

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals for RTD activities under the specific programmes for research, technological development and demonstration on a 'User-friendly information society' and on 'Competitive and sustainable growth' on intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS)

Call identifier: IMS

(2001/C 27/17)

1. In accordance with the Council Decision 97/378/EC of 27 January 1997 ⁽¹⁾, concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of an exchange of letters recording the common understanding on the principles of international cooperation on research and development activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the EFTA countries of Norway and Switzerland ⁽¹⁾, and in accordance with the Decision No 182/1999/EC 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 activities (1998 to 2002) ⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and the Council Decisions 1999/168/EC and 1999/169/EC of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programmes for research, technological development and demonstration on a user-friendly information society and on competitive and sustainable growth ⁽³⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the specific programmes), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programmes mentioned above.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programmes, work programmes, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, were drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programmes. The objectives, priorities, indicative budgets and types of indirect actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those described in the work programmes and the technical themes for international cooperation on intelligent manufacturing systems which have been defined in the Council Decision of 27 January 1997 on IMS as follows:

- total product life-cycle issues,
- process issues,
- strategy/planning/design,

- human/organisational/social issues, and
- virtual/extended enterprise issues.

2. This call relates to proposals, specified under point 4 of this call, called under a continuous submission scheme, under which proposals are evaluated at fixed intervals for which deadlines for receipt are provided.

Details of the types of indirect actions, and, where applicable, their respective deadlines for receipt, are specified under point 4 of this call notice. Proposals under this scheme may be submitted at any time up to the date of closure of the scheme.

3. The specific programmes are implemented notably through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programmes.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programmes, the Council Decision 1999/65/EC of 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programmes. The fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation procedures, along with its annexes on the specific programmes, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination, provide further details.

Information on these rules and on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers, which can be obtained, along with the two work programmes and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 161, 18.6.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, pp. 20 and 40.

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Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
Info-ims@cec.eu.int
Fax (32-2) 299 45 72
<http://www.cordis.lu/ims/home.html>

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programmes are hereby invited to submit proposals that address the 2001 work programme of the specific programme on 'Competitive and sustainable growth' and/or the following action lines of the 2001 work programme of the specific programme on a 'User-friendly information society': II.1.1, II.1.2, II.1.3, II.1.4, II.1.5, II.2.1, II.2.2, II.3.1, II.4.1, II.4.2, and the abovementioned IMS themes.

The indicative budget for IMS from each of the specific programmes is EUR 35 million from 1999 to 2001.

Proposals will be evaluated in batches according to the following tentative evaluation deadlines: 19 April 2001 and 19 September 2001.

The date of closure of the scheme is 19 September 2001.

5. Proposal must be sent before the deadline by one of the following methods:
- Made with the proposal preparation tool and submitted electronically, the details of which are given in the guide for proposers. When packaging a proposal for electronic submission, two files are created. The first is a small validation file, which provides basic information on the proposal and a unique identification code. The European Commission must receive this validation file before the deadline specified in this call. The second file contains the proposal and must be received unmodified, as verifiable from the unique identification code, not later than 48 hours after this deadline.
 - Made with the proposal preparation tool and printed out by the coordinator, or prepared on the paper

forms distributed with the guide for proposers and sent by post, courier ⁽¹⁾ or hand delivery to the following address. To be receivable, proposals submitted on paper must be received by the Commission before the applicable deadline for receipts at the following address:

The IMS Initiative
Research Proposals Office
Square Frère-Orban/Frère-Orbanplein 8
B-1000 Brussels.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above by which 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 all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal) please make sure to cite the relevant call 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⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 298 42 06.