Start for 5 Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) on Materials Innovation

In FP6 several Networks of Excellence (NoE) have been creating Durable Integrated Structures (DIS).

Five of these organisations that were successful in industrial activities have been selected in FP7 to strengthen their approach to innovation using Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs).

The organisations will prepare an elaborated service in the form of material and material technology databases, R&D and training services, testing and modelling, infrastructure use, market studies, Life Cycle Assessments, telephone hot lines, studies in the form of state of the art reports, market studies, roadmaps, cost analyses and benchmarking.

The CSA projects will give special attention to the matching between expertise and knowledge in the organisation and the need of the industry. As the projects are dealing with very different materials and material technologies and very different application sectors, the approaches will be very diverse.

Optimising the approach to the industry will be the main topic of the projects and will be subject of annual workshops in the cluster. In this context, it will be discussed how the industry can be best contacted (dissemination, identification of companies, visits) and how the maximum of technology transfer and innovation in industry can be reached.

Actual commercial projects with the industry will be conducted outside the EC projects, -for obvious reasons-, but feedback on these projects will be analysed to redirect the approach to industrial applications. In this way it will be ensured that the concrete goals set on services supplied to the industrial sector will be reached (and hence that the financial viability of the organisation will be guaranteed).
The selected CSA are

- eCAMM: European Structured Research Area on Catalysis and Magnetic NanoMaterials
- epnoe: European Polysaccharide Network Of Excellence
- ecnp: EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR NANOSTRUCTURED POLYMERS
- Piezo INSTITUTE
- INN.VIN