



The negotiation of the coordinated EU-Japan research projects is completed!

The projects focus on the fundamental properties of novel superconducting materials. Such materials might be used in cables to transmit electrical power with reduced losses, to improve the resolution of medical imaging devices, in advanced sensors or even in space applications. Three EU research consortia and their twinned Japanese teams are currently concluding the grant agreement procedures.

[Read more]

The European Commission and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) services launched a coordinated call for proposals to support research on the fundamental properties of novel superconducting materials. This is one of the first cooperative activities that were initiated upon signing the Science & Technology Cooperation agreement by both Parties.

Nineteen eligible twinned proposals were received and upon evaluation three coordinated consortia were invited to enter into negotiations. Pending on the successful conclusion of the grant agreement, the following three projects will receive funding:

- LIGHT ELEMENT MOLECULAR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH "*LEMSUPER*": Coordinator EU project: Prof. Kosmas Prassides, University of Durham, UK – Team Leader Japanese project: Prof. Yoshihiro Iwasa, University of Tokyo.
- EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF IRON-BASED SUPERCONDUCTORS "*SUPERIRON*": Coordinator EU project: Prof. Marina Putti, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, IT – Team Leader Japanese project: Associate Prof. Jun-ichi Shimoyama, University of Tokyo.
- ESTABLISHING THE BASIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IRON-BASED SUPERCONDUCTING ELECTRONICS APPLICATIONS "*IRON-SEA*": Coordinator EU project: Dr. Kazumasa Iida, Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V., DE – Team Leader Japanese project: Prof. Hiroshi Ikuta, Nagoya University.

Information on the twinned Japanese projects can be found on <http://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info821/index.html>.

The total EU budget available for these projects is 5 million EUR. An equivalent budget is reserved by the JST. The typical lifetime of a project is 36 up to 42 months with their starting date targeted to be October 1st, 2011.

This initiative is expected to lead to more robust European – Japanese research cooperation in an important domain of energy-related materials research. In order to assure such genuine EU-Japanese cooperation, these projects include strong integrated and coordinated research activities, including intensive exchange and training of researchers. The research focus of these projects will be on gaining an improved fundamental understanding on superconductivity, and in particular of recently discovered novel superconducting materials. However, in the long term this research could lead to an improved performance of industrial products such as superconducting cables and devices for power transmission or medical imaging applications as well as non-destructive sensing technology.