



SME Week and Research Connection 09

Welcome to the second edition of our FP7 Newsletter!

In this issue, we draw special attention to the 1st European SME Week. From 6 to 14 May 2009, hundreds of European and local events were held across Europe.

The European Commission's [Research Connection 2009](#) brought together more than 1,000 people from 53 countries interested in engaging in collaborative research and development. The conference covered a wide variety of issues regarding benefits and obstacles of participating in FP7. The London Innovation Network EC Funding Manager, [Chris Farmakis](#), spoke at the event about funding opportunities for SMEs.

In London, the London Innovation Network promoted Get Connected To European Business and Innovation with the participation of the UK's Minister for Europe, Caroline Flint, as keynote speaker.

London Innovation Network Team
London, June 2009

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London Innovation Network contributes to a greener Europe

The lead partner for the [London Innovation Network](#), GLE, has been encouraging more sustainable and energy efficient technologies in Europe by showing London SMEs within the energy sector how to access funding from the European Commission's €100m [Framework Programme 7](#) and [Intelligent Energy Europe](#) initiatives.

The event held at GLE in early April benefited 20 organisations, out of which 13 were London SMEs within the energy sector, who learnt how the Network can help them access these funding initiatives. The Energy National Contact Point in the UK informed about upcoming calls.

Coming soon. The London Innovation Network is helping London SMEs meet business partners. A study visit will take place next semester to foster collaboration between companies in Europe.

European Enterprise Awards – winners announced at the closing event for the 1st European SME Week.

Published report on the first two years of FP7.

Success stories for FP6 Research Cooperative Projects for SMEs features the results of [20 successful projects](#) funded under FP6.

New to FP7

[Find out](#) what it is, what it funds, who can benefit from it, how and when to apply.

Services on offer

How the London Innovation Network can help you to [access funding](#).

Contact us

For any further information on this bulletin [contact us](#) or visit our [website](#).

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FP7 Newsletter is a bimonthly publication by the London Innovation Network which is delivered and led by GLE in partnership with LTN, the [London Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) and [The Innovatory](#). It is part of and funded by Enterprise Europe Network and it is co-funded by the London Development Agency.

Open calls for proposals*

Energy

- **Deadline extended!** Coordinated call with Brazil on Energy Second Generation Biofuels.
Deadline: 19th June 2009

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- **FET Open Scheme.** Deadline: 24th May 2011

*New call for proposals are due to come out by the end of July.

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Upcoming events

Euro Nano Forum 2009 – Prague, 2 - 5 June 09

Prague Congress Centre, 5. Kvetna 65, 140 00 Prague

Nano Brokerage Event Prague 2009 is targeted at companies, technology centres, research and development institutes, research laboratories, universities and private researchers offering innovative technologies and know-how, looking for technological solutions or searching for partners for the European R&D projects.

Turning to the future: a new approach for EU socio-economic and humanities research until 2013 – Brussels, 5 June 09

European Commission Charlemagne Building

The aim of this conference is to inform the European Research Community about the new approach which FP7 will now take as regards Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities Research. The event is an important step in preparing stakeholders for changes to the Socio-Economic and Humanities (SSH) Work Programme, the 2010 edition of which will be published and open for proposals at the end of July 2009.

DigiBiz 2009 conference - London, 17-19 June 09

Holiday Inn - London Kensington Forum, 97 Cromwell Road, SW7 4DN

DIGIBIZ 2009 is an international forum for industry and academia involved in electronic business and commerce. The conference will be focused on innovative business models (B2B, B2C, Marketplaces), community centric technologies enabling Digital Businesses (Web 2.0) and Business Models for the Future Internet (Web 3.0).

European Conference for Aerospace Sciences – Versailles/France, 6-9 July 09

Place du château, 10 Rue de la Chancellerie, 78000

EUCASS is a forum for aerospace research players in Europe. It will review the state of the art in Aerospace Sciences, focusing on advances and innovations; promote industrial understanding of recent scientific breakthroughs and develop synergies between Aeronautics and Space, Academia and Industry; offer Agencies and Industry the opportunity to present their programmes, particularly the EU's Framework programmes.

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Case study

London-based SME leads consortium for FP7

Biotronics3D Limited, an SME headquartered in London, develops and markets innovative software applications for the diagnostic imaging industry. Having received support from the London Innovation Network, the company submitted a research and development project proposal, *iScalpel*, under ICT for Patient Safety FP7 Call.

This SME-led project is aimed at the implementation of novel techniques in cancer diagnostics through image processing of MRI images for visual identification of tumours in human tissue, leading to more precise and less invasive surgeries.

The company approached the London Innovation Network seeking advice on European funding and looking for partners in Europe. With the support of GLE, London Innovation Network leading partner, an eight-member consortium was built up with academia and business partners from the UK, Germany, Norway, Austria and the Netherlands. The company is now in a good position to market with large hospitals and national health organisations from across Europe as well as licensing technology to third countries, notably the USA and Canada.

The €4.2 million project proposal is currently under evaluation by the Commission and, if successful, it will secure more than €2 million of funding for the UK organisations.

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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 or 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-scale 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 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 at 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 meet 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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