

Call Title: Research for SME Associations Call 2

- **Call identifier:** FP7-SME-2008-2
- **Date of publication:** 3rd September 2008
- **Deadline:** 18 December 2008 (first stage) at 17.00.00 h (Brussels local time)
- **Indicative budget:** EUR 78.55 million¹
- **Topics called:** call is open to all research fields

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Scheme
<u>2.2 Research for SME Associations</u>	The call is open to all research fields ²	Research for the benefit of specific groups (in particular SMEs)

- **Evaluation procedure:** 2-stage procedure. The first stage will consist of an outline proposal of not more than 12 pages providing the essential aspects of the proposed project³. For proposals which successfully pass the first stage, co-ordinators shall be requested to provide a full proposal. The closure date for the submission of the full proposal (stage 2) will be detailed in the request (indicative closure date: May 2009). Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously. The evaluation of the first stage proposals will be limited to the criteria "S&T quality" and "Impact" and may be carried out by a remote evaluation procedure.
- The evaluation criteria and sub-criteria (including weights and thresholds), together with the eligibility, selection and award criteria, for the different funding schemes are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.

However, for this call, the threshold for the Potential impact criterion will be 4 (instead of 3). As a consequence, the overall threshold for stage 1 will be 8 (instead of 7) and for stage 2 will be 11 (instead of 10).

- **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:** results of stage 1 evaluation will be available within three months after closure date. Proposers of successful proposals post

¹ Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority. The final total budget attributed to this call, following the evaluation of projects, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

² Research proposals within the scope of Annex I of the EURATOM Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications, should be submitted to relevant calls under the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme.

³ The page limits that apply to proposals submitted under this call are given in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS (see also the Guide for Applicants, annex 4). The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages in excess of these limits

first stage evaluation will be asked to submit a stage 2 proposal with a specified deadline around May 2009.

Grant agreement signature: it is estimated that the first grant agreements related to this call will come into force 12 months after the first stage closure date.

- **Consortium agreements**

The participants will be required to submit a signed consortium agreement before the signature of the grant agreement.

It addresses issues such as the internal organisation of the consortium, the management of the Community financial contribution, rules on dissemination and use, including intellectual property rights management, settlement of internal disputes. In particular, it should contain provisions related to the remuneration of the RTD-performers especially if different from the default regime, clearly indicating the ceiling for remuneration agreed within the consortium and the related consequences in terms of allocation of ownership and use and dissemination rights. This information is meant to be fully reflected in the Technical Annex to the grant agreement.

- **Particular requirements for participation, evaluation and implementation:**

- At least 3 independent SME association/groupings established in 3 MS or AC. An alternative to this is that there may be 1 European SME association/grouping established in a MS or an AC. This association/grouping must be made up of a minimum of 3 independent legal entities established in 3 MS or AC. SME associations/groupings are legal persons, composed mostly of and representing the interests of SMEs and/or physical persons having the same kind of activities.
- At least 2 participants, must be RTD performers (having the capacity to carry out research at the request of the association(s)/grouping(s)), independent from any other participant
- At least 2 participants must be SMEs (other enterprises or end-users) established in 2 MS or AC.

- See Annex 3 for the form of grant and maximum reimbursement rates

- A reserve list of proposals will be established