

Joint Technology Initiatives are a smart new way of working together towards reaching the goals set by EU leaders in the Lisbon strategy on growth and employment.

For the first time, public-private partnerships have been created in the field of industrial research at European level. By combining public and private funding, these partnerships have an important integrating effect on research. Industry is pooling substantial financial and human resources with the public sector and other stakeholders to push forward towards common research goals.

In doing so, Joint Technology Initiatives can play a critical role in ensuring that European industry remains at the forefront in areas of strategic importance for competitiveness and for the wellbeing of all citizens. By fostering stronger links between the research community and industry, they will stimulate innovation, thus enabling Europe to lead the way.

Joint Technology Initiatives bring together industry, the EU and Member States in certain leading edge areas of high societal relevance, to define common research agendas and invest accordingly. Private, national and European level efforts are then aligned to implement the goals set out. This approach allows the necessary scale of impact to be achieved and other poles of knowledge to be matched.

Furthermore, by creating the conditions for Europe to compete with initiatives worldwide, Joint Technology Initiatives can be expected to leverage funding and encourage inward investment in research, thus attracting the best talent.

The first five Joint Technology Initiatives have now been launched and the European Commission is fully committed to making them a success. Joint Technology Initiatives present a great opportunity for Europe; they play a significant role in strengthening the European Research Area, based on the principles of scientific excellence, openness and competition.



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Putting JTIs into practice

The Framework

In practical terms, a JTI is a legally established body (a 'Joint Undertaking'), set up on the basis of Article 171 of the EC Treaty. It has a dedicated budget and staff.

The Joint Undertaking provides a framework for the public and private players to work and take decisions together. It organises calls for proposals, oversees selection procedures and puts in place contractual arrangements for projects set up to implement the JTI research agenda. It allows funds from different sources to be jointly managed and is responsible for communication and dissemination activities.

Each Joint Undertaking includes one or more decision-making bodies, an Executive Director and staff, as well as internal or external advisory bodies.

Role of the European Community

The European Community is a founding member of each JTI. In addition to its financial contribution, the Community, represented by the European Commission, is a member of the JTI decision-making bodies.

In particular, it is responsible for ensuring that public funds are spent in the most effective way.

Ensuring that public money is well spent

Strategic Research Agendas have been developed for the areas addressed by JTIs through intense collaboration between industry, including SMEs, the research community, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. These agendas provide clear and sound bases for the work programmes of the JTIs, which show a significant leverage effect.

JTI members are jointly responsible for monitoring progress, guiding the evolution of the initiatives and adapting the work programmes in response to changing needs. In this respect, each JTI produces an annual activity report and reports to the Council and European Parliament. In addition, the Commission will undertake mid-term and final evaluations of each JTI.

Further information

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jtis>

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KI-78-07-150-ENC



Public-Private Partnerships
in EU Research

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What are JTIs?

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are public-private partnerships set up at European level to address strategic areas where research and innovation are essential to European competitiveness. A novel element of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities, JTIs support large-scale multinational research activities. They bring together private and public partners to define common objectives of wide societal relevance and to combine funding and knowledge in order to fulfil these objectives.

Why JTIs?

JTIs target well-defined areas where existing programmes and instruments (including those of the Framework Programme), which often follow a project-oriented approach, cannot cater for the scale and scope needed. In these areas, cooperation between private and public partners, at the national and European levels, can yield significant added value by creating incentives for increased spending in research and development. By joining forces, industry can accomplish far more than by doing it alone. Furthermore, the creation of spin-offs as a result of JTI activities may be widespread across the regions of Europe.

How are JTIs set up?

JTIs stem primarily from the work of European Technology Platforms. European Technology Platforms bring together a broad range of stakeholders – namely industry, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), research organisations, civil society organisations and the public sector – to define Strategic Research Agendas in particular fields. In certain cases, the scale and complexity is such that a new approach is needed to implement all or parts of this agenda. JTIs respond to this need.

The criteria to identify areas in which there is a need to set up a JTI are:

- strategic importance of the topic and clear objectives;
- existence of market failure;
- added value of action at European level;
- substantial, long-term industry commitment;
- inadequacy of existing Community instruments.

Based on these criteria, five areas have been identified where a JTI could have particular relevance: fuel cells and hydrogen, aeronautics, innovative medicines, embedded computing systems and nanoelectronics.

In formal terms, JTIs are set up by a Council Regulation, on the basis of a proposal by the Commission. The Regulation specifies the duration of the JTI, which is generally up to 10 years.

Who can participate in the research activities of a JTI?

JTIs are open and transparent structures, which are accessible to new participants and which communicate with a broad audience.

Different types of participation are possible. Private companies, research organisations, universities and other stakeholders are eligible (upon acceptance) to become members (directly or through a grouping) during the lifetime of a JTI.

Various organisations can participate in projects carried out in the frame of JTIs through responding to calls for proposals.

The specific rules for participation differ between JTIs, depending on their individual characteristics. The key principle is that research should be performed in Europe.

Who finances JTIs?

The European Community and Member States that are part of a JTI commit funds from their research budget on an annual basis. This is matched by in-kind contributions (i.e. non-monetary inputs, such as equipment and personnel) from industry, which covers at least 50% of the total cost of the research projects.

The activities of JTIs may also be financed through additional sources, such as the European Investment Bank, the Structural Funds and additional private investment at European or national levels.

How will JTIs benefit European citizens?

JTIs will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of citizens:

- *By contributing to key challenges for the European economy and society, for example*
 - Environmentally-friendly aircraft are critical to addressing the global problem of climate change
 - New techniques to predict the safety and efficacy of new medicines will improve public health.
- *By focusing on the major technological challenges where Europe must succeed, for example*
 - It is predicted that some 40 billion devices will be embedded by 2020. Boosting European capabilities in embedded computing systems is therefore a priority.
- *By boosting growth and employment, for example*
 - Nanoelectronics affect a wide range of industries, ranging from telecommunications to transport to healthcare. The sector is a significant generator of highly qualified jobs, with an estimated market size of € 5 000 billion.