



## BIOTECH PROGRAMME NEWSROUND

News of the Biotechnology research programme (DG XII)



issue 13 (December 1998)

### Programme implementation

#### ⇒ *Fourth call for proposals – full results*

The list of the 154 projects selected following the 4<sup>th</sup> and final call of BIOTECH is now available (on the Web or by fax). In all, 462 projects were funded between 1994-98.

*see W under “4<sup>th</sup> call project results”*

#### ⇒ *Biotech Training Fellowships*

Of the record 177 applications received by the last deadline 40 will be funded in 1999. Overall, 360 trainees will have received grants through BIOTECH 2.

*EC contact: A. Vassarotti*

#### ⇒ *Biotechnology Project Monitoring*

Until 1998, research funded by the EC has been monitored at Framework Programme or at Specific Programme level. In addition, the Biotechnology unit launched a dual approach to monitoring factual evidence of achievements and emerging potential at the level of individual projects or groups of projects.

The first part is semi-quantitative. It involves **systematic screening**, based on a recent set of indicators, of the 220 projects funded following the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> call of the current programme.

The second part is qualitative, consisting of a series of **hearings** on selected groups of projects. In each hearing, a mixed panel of experts representing academia, industry and society challenge the project co-ordinators. The aim is to establish whether their projects fulfil the expectations of the Work programme and of users, respond to EC policy issues and prepare the future by improving knowledge on aspects such as IPR management, finance, exploitation, dissemination.

*EC contact: F. Heidekamp*

#### ⇒ *New IPR-helpdesk to support innovators*

New service focusing on Intellectual Property Rights.

*RTD-helpdesk@lux.dg13.cec.be*

<http://www.cordis.lu/innovation/home.html>

#### ⇒ *A users' guide for SMEs in Biotechnology*

Guide prepared by DG III (Industry), now on the Web.

*Biotech-users-guide@dg3.cec.be*

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg03/publicat/bio/index0.htm>

### The Fifth Framework Programme

#### ⇒ *Status of preparations*

On 17 November in Strasbourg, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament reached an agreement, which puts an end to the conciliation procedure for FP-5 covering the years 1999 to 2002.

The global budget is € 14,960 million over 4 years. It includes € 2,413 million for the programme – “Quality of Life and Management of living resources”, a substantial increase over the ECU 1,709 million for the BIOMED, BIOTECH and FAIR programmes in FP-4.

The Commission has established External Advisory Groups for each key action. These EAGs will provide independent advice for the orientation of the work programme and remarks on its activities, strategic implications and the value of its achievements.

Assuming final approval by the Parliament and the Council, the first calls for proposals should be published at the beginning of 1999. A major conference to launch FP-5 will take place in Essen (DE) on 25-26 February (see Web).

<http://www.cordis.lu/fifth/home.html>

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg12/fp5/conference.html>

#### ⇒ *Evaluators: call for expressions of interest*

Potential evaluators are invited to respond to this call. Currently registered evaluators will need to re-apply. Only applications received before 1 February 1999 will be eligible to participate as evaluators for the 1<sup>st</sup> call.

For details: <http://www.cordis.lu/expert-candidature>

### Reports

#### ⇒ *1<sup>st</sup> Life Science Demonstration Conference*

Uppsala, 12-14 Oct. 1998 - Participants of EC-funded Demonstration projects were invited to examine key management issues, such as IPR, communication, ethics, exploitation, financing, etc.

The meeting was attended by almost 150 participants representing the 70 Demonstration projects funded by the BIOTECH, BIOMED and FAIR programmes, as well as Industrial Platforms, programme committees etc. The proceedings will be available in January 1999.

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*W* indicates that you can consult our web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg12/biot1.html>

## Practical Workshops in 1999

### ⇒ **BioBiz™ - Biotech start-up business plans.**

Milano (IT), 9-11 Feb. Heidelberg (DE), 13-15 Apr.  
Uppsala (SE), 23-25 Feb. Roosendaal (NL), 27-29 Apr.  
Amersham (UK), 9-11 Mar. Barcelona (ES), 4-6 May  
Saclay (FR), 23-25 Mar. 1999

A limited number of EC grants are available to participants, to be allocated only to those registering early.

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### ⇒ **Animal cell culture technology for health applications.**

IBET, Oeiras (PT), 2-12 March 1999

*M. Carrondo - fax: 351-1-442.1161 - mjtc@itqb.unl.pt  
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### ⇒ **Ethics & public perception of Biotechnology.**

Oxford (UK), 19-30 March 1999

*P. Osseweijer - fax: 31-15-213.3142  
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### ⇒ **PCR and its applications.**

Galway (IE), 20-26 March 1999

*Terry Smith - fax: 353-91-586570  
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<http://www.nuigalway.ie/ndc/pcrcourse/>*

### ⇒ **Biological safety in industrial and agricultural biotechnology**

Zeist (NL), 22-25 March 1999

*R. Havenaar - fax: 31-30-6944928  
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### ⇒ **Training Bio-Entrepreneurs in peripheral EU countries.**

Dublin (IE), 4 days during 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March 1999.

Lisbon (PT), 4 days during last week of April 1999.

*J. Ryan - fax: 353-1-8370176 - ryanj@biores-irl.ie*

### ⇒ **Communication Skills for Scientists**

High Wycombe (UK), 21-24 April 1999.

*E. Goldwyn - fax: 44-181-878-5031  
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## World Wide Web

### ⇒ **Neuroinformatics workshop - abstracts**

Programme, abstracts and other information from the workshop held in Posdam on 24-27 June 1998.

<http://itb.biologie.hu-berlin.de/neurinf98.html>

## Special Event

### ⇒ **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Biotech and Finance Conference & BioVision: Internat. Life Sciences Forum & the Biotech Investment meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> conference of the Biotech and Finance Forum, the joint EC-EASD initiative, and the Biotech Investment meeting, will be held in conjunction with BioVision - the first world forum for Life Sciences. Initiated by former French prime minister Mr. Raymond Barre, BioVision aims to chart and discuss progress in Life Sciences, in particular the issues of food, health, quality of life and the environment, and public perception and risk management.

Lyon (F), 26-29 March 1999.

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## New Publications

### ⇒ **Cell communications in Neurosciences**

Book of abstracts of the 45 projects, involving 241 labs, supported by the Biotechnology 2 programme with a budget of ECU 42.1 million.

*EC contact: L. Matthiessen*

### ⇒ **Progress reports in Plant Biotechnology**

Reports from 24 plant biotech projects, funded following the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals of BIOTECH 2.

*EC contact: I. Benediktsson*

### ⇒ **Progress reports in Biodiversity**

Book of abstracts and reports of the 10 biodiversity projects, funded through BIOTECH 2.

*EC contact: A. Hoeverler*

### ⇒ **Socio-economic impact studies**

- "Consumer acceptability in relation to food products with special reference to farmed fish" (86 pages).

- "Biotechnology and competitive advantage - Europe's firms and the US challenge" (175 pages).

- "Looking at the biotechnology consumer" (47 pages).

*EC contact: F. Starace*

### ⇒ **Marker genes as tags for monitoring microorganisms in nature.**

An opinion published by the MAREP group of experts.

*EC contact: I. Economidis*