

New calls due out in spring

With the autumn 2009 FP7 call for proposals round approaching deadlines, the London Innovation Network team has been working hard helping Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in London submit their Research and Development proposals in partnership with other European companies, research centres and universities.

This time round attention was drawn to health-related calls. With an estimated budget of approximately €630m, Health attracted a lot of interest from London companies in the field. Over the next two months calls covering *Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology; Information and communication technologies; Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies; Energy; Environment (including climate change); Transport; Socio-economic sciences and humanities; Space; and Security* will close totalling a combined budget of £1bn.

If you have an interesting project proposal contact us so we can start working for the next call due out in 2010.

London Innovation Network Team

News

The 2nd call for proposals for Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is out now. With a budget of €76.8 million, IMI supports pre-competitive pharmaceutical research and development.

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Contact us

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Open calls for proposals

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- FET Open Scheme ([FP7-ICT-2009-C](#)). Deadline: 24 May 2011.

Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology

It focuses on research for improving and optimising primary agricultural production systems; and, new approaches to fisheries management, animal welfare and mollusc diseases. It also emphasises on industrial, environmental and marine biotechnologies.

- General call for proposals ([FP7-KBBE-2010-4](#)). Indicative budget of €190m. Deadline 14 January 2010.

Energy

- Energy Call 2 ([FP7-ENERGY-2010-2](#)). Indicative budget €126,4m. Deadline 04 March 2010.

Environment (including Climate Change)

- [FP7-ENV-2010](#). Indicative Budget €175m. Deadline: 05 January 2010.

Transport

Aeronautics and air transport - [FP7-AAT-2010-RTD-1](#). Budget: €101m. Deadline: 14 January 2010.

Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities

- Large collaborative projects ([FP7-SSH-2010-1](#)). Budget: €40m. Deadline: 02 February 2010.
- Small or medium scale focused research collaborative projects ([FP7-SSH-2010-2](#)). Budget: €18,9 m. Deadline: 02 February 2010.
- Collaborative projects for specific cooperation actions dedicated to international cooperation ([CP-FP-SICA/FP7-SSH-2010-3](#)). Budget: €8,1m. Deadline: 02 February 2010.
- Coordination and support actions ([FP7-SSH-2010-4](#)). Budget: €3,6m. Deadline: 15 December 2009.

Cross Thematic Calls

- [FP7-AFRICA-2010](#), deadline 14 January 2010. Call budget of approximately €63m of which:
 - €39 m from Health
 - €6,5 m from Food, Agriculture and fisheries, and Biotechnology
 - €17,5m from Environment (including climate change)
- [FP7-OCEAN-2010](#), deadline 14 January 2010. Indicative budget of €34mi.
 - €9m from Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (KBBE)
 - €6mn from Energy
 - €10.5m from Environment
 - €7.5m from Transport
 - €1m from Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

Within the framework of the European recovery plan, the NMP 2010 calls will focus on research and innovation in manufacturing, the construction industry and the automobile sector which will be implemented as Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

- PPP "Green Cars" ([FP7-2010-GC-ELECTROCHEMICAL-STORAGE](#)). Indicative budget €25mi (NMP, Energy, Environment and Transport). Deadline 14 January 2010.

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Upcoming events

Genesis 2009 – “Back in focus!”, 10 - 11 December 09

Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London/UK

The leading Biotechnology networking conference will address topics such as challenges in drug discovery and development and current funding options.

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Case study

We are working on it. Coming soon. For previous case studies please visit [London Innovation Network/Success Stories](#).

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New to FP7

This section outlines what FP7 is all about, focusing on the opportunities available for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

What is FP7?

FP7 refers to 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities. It aims to bring companies together across Europe to foster economic development by encouraging and funding Research, Development and Innovation. It is the European Commission's main tool for R&D with an allocated budget of over €50bn between 2007 and 2013.

SMEs and FP7

FPs have historically supported large-scale strategic projects. More recently, however, there has been a shift towards including more SMEs.

The European Commission is therefore keen to optimize the impact of the FP7 on SMEs. In practical terms it means that at least 15 per cent of the overall budget, or €7.5bn, is expected to be granted to SMEs.

Benefits and challenges for SMEs

As the largest research programme in the world, FP7 offers the opportunity for SMEs to perform R&D that looks too far into the future to be carried out alone. That is to say that FP7 does not exist to help your organisation to survive nor to fund short term day-to-day projects. This is an important difference to highlight as the application process is long, complex and time-consuming.

Nevertheless, this very complexity can be seen as an opportunity. More than financial support for research, due to its strong transnational element, FP7 allows SMEs to strengthen their position in the market through building networks with international partners such as companies and research centres inside and outside Europe.

If you are thinking of applying for FP7 you can count on the [London Innovation Network](#) to help you assess whether it is the right funding for you and help you through the application process.

What does it fund?

FP7 funds conceptual Research and Development projects. The most suitable project type for SMEs is collaborative projects which are “focused research projects with a clearly defined scientific and technological objectives and specific expected results”.

For SMEs, the reimbursement rate for collaborative projects is up to 75 per cent of the eligible R&D costs. For other activities (i.e. consortium management) it can be up to 100 per cent of eligible costs.

Typically, small or medium research projects can receive a contribution of €1-3m, whereas large scale integrating projects can access €6-12m*.

*NB. Figures are merely indicative and can vary from with each call. You should check that your proposal meets minimum eligibility criteria and maximum EC contribution thresholds as outlined in the specific call.

Who, how and when to apply?

Collaborative projects are carried out by consortia made up of participants from different countries, Member States and Associated Countries. Eligible participants can be universities, research centres, multinational corporations, SMEs, public administrations and individuals. Organisations from International Cooperation Partner Countries are also eligible as long as the consortia meet the required minimum of Member States participants.

Eligible consortia requires as minimum condition the participation of least three legal entities, each of which is established in a Member State or Associated country, and no two of which are established in the same Member State or Associated country.

FP7 is implemented through calls for proposals launched quarterly. Each call covers specific areas of research and to be considered for application your project must fit in its criteria. More information (work programmes, call fiche, guides for applicants) is provided on the [Cordis](#) Website.

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London Innovation Network – how we can help

If you are a London based business interested in taking part in FP7 we can help you to:

- Assess if FP7 is the right funding for you. If it is not, we can help find other possible funding sources.
- Find a partner and build a consortium: as part of [Enterprise Europe Network](#) we have access to more than 400 organisations in more than 40 countries and hundreds of business partners.
- Write the proposal: we do not write it for you, but we provide one-to-one support to help you through the application process.
- Ensure your application fully meets the evaluation criteria.
- Lobby the Commission and National Contact Points on behalf of your project.

For further information contact fp7@gle.co.uk or visit www.london-innovation.org

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