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MNT ERA-Net Transnational Call 2007

Guide for Proposers

15 December 2006

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1 What is MNT ERA-Net?

MNT ERA-Net is a network of regional and national funding programmes for Micro and Nano Technologies (MNT) with the aim to reduce fragmentation of R&D funding in Europe. MNT ERA-Net makes these funding programmes accessible to transnational consortia and opens calls for proposals for transnational R&D projects in the MNT area.

2 Structure of the Coordinated Call

The objective of the coordinated MNT ERA-Net call is to enable transnational applied R&D projects to be executed by partners receiving funding from the regional/national programmes which cooperate in the MNT ERA-Net project.

Figure 1 shows the schematic workflow of the coordinated call. Benefits are combined in one approach: On the one hand the regional/national agencies apply their own well-established funding rules and procedures known to their applicants, and on the other hand the MNT ERA-Net provides transnational coordination expertise:

- The **announcement and dissemination** activities of the call are performed collaboratively, but evaluation of funding applications will be done by national/regional programme owners solely according to their rules.
- The **coordination and the first assessment** of the transnational project proposals are performed by a Transnational Coordination Team. (TCT meeting)
- The final funding decisions are made by regional/national agencies.

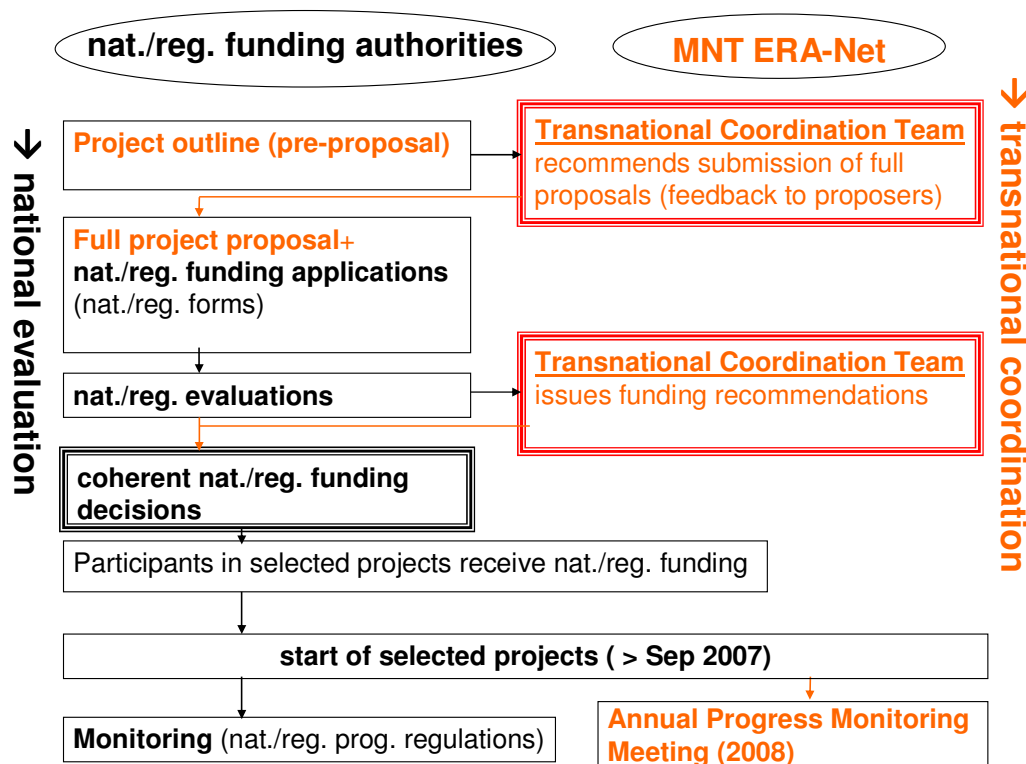


Figure 1: Schematic workflow of the MNT ERA-Net procedure

3 Call Announcement

3.1 Objectives and Topics

The aim is to fund **trans-national, application oriented, high risk R&D projects related to Micro and Nano Technologies**. Proposals will typically be smaller than proposals submitted to the EU Framework Programme. They will typically be **market-oriented** and will benefit from accelerated funding decisions.

All topics of Micro and Nano Technologies are covered in this call, but the respective regional/national thematic programme focus must be taken into account. To obtain detailed programme priorities **it is strongly recommended to contact your regional/national funding agency**.

3.2 Funding rules

In this call all funding rules of the regional/national agencies apply. **Each project partner has to apply individually for regional/national funding**.

Information about the specific funding rules will be provided by the **contact** persons from the respective regional/national agencies (see annex 1 for details).

3.3 Eligible project structure

- Project consortia consisting of **at least two parties from two different participating regions / countries** (see annex 1 for details) can apply for funding. The consortia may involve as many partners as necessary.
- The consortium must demonstrate **how to commercialise** the expected results.
- National/regional funding rules apply; therefore in some cases only certain topics or types of project partners are eligible (e.g. some programmes fund only industrial but no academic partners).

A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funding (after final funding decision). The purpose of the consortium agreement is to clarify:

- the responsibilities of the partners
- decision processes inside the project
- management of any change of partners
- IPR issues

3.4 Project budget

No overall limits have been defined on MNT ERA-Net level but national/regional limits regarding the level of funding will apply.

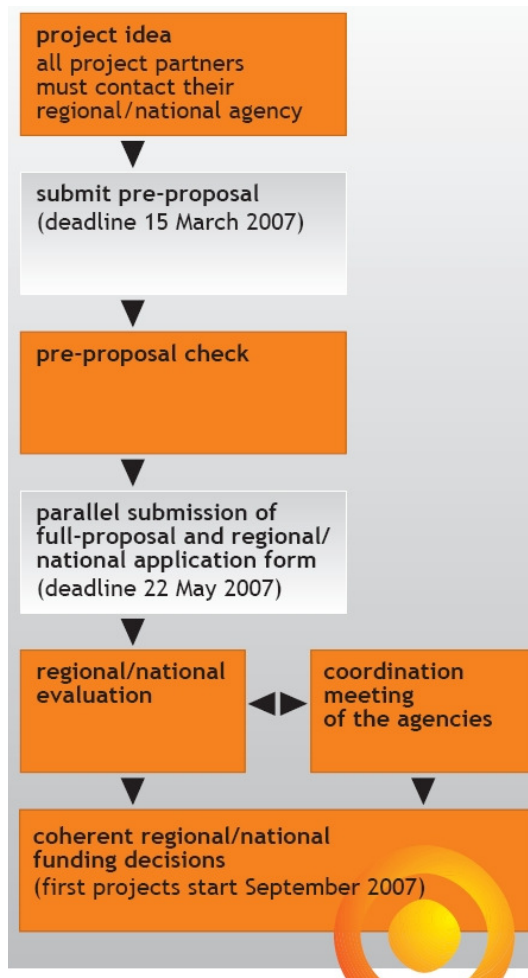
3.5 Project duration

The coordinated call focuses on application-oriented R&D projects. The project duration **is limited to a maximum of 3 years**.

3.6 Dates and deadlines

Action	Date	Place
Call Announcement	December 2006	
Call open	1 January – 22 May 2007	
Deadline for pre-proposals	15 March 2007	online
Deadline for full proposals and funding application forms	22 May 2007	regional/national agencies
Regional/national funding decisions	July – October 2007	regional/national agencies
Start of first projects	September 2007	

4 Application process



1. Before submitting a proposal, all project partners **must** contact their respective regional/national programme agency in order to discuss the project line-up and the funding conditions.

2. A pre-proposal is mandatory. It has to be submitted by the coordinator through an online application form available at www.mnt-era.net

3. Applicants will be provided with feedback after the review of their pre-proposal.

4. The full proposal must be submitted to each of the involved agencies, usually together with the regional/national funding applications. Please note that in some cases regional/national deadlines have to be considered.

5. The regional/national agencies carry out their own evaluation based on the full project proposal and the respective regional/national funding application. A meeting of the MNT ERA-Net TCT finally ranks the proposals balancing the evaluation results.

6. MNT ERA-Net TCT recommends the funding of projects to the respective funding agencies. **The regional/national agencies make the final funding decision.**

4.1 Pre-proposal

The pre-proposal gives an overview on the whole project. It is mandatory and has to be submitted by the project coordinator through an online application form available at www.mnt-era.net.

The following items have to be addressed:

1. Summary
2. Consortium description
3. Description of work planned
4. Cost calculation
5. Exploitation of results

The length of the pre-proposal must not exceed **10 pages**.

After deadline for pre-proposals the MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team (TCT) gives advice to the project coordinators and recommends/does not recommend the submission of full proposals.

4.2 Full proposal and regional/national funding applications

The full proposal (**maximum length 20 pages**) gives an overview of the whole project and describes all national project parts. In addition to the full proposal the corresponding regional/national funding application form has to be submitted to the respective funding agencies. To achieve funding, the national parts of the project must fulfil the same criteria as purely national/regional projects. This will create different submission and financing situations for partners from different countries. Each funding application must contain the full transnational project proposal as a mandatory annex.

5 Evaluation

MNT ERA-Net aims at providing a transparent, fast and straight forward assessment of the submitted project proposals. Thus, the regional/national evaluation will be carried out in cooperation with the MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team .

6 Decision

6.1 Decision process

The MNT ERA-Net Transnational Coordination Team prepares the recommendations for funding. The final funding decisions are **exclusively** made by the regional/national agencies/funding bodies.

6.2 Funding

6.2.1 Contract

Funding contracts are concluded directly between the project partners and their national/regional funding agencies.

6.2.2 Start and Instalments

A pre-condition for transferring the first funding instalments is the existence of a consortium agreement including IPR related issues.

As the national funding contracts may not all become effective at the same time, a project

- need not start,
- will not receive the instalments,
- will not be reviewed



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at exactly the same time. However, MNT ERA-Net will help to minimise these gaps.

7 Monitoring

7.1 National/regional project review

The progress of each individual contract will be monitored by the respective regional/national agencies through specific project review processes.

7.2 MNT ERA-Net Reporting (APMM)

Apart from the regional/national project review, the project progress has to be presented during an Annual Progress Monitoring Meeting (APMM) which includes the Transnational Coordination Team and a responsible project delegate (normally the project coordinator) to ensure the flow of information between agencies. The meeting is organised behind closed doors to guarantee the confidentiality of the presented reports.

7.3 Change in active projects

Any substantial change in an ongoing project must be reported immediately to the involved agencies. The project partners should be aware that changes might have effects on funding.

8 Dissemination

A reference to MNT ERA-Net is requested in publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information concerning results of the projects.

Annex 1: Participating funding bodies

Country/Region	MNT ERA-Net member	Contact	phone	mail	web	Thematic priorities
Austria	FFG	Roland Brandenburg	+43-57755.5090	roland.brandenburg@ffg.at	www.ffg.at	All MNT topics
Belgium/Flanders	IWT	Ben Kloeck	+32-2.788.15.62	bkl@iwt.be	www.iwt.be	All MNT topics
Belgium/Wallonia	DGTRE	Frédéric Desmaret	+32-81.33.55.81	f.desmaret@mrw.wallonie.be	www.recherche-technologie.wallonie.be	All MNT topics
Finland	TEKES	Markku Lämsä	+358-10.60.55793	markku.lamsa@tekes.fi	www.tekes.fi	Nano technologies
France	OSEO anvar	Edith Petitet	+33-1.41.79.89.07	edith.petitet@oseo.fr	www.oseo.fr	All MNT topics
France/Midi Pyrénées	CEMES/CRMP	Hervé Dexpert	+33-5.62.25.78.01	hdexpert@cemes.fr	www.midipyrenees.fr	All MNT topics
Germany	VDI/VDE-IT	Yvette Kaminorz	+49-30.310.078.208	kaminorz@vdivde-it.de	www.mstonline.de	Microsystems based on organic materials
Germany/Bavaria	MST Bavaria	Klaus Beumler	+49-89.516.39.803	beumler@vdivde-it.de	www.mst-bayern.de	Microsystems
Ireland	Enterprise Ireland	Robert Flood	+353-1.808.2293	Robert.Flood@enterprise-ireland.com	www.enterprise-ireland.com	All MNT topics
Nordic Countries	Nordic Innovation Centre	Nina Etelä	+47-482.833.43	n.etela@nordicinnovation.net	www.nordicinnovation.net	Sensor technology, structured materials, surface treatment
Northern Ireland	Invest NI	Dermot Hanna	+44-28.9069.8784	dermot.hanna@investni.com	www.investni.com	All MNT topics



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Norway	Forskningsrådet RCN	Tron Espeli	+47-9822 35 64	te@rcn.no	www.rcn.no	Microsystems
Poland	MSHE/ITE	Piotr Dumania	+48-22.5487.880	pdumania@ite.waw.pl	www.ite.waw.pl	All MNT topics
Romania	PUB	Corneliu Trisca-Rusu	+40-21.311.28.55	ctrisca2002@yahoo.com	www.matnantech.pub.ro	Nano technologies, microsystems
Slovakia	SAS	Simona Klingova	+421-2.5249.2751.9	klingova@up.upsav.sk	www.sav.sk	All MNT topics
Slovenia	MHEST	Ruth Martinčič	+386-1.478.46.80	ruth.martincic@gov.si	www.rtd.si	All MNT topics
Spain	MEC	Manuel Vazquez	+34-91.334.90.51	mvazquez@icmm.csic.es	www.mec.es	All MNT topics
Spain/Basque Country	Basque Government	Patxi Albisu	+34-94.491.30.97	palbisu@eurobulegoa.com	www.eurobulegoa.com	All MNT topics
Switzerland	KTI/CTI TEMAS	Roland Bühler Annemarie Gemperli	+41-31.324.71.41 +41-71.446.50.30	roland.buehler@bbt.admin.ch annemarie.gemperli@temas.ch	www.kti-cti.ch www.temas.ch	All MNT topics