

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)**

(2000/C 293/17)

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 1a and 1b 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 2a and 2b 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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 20.

⁽³⁾ European Commission Decision C(2000) 350 of 9 February 2000 on the Information society technologies (IST) 2000 work programme.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

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

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

⁽⁷⁾ Version for fifth IST call (September 2000).

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: <http://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⁽¹⁾. 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).

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 220 million of Community contribution.

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

(Call part identifier: IST-00-5-1A)

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 15 January 2001 at 5p.m. (Brussels local time).

Key Action IV

Action lines **IV.2.1, IV.2.3, IV.3.2, IV.3.3, IV.5.1, IV.7.2, IV.8.1, IV.8.2, IV.8.3.**

Others

Action lines **V.1.3 (CPA3), V.1.5 (CPA5), V.1.6 (CPA6), V.1.7 (CPA7), V.1.8 (CPA8).**

Please note that calls CPA 5, CPA 7 and CPA 8 were not originally foreseen in the indicative timetable for implementation of the IST 2000 work programme. Concerning these action lines, please note the following:

CPA 5 (Smartcards). This is open to all specified action types, but only to cover proposals that focus on the priorities described in the Smart Card Charter referenced in the eEurope's Action Plan (see www.ispo.cec.be/istka2/smartcards.html).

CPA 7 (Socioeconomic analysis for the information society). This is open to all specified action types, with a focus on the mid-term (5-10 years) macroeconomic, employment and social inclusion policy priorities of the European Council of Lisbon of March 2000 (see, for instance, europa.eu.int/council/off/conclu/mar2000/index.htm).

Proposers should notably address the key issues relating to the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society by better policies for the information society and R & D.

CPA 8 (Statistical tools, methods, indicators and applications for the information society). This is open to all specified action types. The scope of this call is limited to the 'definition, measurement and exploitation of new socioeconomic statistical indicators for the information society'. Proposers are encouraged to focus on the priorities of the eEurope Action Plan (see, for instance, europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/europe/actionplan/index_en.htm).

Part 1b (proposals for take-up actions and support measures) — fixed deadline

(Call part identifier: IST-00-5-1B)

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 15 January 2001 at 5p.m. (Brussels local time).

Key Action II

Action lines **II.1.6.**

Key Action III

Action lines **III.3.4, III.5.1.**

Key Action IV

Action lines **IV.3.5, IV.5.5, IV.6.4, IV.7.4, IV.8.9.**

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

(Call part identifier: IST-00-5-2A)

Action Line **VI.1.1 FET O** ⁽²⁾.

Proposals may now be submitted at any time up to 15 February 2001 at 5p.m. (Brussels local time), by which time this action line is expected to be further extended.

Proposals submitted must correspond to the IST 2000 work programme.

⁽¹⁾ See call published in OJ C 92, 1.4.1999, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ FET Open will follow the two-step submission procedure, see guide for proposers (September 2000) for further information.

Part 2b (proposals for support measures) — continuous submission scheme

(Call part identifier: IST-00-5-2B)

Action lines **VIII.1.1, VIII.1.2, VIII.1.3, VIII.1.4, VIII.1.5, VIII.1.6.**

Proposals may be submitted at any time up to 15 February 2001 at 5p.m. (Brussels local time).

Reminder: 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 ⁽¹⁾, 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.

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 then by either 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 ⁽²⁾.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Reminder: Please note that deadlines 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 correspondingly 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.

- In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal), please be 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.

⁽¹⁾ Part of the guide for proposers is dedicated to grants.

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