

Announcement

EUROTRANSBIO Opens the 5th Transnational Call for Proposals: Funding of Industrial R&D Projects in Biotechnology

The 5th joint call for international projects of the EUROTRANSBIO ERA-NET initiative opens on October 1st 2009. The deadline for submitting the project proposals is February 1st 2010, 1 p.m. (CET).

1. Topic of the 5th Call

The strategic objective of the 5th ETB call is to enhance the competitive capacity of **Europe's biotechnology industry** by supporting the research intensive SMEs and their strategic partnerships. **The ETB call 2010 is a generic call including all fields of biotechnology.**

2. Expected projects

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

All EUROTRANSBIO projects should be designed according to the following principles:

- **All project partners contribute to, and benefit from, an equitable and balanced cooperation.**
- **Results of collaborative projects are shared through a controlled process that protects and allocates any intellectual property rights used and established during cooperation.**

The project duration is not restricted, but 2 to 3 year projects are recommended. The overall budget of the call is about 30 million Euros. National funding programmes may limit the scope of the proposals to specific areas of biotechnology.

3. Application Procedure

Consortia consisting of at least two SME's (see definition http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm) from two different countries participating in the ETB call can apply for ETB funding [Austria, Belgium (Flanders and Walloon regions), Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain (Basque, Catalonia and Madrid regions)]. Besides SMEs, a consortium can additionally 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 needs to be an SME from an ETB member country/region. Parties from countries/regions which do not take part in the ETB call may be part of a consortium at their own cost if their contribution is necessary to achieve the project goals and they are additional with respect to the minimum number of 2 SMEs from participating ETB countries/regions.

The application process is a one-step process with the ETB office as the central communication point for all applicants. The ETB consortium will check the compliance with the ETB and national eligibility criteria, **which are published in the ETB 5th Call Guidelines**. All consortium partners must prove sufficient financial stability to conduct the project properly. National agencies/ministries will check the financial status of their countries/regions' applicants. The project coordinator has to make sure that all consortium partners provide the necessary information as requested from the agencies/ministries (see ETB 5th Call Guidelines) to ensure the eligibility of the project. The deadline for submitting the project proposals is 1st February 2010. The applicants will be informed about the ETB-funding recommendations by July 2010.

4. Eligibility and Evaluation

Eligibility of proposals will be checked by the ETB consortium. Eligible 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 and Social Perspective, 3) Consortium and Project Management, and 4) Resources.

5. Forms, Guidelines and further information

As each country participating in the 5th ETB call has additional national requirements it is strongly recommended to contact their national contact persons for further information. Forms, guidelines, timeline and additional information can be found at www.eurotransbio.net.

6. EUROTRANS-BIO

EUROTRANS-BIO is an initiative among government research and development funding bodies in Austria, Basque Country (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Flanders (Belgium), Finland, France, Germany, Madrid region (Spain), Italy, The Netherlands and Wallonia (Belgium), 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&I projects to create integrated funding programme for biotech SMEs.

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