



*** UPDATE ***

Three coordinated EU-Japan research projects launched on 1 October 2011

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 will carry out coordinated research on superconductivity during the next three to four years. The total EU budget for the three projects is 5 million EUR, and an equivalent budget is made available by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

After the successful conclusion of the grant agreements, the following three projects were launched on 1 October 2011:

- LIGHT ELEMENT MOLECULAR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH "*LEMSUPER*": Coordinator EU project: Prof. Kosmas Prassides, University of Durham, United Kingdom – 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, Italy – 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., Germany – Team Leader Japanese project: Prof. Hiroshi Ikuta, Nagoya University.

More detailed information on these projects will become available soon on http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html.

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

Background

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 cooperation activities that were initiated upon signing the Science & Technology Cooperation agreement by both Parties.

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. 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.