

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)

(2001/C 191/11)

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 to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to:

- proposals, specified under parts 1(a) and 1(b) 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 parts 2(a) and 2(b) 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 to the fifth framework programme and in Annex III to 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 ⁽⁷⁾, 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 Information Society
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels.
E-mail: ist@cec.eu.int
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:

European Commission
Marie Curie Fellowships (Unit RTD-F2)
Directorate-General Research
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels.
E-mail: Improving@cec.eu.int
Fax (32-2) 296 99 26
Web: www.cordis.lu/improving.

Also note that SME specific measures (i.e. exploratory awards and cooperative research) are implemented through a specific call for these measures ⁽⁸⁾. More information can be obtained from the SME Helpdesk (web: www.cordis.lu; e-mail: sme@cec.eu.int; fax (32-2) 295 71 10).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 20.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2001) 136 of 24 January 2001 on the Information society technologies (IST) 2001 work programme.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽⁵⁾ Revised version: Commission Decision C(2000) 2002 of 14 July 2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

⁽⁷⁾ Version for seventh IST call (June 2001).

⁽⁸⁾ See call published in OJ C 92, 1.4.1999, p. 14.

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

The indicative total budget available for this call is EUR 450 million of Community contribution.

Part 1(a) (proposals for RTD, demonstration, and combined RTD/demonstration projects) — Fixed deadline

(Call part identifier: IST-01-7-1A)

Deadline for receipt of proposals ⁽⁹⁾: 17 October 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Key Action I

Action lines:

IST-2001-I.3.1 Intelligent environment for public sector employees at all levels;

IST-2001-I.5.1 Intelligent transport systems;

IST-2001-I.5.2 Integrated vehicle infrastructure systems;

IST-2001-I.5.3 Ambient intelligence application systems for mobile users and travel/tourism businesses.

Key Action II

Action lines:

IST-2001-II.1.1 Socioeconomic analysis;

IST-2001-II.1.4 Exploratory high risk/long-term research;

IST-2001-II.1.6 Large-scale demonstrators.

Key Action III

Action lines:

IST-2001-III.1.1 Publishing digital content;

IST-2001-III.3.1 Multilingual web;

IST-2001-III.4.1 Semantic web technologies;

IST-2001-III.5.1 x-content futures.

Key Action IV

Action lines:

IST-2001-IV.1.1 Design of networked embedded systems;

IST-2001-IV.2.1 (*) Real-time distributed systems;

IST-2001-IV.2.3 Terabit optical networks;

IST-2001-IV.3.1 (*) Software architecture;

IST-2001-IV.3.2 Functionality models and building blocks for end user services;

IST-2001-IV.4.1 Simulation and visualisation;

IST-2001-IV.4.2 Mixed realities and new imaging frontiers;

IST-2001-IV.5.1 Reconfigurable radio systems and networks;

IST-2001-IV.5.2 (*) Terrestrial wireless systems and networks;

IST-2001-IV.5.3 ⁽¹⁰⁾ Satellite systems and services;

IST-2001-IV.6.1 Advanced displays and sensors;

IST-2001-IV.6.2 Interfaces and buffers for seamless end to end services;

IST-2001-IV.7.1 Subsystems;

IST-2001-IV.7.2 (*) Microsystems;

IST-2001-IV.8.1 Microelectronics design and test and application specific microelectronics;

IST-2001-IV.8.2 Microelectronics technologies: processes, equipment and devices;

IST-2001-IV.8.3 Optical and opto-electronic technologies.

Others

Action lines:

IST-2001-V.1.2 CPA2: Multimodal and multisensorial dialogue modes;

IST-2001-V.1.3 CPA3: Use of geographic information;

IST-2001-V.1.6 CPA6: Next generation networks;

⁽⁹⁾ See point 5 for submission details and address.

⁽¹⁰⁾ The mobile part of this action line will aim at complementing European Space Agency activities and at making available a large scale satellite-terrestrial testbed to demonstrate integrated seamless service provision across an heterogeneous infrastructure. Please see the guide for proposers for more details.

IST-2001-V.1.8 CPA8: eLearning for European youth in a digital age;

IST-2001-V.1.10 CPA10: Next generation micro- and nano-technologies for highly integrated miniature applications;

IST-2001-V.1.12 CPA12: Application services provision;

IST-2001-V.1.13 CPA13: Advanced signal processing systems and applications;

IST-2001-VI.2.3 Life-like perception systems.

NB: Action lines above marked with an asterisk (*) are in addition to the action lines already foreseen in the 2001 IST work programme for the seventh IST call.

Part 1(b) (proposals for take-up actions and support activities) — Fixed deadline

(Call part identifier: IST-01-7-1B)

Deadline for receipt of proposals ⁽¹⁾: 17 October 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Please consult the IST 2001 work programme for details of which action lines given below are (a) only open to take-up actions, (b) only open to support activities, and (c) are open for both.

Key Action I

Action lines:

IST-2001-I.4.1 Best practice and trials in environment management;

IST-2001-I.5.4 Best practice and trials in transport and tourism.

Key Action II

Action lines:

IST-2001-II.1.1 Socioeconomic analysis;

IST-2001-II.1.5 High impact take-up, dissemination, and training.

Key Action III

Action lines:

IST-2001-III.1.1 Publishing digital content;

IST-2001-III.4.1 Semantic web technologies;

IST-2001-III.5.2 Competence building;

IST-2001-III.5.3 KA III specific support measures.

Key Action IV

Action lines:

IST-2001-IV.1.3 Development of skills in micro- and optoelectronics;

IST-2001-IV.2.1 (*) Real-time distributed systems;

IST-2001-IV.2.3 Terabit optical networks;

IST-2001-IV.3.2 Functionality models and building blocks for end user services;

IST-2001-IV.3.3 Free software development: towards critical mass;

IST-2001-IV.7.3 Subsystems and microsystems — take-up measures;

IST-2001-IV.8.1 Microelectronics design and test & application specific microelectronics;

IST-2001-IV.8.2 Microelectronics technologies: processes, equipment and devices;

IST-2001-IV.8.3 Optical and optoelectronic technologies;

IST-2001-IV.8.4 Industrial microelectronics technologies — take-up measures.

Others

Action lines:

IST-2001-V.1.3 CPA3: Use of geographic information;

IST-2001-V.1.6 CPA6: Next generation networks;

IST-2001-V.1.10 CPA10: Next generation micro- and nano-technologies for highly integrated miniature applications;

IST-2001-V.1.12 CPA12: Application services provision;

IST-2001-V.1.13 CPA13: Advanced signal processing systems and applications;

⁽¹⁾ See point 5 for submission details and address.

IST-2001-VI.2.3 Lifelike perception systems.

NB: Action lines above marked with an asterisk (*) are in addition to the action lines already foreseen in the 2001 IST work programme for the seventh IST call.

The IST call notice published on 27 January 2001 ⁽¹²⁾ (the sixth IST call) stated under part 2 of that call that under the continuous submission procedure, proposals for RTD, demonstration, and combined RTD/demonstration projects and for support activities that addressed the specified action lines were invited to be submitted at any time up to 28 February 2002 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

This continuous submission scheme is extended under the seventh IST call under the part 2 call part identifiers given underneath. When applying to these action lines (i.e. under part 2(a) or part 2(b) of this call), please use the call part identifiers given in this seventh IST call. All other modalities are unchanged.

Part 2(a) (proposals for RTD, demonstration, and combined RTD/demonstration projects) — Continuous submission scheme

(Call part identifier: IST-01-7-2A)

Action Line:

IST-2001-VI.1.1 FET open domain ⁽¹³⁾;**IST-2001-VIII.1.6** Enabling RTD cooperation with newly associated States ⁽¹⁴⁾.

Proposals may be submitted at any time up to 28 February 2002 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Proposals submitted must correspond to the IST 2001 work programme.

Part 2(b) (proposals for support activities) — Continuous submission scheme

(Call part identifier: IST-01-7-2B)

Action line:

IST-2001-VIII.1.1 Clustering of projects;**IST-2001-VIII.1.2** Network of excellence and working groups;**IST-2001-VIII.1.3** Channelling of standardisation and interoperability initiatives;**IST-2001-VIII.1.4** Improving human capital in IT by competence building (IHC);**IST-2001-VIII.1.5** Bridging the IT skills gap through development of training infrastructures;**IST-2001-VIII.1.6** Enabling RTD cooperation with newly associated States ⁽¹⁴⁾;**IST-2001-VIII.1.7** Enabling RTD cooperation with third countries;**IST-2001-VIII.1.8** Dissemination and awareness of IST programme results;**IST-2001-VIII.1.9** Studies.

Proposals may be submitted at any time up to 28 February 2002 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Reminder (i): 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 ⁽¹⁵⁾, 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 2000 work programme, 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.

- Proposers are encouraged to prepare proposals with a software tool (the proposal preparation tool — ProTool) which is available from the Commission via Internet, electronic mail or CD-ROM. It will help them prepare the administrative and technical information required. Proposers should always use the latest version of ProTool.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ C 27, 27.1.2001, p. 65.

⁽¹³⁾ FET-open follows the two-step submission procedure, see guide for proposers, part 2(d) (June 2001) for further information. The 28 February 2002 is the *final* closing date for short proposals seeking to submit a full proposal within the fifth framework programme. The closing date regarding short assessment proposals and full proposals for FET Open is expected to be 15 June 2002. Please also note that consortia of successful short assessment proposals cannot be guaranteed the opportunity to submit a full proposal upon completion of their assessment project.

⁽¹⁴⁾ For further information on how to apply for this action line, see Appendix 5 to the guide for proposers, part 2.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Part of the guide for proposers is dedicated to grants.

Proposals are therefore preferably submitted in the following way:

- Made with the proposal preparation tool and sent electronically, by use of a sealing mechanism, including encryption and server uploading or electronic mail.

The coordinator must request a digital certificate from the Commission's certification authority for electronic signature of the proposal file. When the proposal has been finalised, it is then 'sealed' and a short validation file ('fingerprint') is created.

The validation file, which identifies the proposal file uniquely, must be sent (electronically or by fax) *before* the applicable deadline. The unmodified proposal file must be received electronically within 48 hours after the deadline.

Proposals may also be submitted in the following way:

- Made with the proposal preparation tool and printed out by the coordinator, or prepared on the paper forms distributed with the guide for proposers.

To be receivable, proposals submitted on paper must be *received* by the Commission at the following address:

The IST Programme
The Research Proposal Office
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels.

before the applicable deadline ⁽¹⁶⁾.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Reminder (ii): The deadlines in this call notice apply to receipt by the Commission. In addition, failure to use the above address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having your proposal received by the IST

programme, and could therefore lead to your proposal not being 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 order to provide the Commission with an improved system of control in respect of the costs reimbursed to the contractors and in order to reinforce the protection of the financial interests of the Community, the Commission may request from contractors audit certificates, issued and certified by independent and qualified auditors. Further information is available in the guide for proposers.
7. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. 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.

⁽¹⁶⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 298 42 06.