies, and to promote a broad dissemination of their experiences via coordination mechanisms established separately.

Trials (typical duration of up to 18 months) will be carried out by consortia involving both user organisations eager to apply these new technologies/solutions in actual operational contexts and willing to help assess their viability at an early stage with a view towards broad adoption, and technology provider organisations, seeing the trials as a key element in their strategies towards packaging and broad exploitation.

Best practice actions (typical duration of nine to 18 months) are expected to be carried out by consortia typically involving a representative cross section of user organisations (typically between 5 and 10) faced with similar challenges, and 'catalyst' organisations to assist with the definition, planning and execution of best practice deployment scenarios. The experience gained, including identification of benefits, must be documented and disseminated on a broad scale.

Key Action III

Take-up actions focus on three initiatives concerning advanced multimedia content tools and technologies. These trials will be carefully coordinated and will benefit from broad dissemination of results. The strategic aim is to advance the wide availability and further deployment of tools and systems in three selected key areas where Europe can become more competitive, and where a targeted EU effort can help to accelerate their potential for success on global markets and networks:

- *State-of-the-art authoring and design systems.* To promote creativity and a critical mass of high-quality multimedia content in key application areas (knowledge, business and lifestyle publishing and geographic information). The trials will validate the technologies for multimedia authoring, design and production systems for handling radically new combinations of highly visual and interactive media forms;
- *Personalised learning initiative.* Trials of a re-usable, component-based approach to building systems and services for education and training, where critical issues to be addressed include: gaining a wider acceptance, costeffectiveness and barriers to exploitation;
- *Multilinguality initiative, in digital content and services.* To ease and speed-up the operational take-up of language technologies through Trials of multi-language tools and processes for tele-business, distributed corporate knowledge management, and online information services, in particular for languages in which they are not available.

Key Action IV

Take-up actions focus on five initiatives concerned with essential, technologies and infrastructures.

The aim of the **component-based software initiative** is to promote Europe-wide use of a component-based approach to the development and engineering of software systems, applications and services.

- In the area of technologies for and the management of information processing, communications and networks the initiative comprises trials and best practice actions that use tools for the management of distributed processes and shared resources, trials that integrate machine visions and control systems, and trials that

use implementations of standard object-oriented architectures for the management and interworking of communication networks.

- In technologies and engineering for software, systems and services the initiative comprises best practice actions that use processes, tools, methods and architectures for the improvement of the component-based software development process and trials that use usage-centred design and engineering of intelligent services.
- In real-time and large-scale simulation and visualisation technologies the initiative comprises trials and best practice actions that use tools for both consumer and professional uses, particularly in SMEs and/or in industrial/service sectors that traditionally do not use such tools.

The aim of the **open advanced interfaces initiative** is to stimulate the take-up of intergrated access and interface technologies for providing services on both professional and consumer platforms. The initiative comprises trials and best practice actions. Trials use recent, innovative, open standards and technologies — such as convergent multimedia APIs and MPEG 4 and 7 — for content-level and service-level interaction with audio-visual media and 3D on home appliances and platforms. Best practice actions perform reliability, conformance and assurance testing of professional and consumer service platforms, with view to improving open user access to audio-visual services.

The aim of the **access to and experimentation with essential technologies and infrastructures initiative** is to help access specific European user communities to access advanced technologies and infrastructures, either directly or through purpose-designed services, and to facilitate their broader application and rapid take up.

- In the area of sub-systems and microsystems the initiative comprises access actions that provide co-ordinated access to advanced integration technologies, prototyping and small volume manufacture, design and customer support services, and research and development networks.
- In the area microelectronics the initiative comprises access actions that provide coordinated access to advanced technologies to facilitate prototyping and smallvolume manufacture, to CAD tools for learning and firstusers and to advanced microelectronics technologies and advanced CAD tool support infrastructures for researchers.

— In the area of mobile and personal communications and systems the initiative comprises trials that use and evaluate innovative and advanced; (i) wireless data services over terrestrial cellular, cordless and 'indoor' radio systems and networks, (ii) satellite-delivered services in the business-tobusiness sector, and (iii) terrestrial wireless technologies for evolving and scalable systems and networks. Under (i) the focus is on multimedia interactive, distributive and asymmetric information services. Under (ii) the target is to implement and validate new business scenarios where the benefits of satellite communication systems and services can be clearly established compared to other alternatives. Under (iii) the systems and networks include cellular networks, private wireless networks, fixed wireless broadband access systems, wireless local loop systems, cellular interactive systems, and mobile broadband systems.

The aim of the **displays, subsystems, microsystems and microelectronics experiments initiative** is to stimulate the broad take-up of display, subsystem microsystems, microelectronics and opto-electronics technologies by user companies, especially SMEs, to make them more competitive, to achieve wider penetration of markets and to open new ones.

— In the area of displays the initiative comprises first-user actions that use available thin display technologies for improving existing system design and ergonomics.

— In subsystems and microsystems the initiative comprises trials and first-user actions that aim to facilitate the broader application of subsystems comprising multicomponent assemblies and of microsystems using advanced leading-edge technology for new products or established new technology for upgrading existing products, and stimulating user-supplier relationships in this field.

— In microelectronics the initiative comprises (i) trials and best practice actions that use prototype methods and tools and leading-edge services for electronic systems and circuit design and test, (ii) first-user actions that aim to stimulate the take-up of design and test of ASICs for upgrade of existing products or of gate-arrays for integration of new IST functionality in products or processes, and (iii) first-user actions that aim to stimulate the take-up of advanced opto-electronics technologies in products or processes. Under (i) the methods may encompass business organisation related to these activities. Of particular interest under (ii) are applications in industrial sectors where the penetration

of these technologies is currently limited. Under (iii) the focus is on cost-effective packaging of optoelectronics devices.

The **semiconductor equipment assessments (SEA) initiative comprises assessments** under close-to-production conditions and proof-of-concept equipment tests. Assessments under close-to-production conditions are directed at evaluating and improving the performance of advanced European-made prototype (not alpha type) equipment for semiconductor, microsystems and display manufacture, for electronics assembly and test, as well as of materials and OEM components for these types of equipment. For semiconductor manufacturing, focus is primarily on equipment and materials (beta type) for lithography, multi-layer metallisation, novel front-end process architectures, chip assembly and specialised equipment for low-cost production. For microsystems manufacturing, focus is primarily on equipment and materials for 'above IC processing', wafer-level assembly and specialised equipment for low-cost production. For display manufacturing, focus is primarily on production efficient equipment, able to process large substrates (up to one meter diagonal or more), and includes display interconnects and drivers assembly/integration. Proof-of-concept equipment tests are reduced assessments at an early development stage (alpha type) which may take place at equipment suppliers' premises (300 mm wafer equipment). Equipment Tests are also designed to extend the process capabilities of existing state of the art equipment to new applications (wafer processing, chip assembly, microsystems).

6. Proposals must be sent before the deadline ⁽¹¹⁾ 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.

— Courier ⁽¹²⁾ 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.

⁽¹¹⁾ For the case of the continuous submission scheme, the date and time associated with the closure of the scheme corresponds to the deadline applicable.

⁽¹²⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 296 02 45.

— 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 handdelivered 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.

7. 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.

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to the call for proposals issued by the Commission of the European Communities for projects financed by the European Community in Mozambique

Publication number: SCRE/110491/D/G/MZ

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 257 of 10 September 1999)

(1999/C 278/10)

On page 5, in the section headed 'Language, addresses and deadline for applications', (b):

for: '(b) Deadline for applications: 15 January 2000.'

read: '(b) Deadline for project summary proposal: 15 October 1999.

Deadline for complete project proposal: 15 January 2000.'
