

Call for proposals for medium to long-term indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on 'energy, environment and sustainable development (1998 to 2002)'

(Part B: Energy — key actions 5 and 6)

(2000/C 303/11)

1. In accordance with the Decision 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 (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002 ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on 'energy, environment and sustainable development (1998 to 2002)' ⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the specific programme), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme ⁽³⁾, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect RTD actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to proposals (RTD proposals, including demonstration, combined RTD/demonstration projects, and thematic networks and concerted actions), specified under point 4 of this call, called by fixed deadlines following which evaluation will take place. Proposals not having met the corresponding deadlines will not be considered under this call notice.

This call takes into account the new approach for the implementation of all programme activities as described in the work programme update of October 2000, which needs to be used in conjunction with the version of the EESD: Part B: Energy work programme ⁽³⁾.

The work programme update identifies the priorities for this call, and has taken particularly into consideration the major priorities of the EU Energy policy and the new orientations of the EU Research policy. The concerns of diversity and security of energy supply and the mitigation of the effects of energy supply and use in climate change, have been key drivers in shaping a new approach to the implementation of the Programme, which is expected to expedite and maximise the response to the main goals.

Concerning the new orientations of research policy, particular attention has been given to allow taking steps

which respond to the Commission initiative of advancing towards a real European research area (ERA) which has been recently endorsed by Member States.

This new approach is based upon three main elements:

- a clear differentiation between proposals addressing problems that can be solved and technologies that can be used within the **short time frame** (less than five years), and proposals which address problems and technologies within the **medium-to-long time frames** (more than five years).

Note that this call is aimed at RTD projects which address problems and technologies of a **medium to long-term** nature. Proposals addressing problems and technologies of a short-term nature will be the object of a separate call, to be launched concurrently,

- concentration of a substantial fraction of the programme budget (approximately 60 %) around a core set of target actions which are designed to facilitate the emergence of solutions with a measurable impact, high profile and direct relevance to EU policy objectives; target actions integrate multidisciplinary and multisectoral activities involving, wherever possible, private/public sector partnerships and end-users from the business, industrial and policy-making sectors,

- identification of a limited number of priorities of strategic importance to the EU, which are to be addressed by proposals related to any of the topics of the work programme, to which the remaining 40 % of the programme budget are allocated.

Note that it is essential for a proposal responding to the general part of the call (i.e. addressing any of the topics in the work programme and not being part of a target action) to show a high degree of compliance with one, or preferably several, of the abovementioned strategic priorities. Proposals responding to the target actions will obviously have an added value if they are in line with one or more of these strategic priorities.

The attention of the proposers is drawn to the fact that, in accordance with the new Commission's orientations at programme level, the topics to be addressed have been selected with the prime objective of encouraging the submission of a new class of proposals that have a significant impact at European level, a high profile and the broadest possible relevance to European citizens and policies.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 58.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(2000) 670 as last amended by the work programme update of October 2000, Commission Decision C(2000) 3017.

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

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programme, the Council Decision of 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programme. The fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation Procedures ⁽²⁾, along with its annex on this specific programme, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination ⁽³⁾, provide further details.

Information on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers ⁽⁴⁾, which can be obtained, along with the work programme and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using the following address:

European Commission
Energy info desk
SDME 2/3
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
E-mail: helpline-energy@cec.eu.int
Fax (32-2) 296 06 21
Web: <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/>

Important: Proposers are strongly recommended to submit a pre-proposal check form (please see guide for proposers) to receive guidance on whether their proposal is within the scope of the call and in particular whether it fits better in one of the target actions or the general call. Such pre-proposal checks must be received at least six weeks prior to the deadline for receipt for the call part for which the proposal itself is intended.

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programme are hereby invited to submit proposals that address those parts of the work programme given below.

Important: The target actions and strategic priorities referred to below are described in the EESD work programme update of October 2000. Note that this update has to be used in conjunction with the March 2000 version of the EESD work programme (see <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/>).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽²⁾ Latest (and only applicable) version of Commission Decision C(2000) 2002 of 14 July 2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

⁽⁴⁾ October 2000 version.

The indicative total budget available for the overall call is EUR 240 million of Community contribution, of which EUR 115 million are for the two call-parts with deadlines in 15 February 2001, and EUR 125 million are for the two call-parts with deadline in December 2001.

Part 1: Call part identifier: ENERGIE4-T1

The following medium to long term target actions:

- G. Fuel cells and H₂: Fuel cells and H₂,
- H. Biomass for the production of heat and electricity: Bio energy,
- I. Integration of RES and distributed generation of energy systems: Integration,
- J. Rational use of energy: Cleaner fuels for transport,
- K. Storage of energy: Storage,
- L. Photovoltaics: PV,

as specified in the work programme update of October 2000.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 9 February 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Part 2: Call part identifier: ENERGIE4-G1

Medium to long-term actions covering the entire contents of the latest EESD Part B: Energy work programme (March 2000), taking account of the strategic priorities laid out in the work programme update of October 2000.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 9 February 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Part 3: Call part identifier: ENERGIE4-T2

The following medium to long-term target actions:

- G. Fuel cells and H₂: Fuel cells and H₂,
- H. Biomass for the production of heat and electricity: Bio energy,
- I. Integration of RES and distributed generation of energy systems: Integration,
- J. Rational use of energy: Cleaner fuels for transport,
- K. Storage of energy: Storage,
- L. Photovoltaics: PV,

as specified in the work programme update: October 2000.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 14 December 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Part 4: Call part identifier: ENERGIE4-G2

Medium to long-term actions covering the entire contents of the latest EESD Part B: Energy work programme (March 2000), taking account of the strategic priorities laid out in the work programme update of October 2000.

Deadline for receipt of proposals: 14 December 2001 at 5 p.m. (Brussels local time).

Reminder: Proposals for accompanying measures, training grants, generic activities and SME measures should be submitted in response to the open call for such activities. These proposals should take into account the revised priorities and orientations of the work programme update of October 2000.

When submitting a proposal for an RTD project, a demonstration project, a combined project, or a concerted action, proposers may include an application for a *bursary for young researcher from developing countries*. Further information on this scheme is given in the guide for proposers.

5. Proposals must be received by the Commission before or on the deadline specified above by one of the following methods:

— post, courier ⁽¹⁾ or hand-delivered before 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) to:

'Energie — Fourth Call'
Call part identifier: 'ENERGIE4-...'
The Research Proposal Office (ORBN 8)
Square/Plein Frère Orban 8
B-1040 Brussels.

— electronic submission, the details of which are given in the guide for proposers. When packaging a proposal for electronic submission, two files are created. The first a small validation file which provides basic information on the proposal and a unique identification code. This validation file must be received by the Commission before or on the deadline specified above. 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.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Important notice: The above constitutes a change with respect to previous calls where deadlines applied to *submission*. Deadlines *now* apply to *receipt* by the Commission at the correct address specified above.

Please note that failure to use the above address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having your proposal received by the EESD non-nuclear energy programme, and could correspondingly lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In particular, the same proposal must not be submitted to a target action and a general call with the same deadline. In any such case, the Commission reserves the right to evaluate only one of the submissions under the call which the Commission considers the more appropriate and to declare the other proposal ineligible. 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 applicable call part 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) 296 02 45.