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## **1<sup>st</sup> ERA-Chemistry Call for Proposals**

The ERA-NET scheme is an innovative component of the European Union's (EU) Sixth Framework Programme supporting cooperation and coordination of national research activities and thus strengthening the European Research Area (ERA). The EU does not provide financial support for the research activities themselves, for which the ERA-NET members councils are expected to use their own national resources.

The ERA-Chemistry network supported under the ERA-Net scheme has set the ambitious goal to establish a transnational funding programme in chemistry, transcending national boundaries, as efficiently as possible and with minimal bureaucracy.

The ERA-Chemistry network consists of the following partner research councils and ministries:

- Academy of Finland (AKA), Finland
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e. V. (DFG), Germany
- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), Portugal
- Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), Belgium
- Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF), Austria
- Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO), Belgium\*
- Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET), Ireland
- Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (MEC), Spain
- Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO), The Netherlands
- Schweizerischer Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (SNF), Switzerland

ERA-chemistry is herewith announcing the 1<sup>st</sup> transnational call for proposals on the topic:

**“Hierarchically organised chemical structures: from molecules to hybrid materials”.**

This call aims at developing the mechanistic and theoretical understanding of non-covalently bound self-assemblies with different levels of space organisation, together with their potential use as precursors of new functional materials with controlled nano/meso size architectures. Within this frame, the proposals should exclusively focus on:

- Self-assemblies with predictable topologies and/or

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\* FWO is not participating in this first ERA-Chemistry call and is therefore not able to finance projects from Flemish researchers.

- Architectures, dynamics and properties of bio-inspired reversible self-assemblies and/or
- Self-assembled functional materials with controlled hierarchical morphologies.

The following explanations should be observed:

- “*non-covalently bound*”: only weak interactions should be considered; all covalent hierarchical architectures such as dendrimers etc. will not be considered
- “*self-assemblies*”: the conventional “coordination chemistry” aspects will be excluded
- “*hierarchical*”: implies different levels of space organisation.

All European researchers working in this field and eligible to apply for financial support from the participating national research councils are cordially invited to apply for funding. It should be noted that the call aims at developing new European cooperation primarily between young researchers who have submitted their PhD thesis within the past ten years<sup>1</sup>. The number of senior researchers per joint project is restricted to one.

The applicants of each joint proposal must do research in different European countries. The maximum number of applicants per joint project is three (maximum one applicant per country, maximum one application per researcher). Only projects between new collaborators with no joint publications during the last five years can be funded. The contact person of each proposal should be a young researcher.

There will be a two-stage procedure for joint applications (pre-proposals and full proposals) and accordingly a two-stage review procedure. The international reviewers will make a short ranking of the pre-proposals: either *invitation to submit a full proposal* (with or without changes of working plan or partnership) or *rejection*. They will evaluate the full proposals according to the following criteria:

- Novel, innovative research project within the scientific scope of the call
- Transnational added value, complementarity of expertise
- Scientific track record of applicants; degree of scientific independence of young applicants
- Feasibility of project
- Adequateness of financial requirements.

An (informal) pre-proposal must contain:

- a short description of the scientific ideas of the joint project (max. 2 pages)
- an appendix (if necessary) with diagrams, figures, and equations etc. (max. 1 page)
- a CV for each co-applicant with a list of 10 most relevant publications
- a declaration that all applicants have not published together during the last five years.

Pre-proposals with all required appendices must be submitted in electronic form to the joint ERA-Chemistry secretariat ([markus.behnke@dfg.de](mailto:markus.behnke@dfg.de)) not later than

**29 July 2005.**

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<sup>1</sup> Reference date: 1 June 2005, excluding parental leave

A full proposal must consist of the ERA-Chemistry application form with annexes (only one application form per project, to be downloaded either from the ERA-Chemistry website ([www.erachemistry.net](http://www.erachemistry.net)) or from the websites of the partner councils). Each applicant may request funding for one scientific co-worker (postgraduate researcher or postdoc [temporary position for up to 3 years, to be financed according to national gross wages]), consumables, small equipment ( $\leq$  € 30,000), consumables and travel costs. The rules of some national research councils may allow to apply for an applicant's own temporary position instead of a co-worker position.

The needs for each temporary position and/or scientific equipment should be comprehensively substantiated. Overheads and VAT will be handled according to the national rules. Please contact your national research council for more details. The projects will be funded for three years, starting no later than January 2006.

The decision on pre-proposals will be communicated to the applicants on 7 September 2005. Full proposals shall be sent via electronic mail and simultaneously in a signed paper version via regular mail to the ERA-Chemistry joint secretariat<sup>2</sup>.

Deadlines for the submission of full proposals:

- electronic version: **14 October 2005**
- signed paper version: **2 November 2005**.

If you need additional information please ask the ERA-Chemistry joint secretariat or your national research council (contacts may be found on the ERA-Chemistry website).

The following page contains a synopsis of the time schedule.

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## SYNOPSIS

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**Pre-proposals:**  
Submission no later than  
**29 July 2005**



Selection of pre-proposals  
**6 September 2005**



**Full proposals:**  
Submission no later than  
**14 October 2005**



Ranking and selection of full proposals:  
**15 November 2005**



Funding decision:  
**7 December 2005**



Start of selected projects:  
**December 2005/January 2006**