

## **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

(International Division)

### **EUROPEAN UNION–INDIA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION**

(Views solicited from Indian Scientific Community for joint actions under the S&T Agreement)

1. Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) together with European Commission Research Directorate General (EC Research DG) are working towards development of the content of an India–EC Program of Cooperation in S&T (POC) with financial support from EC or both Parties, under the aegis of an India–EC S&T Agreement signed in November 2001.

This S&T Agreement now provides an opportunity for India to work with Europe as partner in advanced technology sectors listed in all the thematic priorities of EC Framework Program for Research & Technology Development. This new channel is different from past arrangements wherein Indian scientists and institutions were participating in EC Programmes in limited sectors, as applicable to any “Developing Country”.

2. The following opportunities existing by virtue of the India–EC S&T Agreement, are brought to the kind attention of Indian research entities (working in academic institution, research institute or in-house R&D unit of public sector):

- Indian researchers can join European Research & Technology Development (RTD) Integrated Projects, Networks of Centres of Excellence and can figure in selected Marie Curie Actions – Fellowships for Early Stage Research Training, Incoming International Fellowships, Large Marie Curie Conferences. (Such requests are periodically published by EC in relation to EC Sixth Framework Program 2002–2006 (FP6) and Indian researchers can be partner in any of the FP6 Seven Thematic Priorities-related cooperation proposals; Details at web address <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp>.)
- Indian researchers can access European Large Scale Research Facilities in wide spectrum of S&T fields in relation to implementation of Joint RTD Projects with European Union–EU (and/or its member states); latest information on European Large Scale Research Facilities (ELSF) is at: <http://improving-ari.sti.jrc.it/access> (Europeans access to similar advanced research infrastructure/facilities in India can be offered as well).

- Undertaking joint RTD projects which may arise from India–EU Thematic Workshops/Joint Scientific Missions etc.
- Participation in European scale magascience projects such as Development of European Satellite Navigation System, Galileo.

3. To begin with, India–EC POC in S&T is proposed to be drawn with focus on: Life Sciences, Genomics & Biotechnology for Health (EC Workprogramme at: [www.cordis.lu/lifescihealth/workprogramme.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/lifescihealth/workprogramme.htm)).

Nanotechnology & Nanosciences, Knowledge-based multifunctional materials, New production processes and devices (EC Workprogramme at: [www.cordis.lu/nmp/home.html](http://www.cordis.lu/nmp/home.html)).

Information Societies Technologies (EC Workprogramme at: [www.cordis.lu/ist/workprogramme/fp6\\_workprogramme.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/ist/workprogramme/fp6_workprogramme.htm)).

4. For formulating Indian interest to be projected in the proposed India–EC POC in S&T, DST invites suggestions of Indian research community on the specific items/topics of interest *vis-à-vis* ECFP6 Thematic Priorities Workprogramme, as listed above. Please send a pre-proposal in 500 words on scope of cooperation with a minimum of 3 partners from different EU member states.

4.1 Suggestions and pre-proposals are generally required to address the following criteria: Access to European expertise and experimental research facilities relevant to execution of on-going major national R&D projects; Joint technology and product development based on tangible Indian core competence; Exposure to advanced skills and nucleation of new research groups in emerging S&T fields; Expanding linkages with European network of scientists and research institutions.

5. Deadline for receipt of suggestions and pre-proposals in DST is 10 October 2003. Please send the same, preferably by email to Mrs Sadhana Relia, Scientist F, International Division (Email: [srelia@alpha.nic.in](mailto:srelia@alpha.nic.in)). DST would be consolidating these inputs and inviting if necessary, some of the respondents to “Brainstorming Session”. These may also be used in our negotiations with EC on the content of India–EC POC in S&T.