New calls for proposals €6.4 billion for smart growth and jobs

On 19 July, Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn announced nearly €6.4 billion of European Commission investment in research and innovation.
http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/966&format=HTML
The package, the biggest ever, covers a vast range of scientific disciplines, public policy areas and commercial sectors.

Top priority has been given to SMEs with a budget close to €800 million - the biggest budget to date in FP7. Although SMEs can take part in many areas of the Framework Programme we have highlighted those calls for proposals with particular relevance for SMEs.

Capacities Programme

Under the Research for the benefit of SMEs and SME Associations

Budget EUR 189 million, deadline 08 December 2010

This call is of interest to small groups of innovative SMEs and their Associations which aim at solving technical problems and acquiring technological know-how to produce new products and services. As they do not have the relevant expertise in-house they need to outsource the research to a research performer (University, research centre etc.)

For further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=321&act_code=SME&ID_ACTIVITY=14

Amongst the calls a new "*Demonstration action*" specifically for SMEs has been included.

Budget EUR 15 million, deadline: 08 December 2010

Eligibility for this call includes the following:

- At least 3 participants must be independent SMEs established in at least 3 Member States or Associated States. These three SMEs must be/have been participants together in a 'Cooperative research' project funded under the last FP6 call (FP6-2004-SME-COOP) or in a 'Research for SMEs' project in FP7. SMEs which were members together of the 'SME core group' in the FP6-2004-SME-COLL call or which are members together of the 'other enterprises or end-users' in a 'Research for SME Associations' project in FP7 may also participate.

- At least 75% of the declared costs shall be carried out by the SME(s).

For further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=311&act_code=SME&ID_ACTIVITY=14

Cooperation Programme

We would like to draw your attention specifically to five "themes" of the Cooperation Programme emphasising the participation of SMEs. Depending on the call, there is a ring fenced budget for SMEs: 5% to 50% of the EU contributions of each project should go to SMEs. The relevant calls are listed below:

Nanoscience, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production technologies

Budget EUR 40 million, deadline: 04 November 2010

Four topics targeting SMEs:
-Ensuring the safety of Nanotechnology
-Cross-cutting and enabling R&D
-Enabling Research and Development
-Integration of technologies for industrial applications

For further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=368

Health

Two Calls for Proposals have been published under the Health theme:

FP7-HEALTH-2010-single-stage, indicative budget: EUR 160.5 million, deadline: 10 November 2010
FP7-HEALTH-2011-two-stage, indicative budget: EUR 498 million, deadline: 13 October 2010 (for stage 1 proposals)

Eight topics targeting SMEs:
- Developing tools and technologies for high-throughput research
- Genome-based biomarkers for patient stratification and pharmacogenomic strategies
- Tools, technologies & devices for application in regenerative medicine
- Development and production of new, high-affinity protein scaffolds for therapeutic use
- Development of multi-analyte diagnostic tests
- Development of tools to control microbial biofilms with relevance to clinical drug resistance
- Evaluation and validation studies of clinically useful biomarkers in prevention and management of cardiovascular disease
- New methodologies for clinical trials in personalised medicine

The EU contribution ranges from 15-50% of the total budget of the project as a whole depending on the particular call.

For the single stage call

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=323&act_code=HEALTH&ID_ACTIVITY=1

For the two stage call
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=324&act_code=HEALTH&ID_ACTIVITY=1

Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology Research (KBBE)

Budget: € 240.27 million, deadline 25 January 2011

Three main areas targeting SMEs:
- Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest and aquatic environment
- Fork to farm: Food (including seafood), health and well being
- Life sciences, biotechnology and biochemistry for sustainable non-food products and processes

The total EU contribution to be allocated for SMEs in the consortia ranges between 10-50% in the 30 SME targeted topics of the main KBBE call.

For further information on the call page:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=333

From the above call budget, EUR 3 million concerns the ***topic KBBE.2011.1.3-06*** "Development of next generation European system for cattle evaluation" which uses the funding scheme of the Capacities Programme: "Research for the benefit of SME". The FP7-KBBE-2011-5-SME call containing this one topic is part of the main KBBE call **FP7-KBBE-2011-5.**

For further information on this topic:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=332

For further practical information for KBBE SMEs:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/kbbe-calls_en.pdf

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

FP7 ICT WP 2011-2012 foresees two calls targeting SMEs

- Objective ICT-2011.9.2 "High Tech Research Intensive SMEs in FET research", indicative budget: EUR 9 million (2011 + 2012 budgets) and part of the call FP7-ICT-2011-C. Proposals are continuously receivable until 11 September 2012; It is an open call with interim cut-off dates.

- Objective ICT-2011.4.1 "SME Initiative on Digital Content and Languages", call FP7-ICT-2011-SME-DCL, indicative budget: EUR 35 million (2011 budget). The call is planned to be published on 1 February 2011.

For further information:
ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/ict/docs/ict-wp-2011-12_en.pdf.

Energy

The CALL FP7-ENERGY-2011-1, budget: EUR 74 million, deadline: 16 November 2010, includes two topics, where SME participation is explicitly encouraged:

- ENERGY.2011.3.7-1: Development of new or improved sustainable bio-energy carriers
- ENERGY.2011.4.1-1: Revisiting solar-thermal systems for using breakthroughs in scientific and technological fields

In order to maximise industrial relevance and impact of the research effort, the active participation of relevant industrial partners, including SMEs along with research organisations is seen as essential to achieve the expected impact.

For further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=315

In addition the 4 topics of the joint call FP7-OCEAN-2011 encourage SME participation as well:
The indicative budgets for the 4 topics are:

OCEAN.2011-1	EUR 14 000 000
OCEAN.2011-2	EUR 9 000 000
OCEAN.2011-3	EUR 13 000 000
OCEAN.2011-4	EUR 9 000 000

The Energy theme will contribute EUR 5 Mio to the Ocean call.

For further information:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CooperationDetailsCallPage&call_id=343

The multi-sectoral composition of the partnership and the participation of industrial partners and relevant end-users, in particular SMEs, are essential for the implementation of the project. It will be considered during the evaluation of the criterion related to "implementation".

For more information on the Calls, please consult the web page of the Energy Research Information Day:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2010/energy_infoday/infoday_energy_en.htm

In order to find the right call matching your innovation needs and R&D interests you are encouraged to contact your FP7contact point in you country

National level
National Contact Point http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html)
Regional level
Enterprise Europe Network member nearest to you
http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm).