

## CNRS/DFG Call for Bilateral Research Proposals in Chemistry

The co-ordination of national programs and projects is the key objective for the *Chairmen and Directors of European Research Councils' Chemistry Committees* (CERC3), who are trying to find ways to promote and fund transnational research in chemistry by inter-research council co-operation. In 1999, nine European national research promotion organisations took the unprecedented step of soliciting joint, transnational applications for chemical research grants. The nine also agreed upon a joint evaluation of the applications, while maintaining national financing of the research. The role of the present initiative is specifically to supplement - and not to challenge - existing programs in the European Union (EU), the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the European Committee on Science and Technology (COST).

In order to enhance the experiences in processing and reviewing transnational proposals, all member councils were encouraged to establish *supplementary bilateral initiatives* as soon as possible.

The *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS) and the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) decided to be proactive and set up a call for joint French/German proposals in chemistry in 2001.

CNRS and DFG will provide financial support for French and German chemists to engage in binational projects, which bring together a mix of different scientific skills and research facilities necessary to address the research aims. We are calling for proposals relevant to modern problems in chemistry. **Funding will not exceed three years.**

The number of research teams involved in one project is restricted to a **maximum of four. Research teams can apply for only one project.** They should present a joint proposal, which must contain:

1. A general description of the overall research.
2. For each research team:
  - a) their contribution emphasising the added value of working together,
  - b) a description containing the main outcome of previous work in the field,
  - c) a list of the 10 most relevant publications of the research team,
  - d) a complete and detailed substantiation of financial requests: personnel, equipment, consumables, travel costs.

The various participants of the overall project should nominate a project leader (principal investigator) whose role and responsibilities include co-ordinating progress, activity reports, and liaising with the research councils (CNRS-DFG).

The project leader should send the overall project in English simultaneously to both DFG ([karlheinz.schmidt@dfg.de](mailto:karlheinz.schmidt@dfg.de)) and CNRS ([annie.dalbera@cnrs-dir.fr](mailto:annie.dalbera@cnrs-dir.fr)). One copy should be sent to each council in an electronic form, preferentially PDF format (a Word file would be acceptable). If this is not possible, then one paper copy should be sent to each council. The scientific steering committee of DFG and CNRS will nominate at least two international reviewers for each bilateral project.

The reviewers will judge:

- 1- the quality of the overall proposal as a whole with respect to novelty, originality, feasibility, timeliness, and expertise
- 2- the quality of each research team's contribution, including their past achievements in the field
- 3- the expected added value and the necessity of close collaboration between all research teams
- 4- the general time schedule for each contribution
- 5- the necessity of financial requests in each contribution in terms of:
  - personnel
    - a) number of **additional** temporary personnel („chercheurs associés“ for the French teams; BAT wage level and field of competence for the German teams)
    - a) number of **permanent** personnel and percentage of time allocated to the project
    - a) necessity of required qualification(s), term(s) and time of employment
  - equipment (of direct relevance and need to accomplish the project)
  - consumables, travel costs, etc. ...

Please note that the joint proposals will only have a chance of being funded if the individual parts are *first-rate* and if the synergy effect on clearly identified common goals is convincing. As a general rule, all joint efforts should concentrate on the same topics.

French and German researchers are requested to use the „APPLICATION FORM FOR CNRS-DFG BILATERAL PROJECT“ which can be downloaded from the CNRS website (<http://www.cnrs.fr>) and DFG website (<http://www.dfg.de>). German researchers are requested to consult the „General Information and Guidelines for Proposals“ and add all relevant particulars/declarations concerning the paragraphs 3.3-3.5. as well as the paragraphs 5.-7. to the above mentioned CNRS/DFG Application Form..

**Deadline for submission: 31 January 2002**

**Prospected start of funding: 1 July 2002**

If you have any questions with respect to this initiative, please contact:

[annie.dalbera@cnrs-dir.fr](mailto:annie.dalbera@cnrs-dir.fr) or [karlheinz.schmidt@dfg.de](mailto:karlheinz.schmidt@dfg.de)