



Preliminary Announcement

EUROTRANS-BIO to Open a 2nd Transnational Call for Proposals in March 2007: Funding of Industrial R&D Projects in Biotechnology.

EUROTRANS-BIO (ETB) is a four year project funded under the European Commissions ERA-NET scheme. The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research and development activities carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated States.

EUROTRANS-BIO is an initiative between government research and development funding bodies in Austria, Basque Country (Spain), Flanders (Belgium), Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain aiming at coordinating national and regional funding programmes for the benefit of SMEs in the field of biotechnology.

EUROTRANS-BIO's objective is to foster economic and academic biotech players in sharing risks, costs and skills related to innovation in order to develop new products, technologies or supply services that could reach the market more efficiently.

EUROTRANS-BIO's goal is to establish cross-border partnerships between SMEs, improve and accelerate technology transfer, strengthen European efforts to achieve sustainable industrial development.

EUROTRANSBIO launches common calls for industry-driven trans-national R&D projects to create an integrated funding programme for biotech SMEs.

The 2nd joint call for international projects of the EUROTRANS-BIO ERA-NET initiative will open on March 15th 2007. The deadline for submitting the pre-proposals is May 7th 2007.

**** Participation of The Netherlands has to be formally confirmed before 15 March 2007.***

1. Topic of the 2nd Call

The strategic objective of the 2nd ETB call for proposals is to enhance the competitive capacity of **Europe's biotechnology industry** by supporting the research intensive SMEs and their strategic partnerships.

The ETB call 2007 is a generic call including all fields of biotechnology.

2. Expected projects

Funding possibilities will be offered to excellent innovative industrial R&D and applied research projects.

All EUROTRANS-BIO projects should be designed on the following principles:

- **All project partners contribute to, and benefit from, an equitable and balanced cooperation.**
- **Adequate protection for intellectual property rights used in and generated during joint research and development are ensured.**
- **Results of collaborative projects are shared through a controlled process that protects and equitably allocates any intellectual property rights established during cooperation.**

The project duration is not restricted, but approximately 2 year projects are recommended. The overall budget of the call is up to 35 million euros. National funding programs may limit the scope of the proposals to specific areas of biotechnology.

3. Application Procedure

Consortia consisting of at least two SMEs (see definition http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm) from two different participating countries can apply for ETB funding (Austria, Basque Country in Spain, Flanders in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, *The Netherlands** and Spain). SMEs forming a consortium can include large companies, academic research groups and organisations which belong to the respective countries. Consortia can involve as many partners as necessary to achieve the project goals. The coordinator of the consortium has to be a SME.

The application process is two-phased with the ETB office as the central communication point for all applicants. First a pre-proposal has to be submitted electronically to the ETB office via ETB's website. The ETB consortium will check the compliance with the ETB and national eligibility criteria, which will be published in the ETB Call Guidelines. If the pre-proposal complies with the ETB criteria, the applicant is invited to send a full project proposal to the ETB office for evaluation.

The deadline for submitting the pre-proposals is May 7th 2007. The results of the pre-proposal check are expected to be communicated to the applicants by the end of June. For those projects that pass the pre-proposal phase, the dead-line for full project proposal submission is August 27th. The funding decisions are expected to be made in December 2007.

4. Evaluation

Eligibility of pre-proposals will be checked by the ETB consortium. Eligible full project proposals will be evaluated by an international panel of evaluators. The evaluation criteria fall into four equally important categories: 1) Technological/Scientific Innovation, 2) Economic Perspective, 3) Consortium and Project Management, and 4) Resources.

5. Forms, Guidelines and further information

As the countries have additional national requirements it is strongly recommended to contact their national contact persons for further information.

Additional information can be found at www.eurotransbio.net.

The ETB Call Guidelines will be published at the web-site before 15th of March

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