

# The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs

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## Introduction

This guide is designed to help companies, especially small and medium sized, to obtain a better understanding of the many and varied sources of funding at EU and National levels which are available to support their research and development endeavours.

There are many reasons why all companies, large and small, should engage in R&D. For high technology companies, in particular, it is their lifeblood - the single most important source of future competitive advantage. Larger companies, with substantial revenues, are usually able to set aside sufficient funds to engage in meaningful research and development activities with or without recourse to grant aid.

For small and medium sized enterprises such expenditures, while essential to long-term prosperity, can often be regarded as a luxury, at least in the short term. Many of the EU and National Operational Programmes, however, provide significant advantages, encouraging and enabling companies to share the costs and risks associated with R&D, to work with leading researchers in their field, to develop new links in the marketplace with potential allies, to anticipate and meet the demands of new markets and to derive substantial benefits as a result.

It is important for any firm interested in engaging in R&D to recognise, at the outset, that access to non-repayable finance, attractive as it may be, should not be at the top of its list of priorities. There are clear and important distinctions between R&D funding available at EU and National levels - even though a significant proportion of the latter actually originates from the EU Community Support Framework which is more commonly known as the "Structural Funds".

### **National Operational Programmes (1994-1999)**

cover a range of activities, from support for direct R&D by companies and co-operation between industry and third level educational institutions to R&D salary subventions and specific research in the areas of food and drink, environmental monitoring and marine resources.

Decisions on the apportionment of such funding, available under seven main programme headings, are made at national level and are administered by National Agencies. In total, some IR£325 million of funding is available to Ireland for R&D related activities over the period of the Operational Programmes.

Essentially, these are company initiatives, specifically intended to help support the activities of companies, and it is worth noting that the guidelines, under which such aid is provided to quality proposals, are designed to ensure the inclusion of small and medium sized enterprises.

Direct EU funding for research is provided by way of the **Fourth Framework Programme, 1994-1998**. Although substantial funds are available under this programme (some IR£9.8 billion over the five years), any company seeking funding through this route must be clear about its objectives. The Fourth Framework Programme is not specifically designed to help companies develop.

Its focus, instead, is on four objectives: to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of Community industry, to encourage industry to become more competitive at international level, to promote research activities required for the implementation of Community policies and to focus on generic and pre-competitive research which can be applied across industry sectors.

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There are two key conditions to such funding: it must be **collaborative** with at least two participants from different Member States, and the project must be **pre-competitive** (i.e. well in advance of coming to market).

The Fourth Framework Programme is implemented by 18 specific programmes. Special SME measures, known as Technology Stimulation Measures, apply to some of them. The measures are intended to ensure equal opportunity for participation by small and medium sized enterprises. Under these measures, funding is available to help firms participate in programmes. Exploratory Awards can support the submission of an outline proposal and the preparation costs of a completed proposal. Co-operative Research Projects (CRAFT) address the needs of industrial SMEs which currently have little or no R&D resources.

The Commission receives thousand of responses to its "Calls for Proposals", which it makes four times a year, so it is important that any time and effort invested by a company is made in a soundly based project which has a real chance of success. Applicants should be satisfied that the research proposed is likely to be of benefit to the wider European Union, that it is submitted under the appropriate programme, that the partners in the consortium are truly complementary (and financially sound), that all the Commission's requirements have been met and, for industry partners in particular, that there is a clear route to exploiting the benefits for them.

Whether seeking funding under National Operational or Fourth Framework Programmes, companies need to have clear and focused objectives from the outset; they must be clear about the precise benefits they hope to derive and just what investment they will be required to make in terms of both time and money.

Fortunately, although the challenge of obtaining such funds may initially be daunting, there are a number of organisations which can provide information, advice and assistance in respect of all aspects of applications.

The Science and Technology Division of Forfas will be delighted to receive your enquiries and to help put you and your company on the right road.

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<b>National Operational Programmes under the European Community Support Framework for Ireland (1994-1999)</b>	<b>EU Fourth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (1994-1998)</b>
Industry R&D Initiative (Measure 1)	Telematics
Industry/Third Level Co-operation (Measure 2)	Advanced Communications Technologies (ACTS)
Human Resource Development (Measure 3)	Information Technologies (ESPRIT)
Research Support (Measure 4)	Industrial & Materials Technologies (Brite/EuRam)
Food Industry, Research & Development (Measure 3)	Standards Measurement & Testing (SMT)
Environmental Monitoring, Research & Development	Environment & Climate
Fisheries & Marine Research	Marine Sciences & Technologies (MAST)
Feasibility Study Grants	Biotechnology (BIOTECH)
	Biomedicine & Health (BIOMED)
	Agriculture & Fisheries (FAIR)
	Non-Nuclear Energy (Joule-Thermie)
	Nuclear Fission Safety
	Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion
	Transport
	Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER)
	Dissemination & Exploitation of Results (INNOVATION)
	Co-operation with Third Countries and International Organisations (INCO)
	Training & Mobility of Researchers (TMR)

### **PROGRAMME: Industrial Development: Sub-Programme for R&D. Industry R&D Initiative (Measure 1)**

**SCOPE:** Open to all firms and brings under a single heading all financial support for company-led R&D. Quality R&D projects are sought, but guidelines and support will ensure that SMEs have equal access to this new source of funding. Collaborative projects or joint ventures, enabling groups of SMEs to undertake more large-scale, commercially-oriented projects, are eligible under this initiative, as is the more active development of international linkages through the EUREKA initiative.

**FUNDING:** - Up to 50% of costs of approved company-led projects.  
- £88 million will be available in grant support for this initiative between 1994 and 1999.

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Forbairt  
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IDA Ireland  
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Michael Leydon  
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Jim Harrington  
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### **PROGRAMME: Industry/Third Level Co-operation Services (Measure 2)**

- SCOPE:** The actions in Measure 2 are predominantly aimed at increasing third level/industry co-operation. However, certain sub-measures aim to develop the technological capabilities of companies through the provision of specialist expertise, graduates and services.
- FUNDING:** The total budget is £137 million. Of this, support is available for:
- Technology transfer actions
  - Techman: salary subvented up to £17,500 per firm over 3 years for experienced specialists. R&D tasks eligible.
  - Techstart: subvents salary of newly qualified technical graduates up to £5,000 for one year. R&D tasks eligible.
  - Technology services, such as audits and product development.
- CONTACT:**
- Ray McSherry (Technology Transfer)  
Forbairt  
Tel: 061-361555
- Liam Bradley (Techstart)  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101
- Harry Murphy (Technology Audits)  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01- 8370101

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### **PROGRAMME: Human Resource Development (Measure 3)**

**SCOPE:** This measure is designed to improve the ability of industry to manage the process of research and technological development. It also provides advanced research and development training for graduates.

**FUNDING:** There is a budget of £13 million for:  
- Postgraduate training in research and the planning and management of innovation.  
- Firms seriously committed to the planning and implementation of substantial changes to improve their RTD capacities.

**CONTACT:** Martin Lyes  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

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**PROGRAMME:**        **Research Support  
(Measure 4)**

**SCOPE:**                Funding will be available for higher education industry co-operative research projects.

**FUNDING:**            Available in 1995:  
- Basic Research Grants: £1.5 million  
- Strategic Research Grants: £1 million  
- Applied Research Grants: £1.5 million  
- Research Scholarships: £0.84 million  
Funding in subsequent years will be of similar magnitude.

**CONTACT:**            Martin Lyes  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

**PROGRAMME: Sub-Programme for Food Industry:  
Research and Development (Measure 3)  
Sub-measure (i)**

**SCOPE:** This measure will provide grant-aid for the development of in-company R&D in the food industry (including beverages). It provides the same type of assistance to the food industry as is provided to other industrial sectors under the R&D Sub-Programme i.e. Measure 1.

**FUNDING:** Measure 3 has a budget of £57 million (Includes funding for Institutional R&D).

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### **PROGRAMME: Environmental Services (Sub-Programme 4: Environmental Monitoring, Research & Development)**

**SCOPE:** This aims to improve resources (water, land-use, air) management and development, promote the provision of environmentally acceptable goods and services, improve data collection and monitoring of impacts on the environment, and promote innovative approaches to problem solving and the promotion of better environmental quality.

**FUNDING:** Available budget of £2.5 million. Two types of project will be eligible:

- R&D to investigate specific environmental processes or problems.
- Pilot demonstration projects to test innovative findings or technologies.

**CONTACT:** Marie Sherwood  
Environment Protection Agency  
Tel: 053-47120

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### **PROGRAMME: Fisheries (Measure 8: Marine Research)**

**SCOPE:** The major aim is to provide the RTD capacity to develop national marine resources. The Marine Institute will implement and supervise actions in areas such as value-added product development in the fish processing sector, provision of better marine laboratories and infrastructure, aquaculture research, marine research vessels, surveys of marine resources, and special projects to assess and develop a range of marine technologies.

**FUNDING:** The budget is £8 million. For SMEs in the fish processing sector, priority will be given to the technological needs of market-led projects.

**CONTACT:** Geoffrey O'Sullivan  
The Marine Institute  
Tel: 01-4780333

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### **PROGRAMME: Feasibility Study Grants**

- SCOPE:** The scheme aims to
- help businesses and individuals evaluate the viability of manufacturing a completely new product or exploring a new market opportunity.
  - cover costs incurred by companies in negotiating with research partners and in preparing joint R&D proposals for submission to the EU.
- FUNDING:** Grants of up to 50% of eligible costs are available, to a maximum of £15,000 grant per project.
- CONTACT:** Forbairt Regional Offices  
Tel: 01-6602244  
(For EU Projects)  
Ronan Breslin, Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

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**PROGRAMME: Telematics**

**\* Exploratory awards apply**

**SCOPE:**

Emphasis on multimedia telematics, especially low cost solutions to user needs, in particular elderly and handicapped people. Themes include services of public interest (administrations & transport), knowledge systems (libraries, distance education and training) and areas such as language recognition, audio-visual aids & teleservices.

**FUNDING:**

630 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:**

Tony McDonald  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101  
Philip Hickey  
Department of Transport, Energy & Communications  
Tel: 01-8788537

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Advanced Communications Technologies  
(ACTS)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** The development of advanced communications systems and services will contribute to the emergence of an information society in Europe. Emphasis on applications and user access to networks using wireless, radio and satellite systems across Europe. Topics include interactive digital multimedia services, photonic services, high speed networking and intelligence systems.

**FUNDING:** 843 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Denis Toomey  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101  
John O'Flaherty  
National Microelectronics Application Centre Ltd.  
Tel: 061-334699

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**PROGRAMME: Information Technologies  
(ESPRIT)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** The overall objective is to help to work towards sustainable development and make businesses more competitive. The research themes are: production (clean) technologies for future industries (including raw materials), techniques for product innovation (e.g. recovering products at the end of their useful life), and transport technologies (e. g. vehicle design) for reduced pollution. This programme actively seeks industrial involvement and the CRAFT scheme is specially designed to encourage SMEs to take part.

**FUNDING:** 1,932 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Tom Sheedy  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101  
Brian O'Donnell  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

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**PROGRAMME: Industrial & Materials Technologies  
(Brite/EuRam)  
\* SME measures apply (CRAFT)**

**SCOPE:** Focuses on the needs of users and the market in the area of software systems, microelectronics and multimedia technologies. Themes include software technologies, IT component technologies, long-term research and open microprocessor systems.

**FUNDING:** 1,707 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Donal Carroll  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101  
Peadar McArdle  
Geological Survey of Ireland  
Tel: 01-6609511  
CRAFT Contact:  
Tom Moran  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Standards Measurement & Testing  
(SMT)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** Responds to the need for a common EU measurement and testing structure for industry and services. The three themes are: measurements for quality products (e.g. quality:cost ratios), written standards and technical support (e.g. for drafting legislation) and society's health and safety needs.

**FUNDING:** 288 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Maire Walsh  
State Laboratory  
Tel: 01-8217700  
Conor O'Toole  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101



## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Environment & Climate**  
**\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** Aims to improve understanding of climate and natural systems, such as the oceans, and to develop ways of protecting them. Areas covered are: natural environment, environmental quality and global change, environmental technologies (e.g. forecasting techniques), and space technologies (e.g. earth observations), human dimension of environmental change.

**FUNDING:** 852 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Marie Sherwood  
Environment Protection Agency  
Tel: 053-47120  
Cormac Gordon  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Marine Sciences & Technologies  
(MAST)**

**\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:**

The goal is sustainable exploitation of marine systems, long-term management of the marine environment and a greater understanding of its role in climate change. Topics covered are: marine science (e.g. biodiversity), strategic research (for sustainable development), marine technology (e.g. monitoring systems), and supporting initiatives (e.g. for training, for SMEs, access to experimental facilities).

**FUNDING:**

228 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:**

Peter Heffernan  
The Marine Institute  
Tel: 01-4780333  
Larry Stapleton  
Environment Protection Agency  
Tel: 053-47120

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Biotechnology  
(BIOTECH)**

**\* Exploratory Awards apply**

**SCOPE:**

Four research themes are selected: the “cell factory” (e.g. biofermentation); genome sequencing and analysis; plant and animal biotechnology (e.g. genetics of disease) and neurobiology (e.g. cell communication). Networks of up to 15 groups will also be established covering immunology and vaccine technology, structural biology, in vitro testing and bio-safety, and infrastructures (e.g. bio-informatics).

**FUNDING:**

552 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:**

Jim Ryan  
BioResearch Ireland (Forbairt)  
Tel: 01-8370177  
Liam Donnelly  
Teagasc  
Tel: 025-31422

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Biomedicine & Health  
(BIOMED)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** BIOMED seeks to combat a range of diseases, improve people's health and make the European health industry more competitive. Priorities include: pharmaceutical research; biomedical technology and engineering; brain research; research on a number of major target diseases (e.g. cancer, AIDS, TB, cardiovascular, arthritis, diabetes, respiratory diseases, occupational and environmental diseases and rare diseases); public health and health services; and biomedical ethics. In vitro tests will be encouraged.

**FUNDING:** 336 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Vivian O'Gorman  
Health Research Board  
Tel: 01-6761176  
John Devlin  
Department of Health  
Tel: 01-6714711

## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Agriculture & Fisheries  
(FAIR)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** This programme, covering agro-industries, fisheries, forestry, food and rural development, aims to improve the quality of raw materials and optimise their utilisation. Research themes are: integrated production; scaling up and processing; advanced technologies for nutritious foods; agriculture, forestry and rural development; and fisheries and aquaculture. There is also some funding for networks and special allocations under CRAFT to encourage SMEs to participate.

**FUNDING:** 684 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Jim Flanagan  
Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry  
Tel: 01-6789011  
David Griffith  
Department of the Marine  
Tel: 01-8210111

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**PROGRAMME: Non-Nuclear Energy  
Clean and Efficient Energy  
Technologies (Joule-Thermie)  
\* SME measures apply**

**SCOPE:** Focuses on the effects that energy production and use have on the environment (including emissions, noise and safety). Research themes are: improving the conversion and use of energy (including new fuels); and renewable energies (including geothermal). There is also money for demonstration projects on the rational use of energy (e.g. energy efficiency), renewable energies, and fossil fuels (e.g. fuel cells).

**FUNDING:** 1,002 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** David Taylor  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101  
Peter O'Neill  
Department of Transport, Energy & Communications  
Tel: 01-6707444

### **PROGRAMME: Nuclear Fission Safety**

**SCOPE:**

This programme involves European co-operation towards an improved understanding of the overall risk associated with the whole nuclear fuel cycle, covering new concepts (e.g. conceptual safety features), reactor safety, fuel cycle (e.g. waste disposal), radiological impacts on people and environment (e.g. reducing exposure levels), and historic liabilities (e.g. Chernobyl).

**FUNDING:**

414 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:**

John Cunningham  
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland  
Tel: 01-2697766  
Noel Hughes  
Department of Transport, Energy & Communications  
Tel: 01-6707444

### **PROGRAMME: Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion**

**SCOPE:** The aim here is the production of safe, environmentally sound prototype reactors which should result in the construction of economically viable power stations. Themes include: “next step” activities (e.g. fusion installations), the JET undertaking, concept improvements (e.g. plasma physics), and long-term techniques (e.g. social acceptance).

**FUNDING:** 840 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Frank Turvey  
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland  
Tel: 01-2697766  
Michael Sexton  
University College Cork  
Tel: 021-276871



## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**PROGRAMME: Transport**

**\* Exploratory Awards apply**

**SCOPE:**

Transport is a large consumer of non-renewable energy and its consumption is increasing. This new programme aims to improve the energy efficiency of transport and integrate the various travel modes into a European network. The programme will focus on optimising the system, improving safety, reducing harmful effects while taking into account socio-economic constraints.

**FUNDING:**

240 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:**

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Department of Transport, Energy & Communications  
Tel: 01-6707444  
Ray Bowe  
Forfas  
Tel: 01-6688444

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### **PROGRAMME: Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER)**

**SCOPE:** This new activity aims to develop a common knowledge base to facilitate the integration of technologies into society and to anticipate priorities for the 21st century. The three areas covered are: evaluation of S&T policy options (e.g. forecasting and assessment), research on education and training (so as to improve education & training systems), and research into social integration and exclusion in Europe.

**FUNDING:** 138 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Noel Gillatt  
Forfas  
Tel: 01-6688444  
Kieran Kennedy  
The Economic & Social Research Institute  
Tel: 01-6760115

### **PROGRAMME: Dissemination & Exploitation of Results (Innovation)**

**SCOPE:** The aim is to promote the industrial exploitation of research findings and translate them into new products, processes and technologies, especially for SMEs. The three actions are: dissemination and exploitation of research results (using Relay Centres, CORDIS database, etc.), dissemination of technology to industry (support for innovation and technology transfer), and creating a financial environment for disseminating technology.

**FUNDING:** 330 million ECU via competitive tendering.

**CONTACT:** Helena Acheson  
Forfas  
Tel: 01-6688444  
Owen McBreen  
Forbairt  
Tel: 01-8370101

### **PROGRAMME: Co-operation with Third Countries and International Organisations (INCO)**

#### **SCOPE:**

The principal aim of this programme is to strengthen the EU's RTD capability, to support the implementation of EU policies in relation to third countries, and to contribute to solving regional and global problems. Co-operation is based on the principle of mutual benefit. Areas covered by co-operation: other European fora for S&T co-operation e.g. COST, EUREKA, International Organisations; Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union; Developing Countries.

#### **FUNDING:**

540 million ECU via competitive tendering.

Michael Pender  
Department of Enterprise & Employment  
Tel: 01-6614444  
Josephine Lynch  
Forfas  
Tel: 01-6688444

### **PROGRAMME: Stimulation of the Training & Mobility of Researchers (TMR)**

**SCOPE:** This programme responds to training and co-operation initiatives proposed by researchers themselves and allows for fellowships (mostly post-doctoral, maximum three years) at centres abroad; research networks (5-8 laboratories, with three year programmes on joint projects); access to large-scale facilities (especially helping those from less favoured regions); and other measures (e.g. summer schools).

**FUNDING:** 744 million ECU via competitive tendering.

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Higher Education Authority  
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# The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs

## GLOSSARY

### Databases & Information Services

**ARCADE** (Ampere Remote Control Access Data Entry) is an EU on-line interactive research and development information service which provides access to information on programmes, projects, RTD results and partners from across the EU Member States. It is available throughout the Community in nine official languages via a modem and a local telephone call. The telephone number is 00-322-2950745.

**CORDIS** (Community Research and Development Information Service) provides on-line (or CD-ROM) access to databases containing information on all Community research programmes, RTD projects, results and partners. The standard CORDIS services are available through ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation) using either a menu system, the Common Command Language or Watch-CORDIS Windows-based interface.

In order to use CORDIS facilities, you need to register as a user with the ECHO Help Desk or by using the ECHO on-line registration system.

CORDIS is now extended to include the CORDIS World Wide Web (WWW) server on Internet. This service provides information about CORDIS, full text documents, including Work Programmes and Information Packages for research programmes, and a link to existing CORDIS databases.

**Relay Centre:** The Relay Centre in Ireland is located in Forbairt, Glasnevin, Dublin. It is one of a network of thirty-two such centres throughout the EU which opens up new opportunities for Irish industry, consultants and financial bodies to participate in the EU RTD Programmes and to exploit the successful results emerging from these programmes. The Relay Centre can be contacted at Tel: 01-8370101, Fax: 01-8370172, Email: timmons@forbairt.ie

**Euro-Information Centres:** The European Commission has established Euro-Information Centres in all Member States to provide information on the Community's activities. The service is tailored to the needs of small businesses and, in addition to many other sectors, includes advice on research and technology programmes. Further information from the Office of the European Commission Tel: 01-6712244, Fax: 01-6712657 or the Chambers of Commerce.

### Acronyms and Commonly Used Phrases

**Call for proposals:** invitation to submit formal applications. Preparing one can take months, so work should start well in advance of the call. Most calls now issue on set dates (15th of March, June, September, December). Some calls relate only to certain sub-programmes. Most close about three months later and closing dates are absolute. Open calls (e.g. CRAFT) have no closing date.

**COST:** a European framework for R&D co-operation. It allows for the co-ordination of national research projects and/or the participation of third countries in Community programmes.

**CRAFT:** Co-operative Research Actions For Technology - a scheme until recently available in BRITE, but being extended to other areas; designed to make it easier for SMEs to participate in EU research programmes. Funds feasibility studies; allows firms to assign the research to those who can perform it; uses an open call for proposals (i.e. no closing date, but proposals are assessed in batches).

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**CSF:** the **Community Support Framework** is the legal entity for the disbursement by the Government of European Union Structural Funds. The CSF is implemented through Operational Programmes (OPs). The Sub-Programme for Research and Development is an integral part of the OP for Industrial Development.

**EU Framework Programme:** a five-year programme co-ordinating the Commission's RTD activities. The 4th Framework Programme started in 1994 and runs until 1998, with a budget in excess of 12 billion ECU.

**EUREKA:** the European Research Co-ordination Initiative to encourage the development of international linkages and collaborative R&D initiatives throughout the EU Member States. Irish companies may apply for support to participate in this initiative under the Industry R & D Initiative (see page seven).

**Evaluators:** external, independent experts employed by the European Commission to examine project proposals.

**Expressions of interest:** a kind of "situation vacant/wanted" ad, seeking collaborators, offering services. Can post these on Arcade, or by contacting the National Delegates for the specific programmes.

**Funding:** Financial support from the Framework Programme is available in three different forms:

*Cost shared actions:* the EU Commission pays up to 50% of the cost of the project. It applies to companies and research institutions. For universities or other non-affiliated commercial bodies, the Commission usually reimburses 100% of the marginal or additional costs only.

*Concerted actions:* a form of support for inter-related transnational activities where the Commission provides funding only for the co-ordination activities (e.g. travel, meetings etc.) and not for the research itself.

*Direct actions:* these are research actions carried out by Commission staff within the Commission's own laboratory (Joint Research Centre), commonly known as the JRC.

**National Delegates:** nominees of the Minister for Commerce, Science and Technology to the European Commission to sit as Irish Delegates on the EU Programme Management Committees of the specific research programmes. The Delegates play a key role in maximising the benefits of these programmes to Ireland, particularly through promoting them nationally, by acting as a source of advice for potential participants and by monitoring the progress of Irish proposals in the selection process.

**Partners:** criteria differ depending on the programme, but generally at least two partners, one of which is from another Member State. Some non-EU countries are acceptable under certain circumstances. Some programmes require industrial partners. Each project must have a team leader, legally responsible for its co-ordination.

**Precompetitive:** the research work must not be indirectly geared to the introduction on the market of new products and processes.

**RTD:** Research and Technological Development.

**SME - EU definition:** an SME has fewer than 500 employees, has a turnover of less than 38 million ECUs per annum and is no more than one-third owned by an organisation larger than an SME (based on turnover and number of employees), unless it is a financial investor such as a bank or venture capitalist.

## The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs

**Specific Programmes:** Detailed RTD programmes that implement the Framework Programme. They set out the RTD areas to be supported and the sum of money available for such support.

**TECHMAN:** facilitates the employment of skilled experienced personnel with specialist technological expertise. Financial support up to a maximum of €17,500 is available over three years.

**Technology Audits:** initially identify technology deficiencies in individual firms and suggest improvements in manufacturing/processes and quality. More in-depth assignments address longer term strategic needs to objectively strengthen the technology base of firms and help them become more competitive.

**TECHSTART:** facilitates the employment of recently qualified and appropriately skilled science or engineering graduates by companies. Salary subvention up to a maximum of €5,000 for one year.

### State Agencies

**COFORD** is the National Council for Forest Research & Development.

**FORFAS** is the state policy and advisory board for industrial development in Ireland, which includes responsibility for national policy and strategic programme development in science, research and technology. FORFAS provides policy guidance and supervision for the activities of Forbairt, IDA Ireland, Shannon Development and Udaras na Gaeltachta.

**FORBAIRT** is the state agency with responsibility for the promotion and development of indigenous industry and services in Ireland. It has primary responsibility for implementing the development programmes that result from National and EU policies.

**GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND** is the national earth science agency whose mandate is the provision of earth science information and advice and the acquisition of data for this purpose.

**HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD** is the state agency which promotes, assists, commissions or conducts medical, health and health services research.

**HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY** is the state agency responsible for the funding of universities and designated third level institutions, the development of third level education to meet the needs of the community and the provision of advice in relation to all third level education.

**IDA IRELAND** is the state agency with responsibility for the promotion of inward investment by foreign companies in Ireland. It promotes the comparative advantages of Ireland as a location for foreign-owned industry and services.

**NATIONAL MICROELECTRONICS APPLICATION CENTRE LTD.** is a commercial state sponsored company responsible for actively improving the competitiveness and more rapid development of Irish industry through the application of electronic and information technology.

**RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE OF IRELAND** is the national organisation with regulatory, monitoring and advisory responsibilities in matters pertaining to ionising radiation.

**SHANNON DEVELOPMENT** is the state agency which aims to initiate and support integrated development that will achieve sustained economic growth throughout the Shannon Region. TEAGASC is the National Agriculture and Food Development Authority providing research, advisory and training services for the farming community and food industries in Ireland.



## **The Funding for Research and Technology Development in SMEs**

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**THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE** is an independent, non-profit making body which works to increase knowledge of social and economic conditions of society with particular reference to Ireland.

**THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY** is the state agency with responsibility for the promotion and assurance of environmental protection in Ireland. It promotes sustainable development consistent with the preservation of environmental quality.

**THE MARINE INSTITUTE** is the national agency with responsibility for the promotion and development of marine research in Ireland. It co-ordinates and assists marine research activities in order to promote economic development, create employment and protect the marine environment.

**UDARAS NA GAELTACHTA** is the state agency established to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht.