

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)**

(2001/C 246/03)

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 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 are invited to be submitted in one step.

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

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 25 million of Community contribution.

Proposals for take-up actions and support activities — Fixed deadline*(Call part identifier: IST-01-7BIS)*

Deadline for receipt of proposals ⁽⁸⁾: 4 December 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

The call relates to an initiative on 2,5-3G mobile applications and services that draws on the action lines for take-up and support measures in WP2001 which are listed below.

⁽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 point 5 for submission details and address.

The initiative aims at supporting **Trials of 2,5-3G applications and services** at a pan-European level. The objective is to offer the mobile sector actors an opportunity to jointly develop and test, on a pan-European scale, a number of innovative 2,5 and 3G mobile services and applications, to validate key interoperability issues between different networks and services and to consider the migration from IPv4 to IPv6 at technological and service levels.

This new call aims at obtaining early, high visibility interim results that will promote the development and deployment of innovative 2,5 and 3G services and applications.

Focus will be on the following aspects:

- interoperability/interworking and roaming issues (in particular from 2,5G to 3G networks),
- seamless end-to-end provision of value-added services and applications including service roaming and organisation of value creation and delivery,
- quality of service and service customisation aspects,
- user identification, billing and payment issues such as openness, scalability and consistency of billing information between different networks, technologies and services/applications,
- security, safety and privacy.

Possible services and applications include, but are not limited to:

- location-based, personalised and context-sensitive services including navigation and guidance, traffic and traveller information, logistics, and virtual presence),
- m-commerce/m-business and mobile work applications and services,
- mobile enter-/info-tainment, mobile learning, mobile access to cultural heritage and m-advertising,
- emergency assistance services and mobile health applications and services.

The proposed trials should involve an appropriate number of main actors from at least two different countries including service and application providers, operators, manufacturers (terminal and platform suppliers), content providers and aggregators, financial institutions, research labs and universities as well as where appropriate public and regulatory authorities.

The proposed trials are expected to have a duration typically of 18 months and less. They are also expected to

disseminate interim results achieved at regular intervals such as three to four months.

Support measures can also be submitted in order to cluster existing projects in the field or to propose working groups, networks of excellence, studies etc., that address issues, such as regulatory frameworks, trust and confidence and digital rights problems.

A detailed description of the initiative can be found at:

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/3g_initiative/home.html ⁽¹⁾.

The call draws on the WP2001 action lines which are listed below. **These action lines are grouped in this call under one initiative on 2,5-3G mobile applications and services with the budget, objectives and focus indicated above. Proposals will therefore address the initiative as a whole and not the individual action lines.**

Key action I

IST-2001-I.5.4 ⁽²⁾ Best practice and trials in transport and tourism.

Key action II

IST-2001-II.1.5 ⁽²⁾ High-impact take-up, dissemination, and training.

Key action III

IST-2001-III.1.1 ⁽²⁾ Publishing digital content.

Key action IV

IST-2001-IV.2.4 ⁽²⁾ Computing and Communication networks-Take-up measures.

5. 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.

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.

⁽¹⁾ This site also hosts an expression of interest page to facilitate the building of partnerships.

⁽²⁾ Only for trials, thematic networks and other non-take-up accompanying measures addressing the initiative on 2,5-3G mobile applications and services.

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 ⁽¹⁾.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Reminder: 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 policymaking. 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.

⁽¹⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 298 42 06.