

NOTICE OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING GRANTS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION

Call for proposals DG TREN/SUB/H4/01-2006

1. Political context

The European Commission intends to award¹ grants to promote the objectives of the policies for nuclear safety and radiation protection. The policy priorities have been set in the work programme for 2006 adopted by the Commission on 25 October 2005 [COM(2005) 531 final]. Information on this call for proposals is available on the DG TREN website at the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/grants/proposal_en.htm

2. Sources of funding

The operations selected will be financed from budget headings Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection.

3. Estimated total amount for this call

The estimated total amount for 2006 is EUR 180 000.

4. Percentage of Community co-financing

The grants are intended as incentives for carrying out an operation which could not be executed without Community financial support, and they reflect the principle of co-financing. The Commission therefore plans to grant only funds which are complementary and subsidiary to contributions made by the beneficiary, the national, regional or local authorities and other bodies. Accordingly, the amount granted will be between 10 and 50% of the total eligible costs of the operation. Contributions in kind are not regarded as eligible costs. Operations will be put in competition in view of a possible financial support.

5. Objectives of this call for proposals:

Considering the legislative initiatives described in the work programme for 2006, the Commission wishes to support operations reinforcing and developing its policies in the field of radiation protection.

In view of the Commission's responsibilities under Chapter 3 "Health and Safety" of the EURATOM Treaty to establish basic safety standards for the health protection of workers and members of the public against ionising radiation and ensure their application, the Commission wishes in particular to support operations fostering international consensus on the scientific basis of these standards.

¹ Subject to the adoption by the Commission of the annual DG TREN work programme 2006 for grants.

The results of these operations should allow the Commission to update the basic safety standards in the light of the best available scientific knowledge and ensure that they are in line with those adopted internationally.

6. Categories and areas of operations covered by this call for proposals:

6.1. Categories of operations:

Operations to be supported will be classified as follows, although this does not imply the exclusion of operations bearing other characteristics and complying with the objectives quoted in point 5:

- Operations of communication and dissemination of best practices: this category deals with the setting up and carrying out of operations aimed at providing access to information on state-of-the-art methodologies for exposure assessment and for reducing exposure to levels as low as reasonably achievable.
- Operations of research and collection of scientific data: this category aims at fostering consensus-building among scientists about the impact of new findings on the current regulatory control scheme, collecting all relevant information and consolidating knowledge in a form that is accessible to the non-expert.
- Operations of coordination and harmonisation of standards and procedures: this deals with increasing the opportunities of convergence between different existing standards and procedures in order to reinforce the harmonisation process at international and European level.

6.2. Areas of operations:

The operations must be devoted to one of the following areas, although this does not imply the exclusion of other proposals of innovative character and European scale, the objectives of which comply with those listed in point 5:

A proposal can cover several areas.

a. Dosimetry:

- establishment of the fundamental quantities and units for the assessment of exposure and of appropriate metrological standards, including the qualification of uncertainties;
- physical data needed for the assessment of radiation exposure;
- procedures for adequate dosimetry to ensure compliance with the dose limitation system in force for the radiation protection of workers and members of the public;
- procedures for precise delivery of high doses to appropriate tissues in view of radiation therapy.

b. Biological effects of radiation:

- collection of new scientific data on the effects of ionising radiation at cellular level and their implications for the induction of late health effects and genetic damage affecting the health of offspring;
- collection of new scientific data on the effects of ionising radiation on direct and immediate health detriment to organs and tissues in case of accumulation of high doses;
- assessment of recent epidemiological studies.

c. Establishment of factors relevant to the dose limitation system:

- risk factors per unit exposure;
- radiation weighting factors for different types of radiation;
- tissue weighting factors for different organs and tissues in order to assess effective dose to the entire individual;
- dose coefficients per unit intake of radionuclides by ingestion or inhalation.

d. Approaches for setting up a dose limitation system on the basis of:

- the relationship between exposure and health effects;
- optimisation of the level of radiation protection allowing for the cost of further reduction of doses;
- societal risk perception and acceptance;
- spending regulatory and operational resources commensurate to the controllability of radiation exposures.

A proposal can cover several categories.

7. Period of eligibility of costs:

The Commission is prepared to support multiannual operations of a maximum duration of **36 months**. Eligible costs can be incurred only after signature of the grant agreement by all the parties, save in exceptional cases, and under no circumstances before submission of the application for a grant.

8. Eligibility criteria

8.1. Legal status of applicants:

Applications submitted in writing by legal persons who are citizens of a Member State of the European Union. Applicants must show that they exist as a legal person, by providing a certified true copy of their articles of association or equivalent.

8.2. Grounds for exclusion

Applications will not be considered for a grant if the applicants are in any of the following situations:

- a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations;
- g) are subject to a conflict of interest;
- h) they have been guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required or have failed to supply this information.

Applicants must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in point 8.2.

8.3 *Administrative and financial penalties*

- 1) Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have been guilty of making false declarations or have been found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations in an earlier procedure will be excluded from all contracts and grants financed by the Community budget for a maximum of two years from the time when the infringement is established, as confirmed after an adversarial procedure with the contractor.

That period may be extended to three years in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement.

Tenderers or candidates who have been guilty of making false declarations will also incur financial penalties representing 10% of the total value of the grant being awarded.

Contractors who have been found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations will incur financial penalties representing 10% of the value of the grant in question.

That rate may be increased to 20% in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement.

- 2) In the cases referred to in points 8.2 a), c), d) and f), the candidates or tenderers will be excluded from all contracts and grants for a maximum of two years from the time when the infringement is established, as confirmed after an adversarial procedure with the contractor.

In the cases referred to in points 8.2 b) and e), the candidates or tenderers will be excluded from all contracts and grants for a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years from the date of notification of the judgment.

Those periods may be extended to five years in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement or the first judgment.

- 3) The cases referred to in point 8.2. e) cover:
- a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests established by the Council Act of 26 July 1995²;
 - b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, established by the Council Act of 26 May 1997³;
 - c) cases of participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council⁴;
 - d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC⁵.

9. Selection criteria

The applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding sources, so as to be able to maintain activities for the period of the project funded and to help finance the project. The applicant must have the professional skills and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

9.1 *Financial capacity of applicants*

Applicants must show that they have the financial capacity and operational capability to complete the operation to be supported and must provide their balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed. The last of these provisions does not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

Applicants must fill in the form relative to legal entities, available from the website mentioned in point 1.

² OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

³ OJ C 195, 25.6.1997, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 351, 29.12.1998, p. 1. Joint action of 21 December 1998 on making it a criminal offence to participate in a criminal organisation in the Member States of the European Union.

⁵ OJ L 166, 28.6.1991, p. 77. Directive of 10.6.1991, as amended by Directive 2001/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2001 (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 76).

9.2 *Technical capacity of applicants*

Applicants must have the technical capacity and operational capability to complete the operation to be supported and must provide the following documents (résumés of the people in charge of carrying out the operation, description of projects and activities undertaken in the last three years and more particularly of projects related to the relevant issue).

10. **Award criteria**

The operation supported must be designed to further one of the objectives referred to in point 5 above. The Commission will base the choice of operations and the rate of Community co-financing on the following criteria:

10.1. *Quality of the operation (70%)*

- (a) **Interest of project at European level (35%):** the Commission will assess the European dimension of the project, its innovative character (new approaches and practices), the multiplier effect (transfer, generalisation, dissemination or large-scale application of the results, experiences, knowledge and good practice) as well as the scale of the operation (response to Commission's priority of supporting large-scale projects). In this context, local or purely national initiatives will not be developed.

The assessment of projects will also focus on coherence with the objectives of Community policy in the relevant areas (refer to point 6.2).

- (b) **Technical and financial characteristics (35%):** the Commission will assess the cost-effectiveness ratio of the action (balance between the expected results and the amount of the grant), the proposed evaluation method (including the quality of the result indicators compared with the proposed objectives) and visibility⁶ (publications, organisation of events, Internet sites, CD-ROM, etc.).

10.2. *Quality of the application (30%)*

The Commission will assess the clarity and degree of detail of the proposal (including the clarity of the financing plan) particularly with regard to the following aspects: work plan (clarity and achievability of the objectives, achievability of the expected results), timetable and proposed methodology.

Only applications with a total score of 70% or higher and of at least 60% for each individual criterion will be taken into consideration for Community funding.

11. **General conditions for awarding grants**

The general conditions for awarding grants, particularly the definition of the eligible costs and the methods of payment, are set out in the draft grant agreement available at the Internet address mentioned in point 1. Applicants must compulsorily take notice of this

⁶ In this respect, grant beneficiaries are reminded that the words "*project carried out with the financial support of the European Commission*" and the flag of the European Union must be included on any publication, material etc. relating to the project.

document and must take into account the conditions for awarding grants when drawing up their proposal.

For all applications for pre-financing of over €100 000, a financial guarantee equivalent to the amount pre-financed will be required. In addition, the Commission reserves the right to require a financial guarantee for pre-financing amounts of under €100 000.

The budget for the action attached to the application must have revenue and expenditure in balance and show clearly the costs which are eligible for financing from the Community budget. Therefore, applicants must provide a detailed breakdown of all expenditure related to their proposal.

The Commission will only recognise the cost of entities having signed the contract, whether as beneficiary or as co-beneficiary. She will no longer accept the cofinanced participation of third parties to the contract, when they are neither beneficiaries, nor cobeneficiaries, unless they are subcontractors, the costs of which are taken into account when considering the beneficiaries or cobeneficiaries.

12. Submission of applications for a grant

Applications must be made only using the **model application form available at the Internet address mentioned in point 1**. For each application, **one signed original and five copies** must be supplied by the applicants.

The form relative to legal entities, available from the website mentioned in point 1, must also be filled in.

Any unsigned applications will be rejected when the tenders are opened.

13. Closing date for submission of applications for a grant

13.1. Grant applications can be sent in two ways:

- (a) either sent by registered letter or private courier: The application must be sent by registered mail or by private courier, dispatched not later than 15/09/2006 (the postmark or the receipt issued by the courier service serving as proof of the dispatch) to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
For the attention of Mr A. Janssens - EUFO 4150A
Jean Monnet Building
Plateau de Kirchberg,
L-2920 Luxembourg

- (b) or by delivery to the central mail service of the European Commission (personal delivery or delivery by any authorised representative of the applicant) at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
For the attention of Mr. A. Janssens - EUFO 4150A
Jean Monnet Building – main entrance
Rue Albert Wehrer,
Plateau de Kirchberg,
L-2920 Luxembourg

by **15h00** (Brussels time) on **15/09/2006 at the latest**. In this case, proof of submission will be by means of a dated and signed receipt issued by the receiving official in the abovementioned department.

Applications received by the Commission after the closing date will not be taken into consideration.

Tenders sent by private delivery services or hand-delivered by the applicant must be sent to the central mail service of the European Commission (see 13.1 b).

13.2 Practical arrangements:

Tenders must be submitted in two envelopes. Bids must be submitted inside two sealed envelopes. The inner envelope must bear the words:

Call for proposals TREN/SUB/H4/01-2006

**not to be opened by the internal mail
department**

**European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
Unit H4 Radiation Protection
EUROFORUM Building – Room 4150A
L-2920 Luxembourg**

If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across that tape.

14. Indicative schedule

Reception of proposals: refer to point 13.1 above

Evaluation: September 2006

Award decision: October 2006