- Final version -

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2nd Joint Call for Research and Development Proposals within the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme

"Sustainable, competitive processing and enduse concepts for forest-based industries"

Deadline for applications: 23 February 2010, 1 PM (CET)



1 Introduction

The first ERA-NET on wood material science and engineering, WoodWisdom-Net (2004-2008) started with twelve partners from five countries and was expanded in 2006 with a further six new partners from three additional countries. The project was initiated as a part of the European Commission's ERA-NET scheme which intends to step up cooperation between national funding programmes and to support the development of the European Research Area (ERA). In late 2006 WoodWisdom-Net launched the first Joint Call for projects to initiate the joint transnational WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme. Resulting from this first Call, 17 transnational research projects, amounting to over 20M€, are being jointly funded by the WoodWisdom-Net partners during the years 2008-2010.

The follow-up ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net 2 - "Networking and Integration of National Programmes in the Area of Wood Material Science and Engineering in the Forest-Based Value Chains" was launched in 2009 with support from the European Commission through the 7th Framework Programme. WoodWisdom-Net 2 aims at further deepening, broadening and strengthening the established transnational cooperation based on the experience gained and the existing cooperation structures. Funding organisations from new partner countries have been added to broaden the network activities and the EU impact. Currently, 19 partners from 12 European countries participate in the ERA-NET and additional funding organisations are connected to the network. WoodWisdom-Net 2 intends to further develop the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme and to launch two new Joint Calls in 2009 (2nd Joint Call) and 2010 (3rd Joint Call).

The 2nd Joint Call for Proposals within the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme "Sustainable, competitive processing and end-use concepts for forest-based industries" focuses on applied research and development projects conducted by consortia of researchers and industry (small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) or large companies). The Call is expected to increase synergies between industries and research teams around Europe and to promote the sustainability and competitiveness of the forest-based sector in Europe. Total public funding of ca. 10 M€ will be jointly provided by 11 national funding organisations from Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Turkey during 2010-2013. The estimated total funds available for the Call are ca. 15 M€, including industrial co-funding and research centres and companies own funding.

The theme and topics of this Call have been developed by the national funding organisations together with representatives from industry in a process involving surveys, discussions and workshops. They are based on priority research areas described in the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP)¹, the respective National Research Agendas of the national support groups of FTP, input from the CEI-Bois R&D Working Group, and priority topics of the national programmes of the funding organisations participating in the Joint Call. Furthermore, representatives of the European Commission were consulted to avoid duplication of this Call with FP7 topics.

The 3rd Joint Call (to be published in autumn 2010) will have a broad scope covering innovation in forest-based value chains starting from forest production. It will include consortia combining basic and applied research, and participation of researchers outside the EU will be promoted. Topics for the 3rd Joint Call will be defined during 2010, as will the participation of the different funding organisations.

This document describes the scope, objectives and contents of the Call, rules for participation and procedures from application to implementation of the projects.

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Please visit www.forestplatform.org for more information on FTP and the SRA.

Further information on the ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net 2, the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme and updated information on the 2nd Joint Call is on the website www.woodwisdom.net.

2 Scope and Objectives

The 2nd Joint Call has a focus on applied research and development projects conducted by researchers in cooperation with industry partners. This Call should activate industry partner participation in the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme, which may allow more interaction between the research community and applied product development sectors.

The objective of the Call is to encourage and fund high-quality research and development in the area of wood material science and engineering and will support the implementation of the SRA of FTP. It should promote transnational cooperation, which shares expertise, synergies and cooperative research activities. This Call will contribute to the following objectives of the ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net 2 and the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme:

- transformation of the European forest-based industry from resource-intensive to value-added knowledge-intensive, innovative and globally competitive industry based on sustainable use of renewable raw materials
- strengthening the network links of European forest-based sector research and industry
- efficient use of raw materials and their properties in the development of innovative, eco-efficient processes, products and services along different forest-based value chains and thus promoting competitiveness of the sector
- promoting the utilisation of cutting-edge knowledge for new applications at the cross roads of different technologies and disciplines - transformation of forest-based industry from traditional separate value chain industry to optimised multiple value chains industry which addresses customer needs, reduced resource consumption and increased value creation

Projects are expected to contribute to the objectives described and addressed in the proposals.

3 Funding Organisations

This Call is funded jointly by partner organisations of the ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net 2 and additional participating funding organisations through a total virtual common pot of approximately 10M€ of public funds. Table 1 lists participating funding organisations, the eligible type of applicants and indicative range of total funding available for this Call.

Funding will be available to participants only from their respective national funding organisations. Each project partner must apply to their respective national funding agency listed in the Table 1 for funding (note: some funding organisations require national application forms in parallel with the transnational application, others not – see "Annex A: Specific National Rules" for details). The respective national funding rules will apply. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid out in this call document, applicants shall refer to the terms and conditions of their responsible funding agencies and programmes (see Section 8 for contact information).

If a proposal includes any participants from third countries not listed in Table 1, the participants from these countries are required to finance their activities from other sources.

Table 1: Funding organisations participating in the Call

Country	Organisation	Eligible applicants		Indicative total funding available		
		Universities, Research Organisations	Industry/ SME ²	< 0.5 M€	0.5 - 1.5 M€	> 1.5 M€
Finland	TEKES, The Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation	Х	Х			Х
France	Ministere de l'Agriculture de l'Alimentation de la Peche et de la Ruralité - Direction Générale des Politiques Agricole, Agroalimentaire et des Territoires,	х			х	
	Institut Technologique FCBA					
France	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)	X (either INRA units or INRA joint research units)		х		
Germany	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF),	х	Х			X
	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)					^
Germany	Fachagentur für Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR) on behalf of	х	х			
	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (BMELV)				X	
Ireland	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (COFORD)	Х	Х		Х	
Latvia	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia (ZM)	X			Х	
	Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)					
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)	х	Х		Х	
Spain	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA	х	Х	Х		
Sweden	VINNOVA – Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems	х	Х		Х	
Turkey	Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)	х		Х		

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² EU definition of an SME: headcount < 250, turnover ≤ € 50 million or balance sheet total ≤ € 43 million; Recommendation 2003/361/EC regarding the SME definition, see http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise policy/sme definition/index en.htm

4 Call Topics

Proposals for collaborative transnational projects on applied research or industrial research and development are welcome. There is no funding available for industrial/commercial scale pilot projects.

The Call covers the research topics listed below. Each proposal should clearly address one (or more) of these topics. Some topics include examples of possible research issues and relevant application areas. However, proposers are <u>not</u> limited to these examples and may explore other issues within the given topic.

<u>Note</u>: It is not guaranteed that one project for each of the listed topics will be funded. There will be no separate ranking lists for each of the topics but only a total ranking of all submitted proposals. Depending on the quality and ranking of the proposals, this may result in the omission of some topics with lower quality proposals during the selection process

Table 2: Call topics

No.	Topic
1.	Improving the performance of energy and resource efficient timber construction (massive or light-weight, new construction or renovation concepts) with new concepts, tools and processes considering total building performance (e.g. acoustics, serviceability, indoor climate)
2.	Creating new business opportunities through innovative wood and fibre-based products and composites with properties optimised to the end use requirements and sustainable use of resources. The development should be driven by potential users in relevant application areas (e.g. functional packaging, transport, construction, furniture, etc.).
3.	Utilising forest-based feedstocks through sustainable forest-based chemicals and small scale biorefinery concepts and processes (e.g. substitution of non-renewable resources, new application areas in value added processes)
4.	Increasing the competitiveness of the forest-based value chain by strategic technology renewal, new business strategies and production systems (e.g. advanced technologies for primary and value-added wood processing, reduction of resource and energy consumption)
5.	Optimising end-of-life of wood based products considering their total life cycle (e.g. reuse and recycling, quality assurance, business concepts and societal issues)

5 Rules for Participation

5.1 Project Consortium

The Call invites proposals for collaborative research and development from transnational consortia of industry, SME and research organisations which fulfil all of the following conditions:

- Consortium includes partners from at least three different countries, two of which must be from the list of participating countries (see Table 1).
- Consortium includes at least 1 industry partner (SME or large enterprise) from the list of participating countries.
- Consortium includes at least 1 research partner (university or other research institute) from the list of participating countries – this could be either a full partner or subcontracted research partner.

Partners from third countries not officially participating in the Call can be included in the consortium – if they finance their activity from other sources – and fulfil the above requirements on number of partners from officially participating countries. Projects involving third countries have to ensure that exploitation of project results will focus on the officially participating countries.

The added value arising from transnational cooperation needs to be addressed in the proposal. The total number of partners is not limited, however, efficient consortia of typically 4-8 partners for medium-sized projects are expected.

The project coordinator can be either one of the research partners or one of the company partners and will be the official point of contact of the consortium for submission of the proposal and the subsequent procedures for project selection.

5.2 Project Duration and Budget

Projects can be funded for a maximum of 3 years.

There are no fixed minimum or maximum limits for the project size. Medium-sized projects with total budgets in a range of 1-2 M€ are typically expected.

However, it is recommended that the budget does not exceed the typical national funding limits for the respective partners. Table 1 indicates the total funds that will be available to participants from their respective national funding organisations

Information about specific funding procedures and eligible cost types will be provided via the helpdesk of the respective national agencies. Funding rates for companies and research organisations vary between the different funding organisations according to their national rules.

Contributions to the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme activities (see section 7.2) and active dissemination of the project results should be outlined in budget planning.

5.3 National regulations

National funding regulations are applied within this Joint Call. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid down in this document there may be specific national rules to be followed by the applicants, e.g. national eligibility criteria for certain organisations, certain amounts of industrial co-funding required etc.

It is strongly recommended that these are checked with the contact person at the respective funding agency (see Section 8) before submitting a proposal. Some specific national regulations are summarised in "Annex A: Specific National Rules".

6 Procedures for Implementation of the Call

6.1 Application

The selection process is a one-stage process. Project selection will be based on submitted full proposals. No pre-proposals will be accepted. Full proposals must be submitted in English using the form/ Electronic Submission System provided at the WoodWisdom-Net website: www.call2009.woodwisdom.net. All call documents and updated information on the Call are published on this website, too.

Proposals must be submitted no later than **Tuesday**, **23 February 2010**, **1 PM (CET)**.

Annexes to the proposals and additional documents will not be considered in the evaluation process.

Applicants are advised to contact their national funding organisations in advance for further information on required additional national application forms and specific national rules (see also "Annex A: Specific National Rules").

6.2 Evaluation and Project Selection

The submitted applications will be first checked for eligibility according to the rules for participation above and the respective national funding regulations.

All eligible applications are then subject to confidential evaluation. A joint evaluation of all eligible proposals will be performed by an international expert panel using the following evaluation criteria with different weighting according to the points indicated below:

- (1) The potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results (max. 6 points)
 - Industrial relevance and contribution to competitiveness
 - Environmental and societal impact
 - Contribution to the objectives of the Call
 - Quality of the dissemination and exploitation plan
- (2) Scientific and/or technological excellence (max. 4 points)
 - Relevance to the scope and topics of the Call
 - Innovativeness
 - Scientific/technical quality of the proposal
- (3) Quality and efficiency of implementation and management (max. 4 points)
 - Quality of the consortium
 - Quality of the international cooperation
 - Quality and feasibility of the R&D plan including project management
 - Justification of the resources to be committed

The proposals will be ranked by the Expert Panel according to the results of their evaluation. Based on the ranking list, the Call Committee will then recommend the projects to be funded within the framework of the available national budgets. The Call Committee consists of representatives of all national funding organisations participating in this Call.

Based on the recommendations of the Call Committee, the national funding organisations will make the final funding decisions. If necessary, additional national application forms will be collected during that stage (see "Annex A: Specific National Rules").

6.3 Consortium Agreement

Each consortium is required to sign a Consortium Agreement before the start of the project which should define terms of cooperation and decision-making in the project, use of project results and intellectual property rights issues relevant for carrying out the project. Such an agreement shall not affect the participants' obligations resulting from the national funding rules. The funding organisations of a particular project may withhold the funding until the Consortium Agreement has been signed by all participants of that project.

A model Consortium Agreement will be provided on the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme website.

6.4 Time Schedule

The indicative time schedule for implementation of the Call is presented in the Table 3.

Table 3: Indicative time schedule for Call implementation

Publication of the Call	11 November 2009	
Deadline for submission of full proposals (joint project description in English)	23 February 2010	
Eligibility check and joint evaluation (international Expert Panel)	March – April 2010	
Funding recommendation by the Call Committee and feedback on the evaluation outcome sent to the Project Coordinators	May 2010	
Funding decisions of the national funding organisations	June – September 2010	
First projects start	ca. October 2010	

7 Project Implementation and Programme Activities

This Call is implemented within the transnational WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme which includes some joint programme activities which are described in this section. Projects funded from this Call are expected to actively participate in the programme activities and to consider this during planning of their project proposal.

7.1 Project Monitoring and Reporting

Project monitoring and reporting will be in accordance with the national rules of the respective funding agency.

In addition to the national requirements, the consortia are expected to deliver short progress reports to the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme Office, in English, on an annual basis, including a description of their transnational cooperation and a publishable summary of the project status. A reporting template will be provided on the programme website.

Furthermore, a project observer from one of the participating funding organisations will be assigned to each of the funded projects to monitor the progress in transnational cooperation on behalf of the participating funding organisations and to provide a communication link between the project and the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme.

7.2 WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme Activities

Within the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme joint programme seminars are organised about once a year to facilitate networking between the projects and stakeholders from the forest-based sector. Active participation of the funded projects is expected, e.g. for short presentations or posters on the project. A joint kick-off seminar for all projects funded from this Call will be organised in autumn 2010.

All projects are expected to prepare publishable summaries of the project contents at the request of the funding organisations for programme activities and publications of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme (e.g. brochures, newsletters, website, "Project of the Month" series).

The "Research Landscape Tool" on the WoodWisdom-Net website provides an overview of relevant research projects and research infrastructures in the WoodWisdom-Net partner countries. Funded projects are expected to deliver, on request, key project information to be published in this research database.

Updated information on programme activities will be published on the website www.woodwisdom.net .

8 Contacts for further Information

8.1 General Information on the Joint Call

Updated information on this Joint Call and all relevant documents/templates are published on the WoodWisdom-Net Joint Call Website: www.call2009.woodwisdom.net.

If you have questions on the **general call process and proposal submission** please contact the WoodWisdom-Net Joint Call Office:

Mr Mika Kallio Project Secretariat

email: mika.kallio@woodwisdom.fi phone: +358 (0)50 517 0390

or one of the following representatives of WoodWisdom-Net:

Mr Ilmari Absetz

TEKES, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation

email: ilmari.absetz@tekes.fi phone: +358 (0)10 60 55837

Mr André Greif

Project Management Jülich (PtJ) email: a.greif@fz-juelich.de phone: +49 30 20199 564

8.2 National contact points of participating funding organisations

For questions regarding national funding rules and national forms please check "Annex A: Specific National Rules" first. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the following persons at the participating funding organisations (see Table 4 on the next page):

Table 4. Contact persons at the participating national funding organisations

Country	Organisation	Contact Person	
Finland	Tekes	Mr Ilmari Absetz email: <u>ilmari.absetz@tekes.fi</u> phone: +358 (0)10 60 55837	
		Ms Erja Ämmälahti email: erja.ammalahti@tekes.fi phone: +358 (0)10 60 55422	
France	FCBA	Mr Frédéric Rouger email: frederic.rouger@fcba.fr phone: +33 (0)5 56 43 63 73	
France	INRA	Ms Isabelle Maillet email: imaillet@grignon.inra.fr phone: +33 (0)1 30 81 45 32	
Germany	Projektträger Jülich (PtJ) → central contact point for all German applicants during proposal preparation phase	Ms Kristina Gross email: k.gross@fz-juelich.de phone: +49 30 20199539 Mr André Greif email: a.greif@fz-juelich.de phone: +49 30 20199564	
Ireland	COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Mr Alistair Pfeifer email: alistair.pfeifer@agriculture.gov.ie phone: +353 1 607 2559	
Latvia	Latvian Academy of Sciences	Ms Dace Tirzite email: dace.tirzite@lza.lv phone +371-67227790, mobile +371-29644426	
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	Mr Petter Nilsen email: petter.nilsen@rcn.no phone: +47 980 94 860 Mr Trond Værnes email: trv@rcn.no phone: +47 932 385 19	
Spain	Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria INIA	Mr Joan Calvera i Vehí email: <u>calvera@inia.es</u> phone: +34 91 3476801	
Sweden	VINNOVA	Ms Eva Esping email: eva.esping@vinnova.se phone: +46 8 473 31 53	
Turkey	TÜBİTAK-TOVAG	Ms Gülzade Kahveci email: gulzade.kahveci@tubitak.gov.tr phone: +90 312 4685300/2728	

8.3 Third country contact points

Project partners from third countries can be included in the consortium if they finance their activities from other sources and given that exploitation of project results will focus on the officially participating countries (see Section 5.1).

The listed persons (see Table 5) could be contacted to assist in clarifying funding possibilities if partners from the respective country are planning to join a transnational consortium within this Call. Availability of funding from these countries cannot be guaranteed and needs to be checked by directly contacting the relevant funding organisation.

This non-exclusive list gives contacts who have expressed their interest in the WoodWisdom-Net 2nd Joint Call. Other countries that are not in the list are also welcome to join consortia under the conditions stated above.

Table 5. Contact persons at third countries

Country	Organisation	Contact Person
Austria	Österreichische Forschungs- förderungsgesellschaft mbH – FFG	Mr Peter Schörghofer email: peter.schoerghofer@ffg.at phone: + 43 (0)5 7755 1310
Hungary	Ministry of Environment and Water (KvVM)	Dr Sugárka Kelecsényi email: <u>kelecsenyi@mail.kvvm.hu</u> phone: +36 1 238 6825
Russia	Moscow State Forest University (MSFU)	Ms Natalia Khutorova email: khutorova@mgul.ac.ru, legion_o@mail.ru phone: +7 906 764 0677
UK	Forestry Commission	Mr Roger Coppock email: roger.coppock@forestry.gsi.gov.uk phone: +44 (0)131 314 6392

Annex A: Specific National Rules

Finland

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Only the Finnish project partners of positively evaluated projects will then, in a second stage, be invited by Tekes to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

France

FCBA and MEEDM/ DGALN/PUCA (Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement durable et de la Mer / Direction générale de l'aménagement, du logement et de la nature / Plan urbanisme construction architecture (PUCA)) work closely together in funding French applicants within this Call, considering the complementarity of their funding programmes.

The contact person at PUCA is Mr Olivier Gaudron (email: <u>olivier.gaudron@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</u>; phone: +33 (0)1 40 81 90 95.

Assignment of the French proposals between FCBA and MEEDM/ DGALN/PUCA will be decided by the funding organisations after submission of the transnational applications.

Only the French project partners of positively evaluated projects will be invited either by FCBA or MEEDM/ DGALN/PUCA to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

Germany

BMBF and BMELV work closely together in funding German applicants within this Call, considering the complementarity of their funding programmes (BMBF "Forschung für die Nachhaltigkeit" and BMELV/FNR "Nachwachsende Rohstoffe").

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Based on the thematic scope and type of project, the relevance to the funding programmes, and available funding, the German partners within this Call will be funded either by BMBF/PtJ or BMELV/FNR. Assignment of the German proposals between BMBF/PtJ and BMELV/FNR will be decided by the funding organisations after submission of the transnational applications.

Only the German project partners of positively evaluated projects will then, in a second stage, be invited by either PtJ or FNR to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

The usual BMBF funding rules and forms will apply: AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant "easy" (see http://www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/formular.html for details). While PtJ will accept the (English language) joint project description of the first application stage with the national application, FNR rules require a German-language version to be sent with the AZA/AZK.

Ireland

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Positively evaluated projects will be considered for funding by COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, depending on the thematic scope and funds available.

Consortia with Irish parties need to be aware of Irish law, in particular, the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

Latvia

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Positively evaluated projects will be considered for funding depending on the thematic scope and funds available.

Norway

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Positively evaluated projects will be considered for funding by The Research Council of Norway. More detailed information will be given in due time on the website for the programme "Natur og næring".

Sweden

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Based on the thematic scope, type of project, relevance to the funding programmes (National Research Programme for Forest Industries and Wood Manufacture) and available funding, VINNOVA will decide the amount of funding for this Call.

Only the Swedish project partners of positively evaluated projects will then be invited by VINNOVA to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

The usual VINNOVA funding rules and forms will be applied. Applications are only possible to submit through the web portal, using "Call – others", the Joint Project Description in English will be accepted with the national application.

Consortia with Swedish partners need to be aware of the Swedish laws The Freedom of the Press Act (SFS 1949:105), The Secrecy Act (SFS 1980:100) and The Secrecy Ordinance (SFS 1980:657) when including any confidential information into the joint project plan.

Turkey

TÜBİTAK is the contact point for Turkish applicants. Please look at the National Call Text at www.tubitak.gov.tr.