



The Austrian research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the national funding institution for industrial research in Austria. The Agency offers a comprehensive range of services for Austrian enterprises, research institutions and researchers – from the management of public funding programmes to consulting services in all phases of technology development and innovation, from support for integration into European research programmes and networks to the promotion of Austria’s interests at the European and the International level. As a „one-stop shop“ offering a diversified and targeted programme portfolio, the FFG gives Austrian businesses and research facilities quick and uncomplicated access to research funding.

All FFG activities aim to strengthen Austria as a research and innovation centre on the global market and thus help to ensure the long-term availability of high quality jobs and maintain the prosperity of one of the world’s wealthiest countries.

The FFG was founded on september 2004 and is wholly owned by the republic of Austria, represented by the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) and the the Federal Ministry of Economycs, Family and Youth (BMWFJ). As a provider of funding services, however, the FFG also works for other national and international institutions.

The organisational structure of the FFG is based on the areas of responsibility defined by the five programme groups – General Programmes, Structural Programmes, Thematic Programmes, European and International Programmes and the Aeronautics and Space Agency. These units are supported in their work by staff units and internal services.

#### **General Programmes**

With its wide ranging funding for research and development, the FFG General Programmes strengthen the competitiveness of companies based in Austria. Since 1968, the General Programmes run by the FFG (including its predecessor organisation FFF) have funded 27,000 research projects. In 2012 alone, around 270 million euros went to companies active in research, for the development of new products, processes and technologies.

A longitudinal analysis demonstrates that funding has a high hit rate: around two-thirds of the innovation projects funded by the FFG were successfully completed, both in technical and economic terms. These projects were able to achieve a multiplier effect of 12, which means that for every funding euro invested in research, an additional turnover of about 12 euros was generated over the long term. This has resulted in the creation of more than 10.000 new jobs over the past 10 years.



### Structural Programmes

The Structural Programmes serve to optimise structures and infrastructures in research and innovation. This enables companies, research and transfer organisations to identify new methods of cooperation, to generate new knowledge and to establish new areas of strength. Competencies in science and business are improved and the Austrian innovation system is strengthened in the long term.

Through its Structural Programmes, the FFG aims to create the preconditions necessary for the efficient cooperation of all actors in the innovation system: structural bottlenecks and weak points are overcome and proven structures constantly adapted to meet new challenges. New forms of partnership are developed, particularly between scientific institutions and business, new knowledge is generated and new fields of expertise are established. This serves to sustainably strengthen the Austrian innovation system.

### Thematic Programmes

One of the goals of Austria's research and technology policy is to define key research areas in order to ensure internationally recognised critical masses in strategic research fields of future importance. The FFG Thematic Programmes support this goal via action programmes designed to encourage and promote research and development activities of Austrian companies in selected subject fields. A joint portfolio of research topics strengthens long term cooperation between science and business, encourages synergies between the research areas and is targeted at achieving international visibility.

This commitment includes the integrated management of funding programmes, from consulting through to networking, e.g. by matchmaking or supporting integration into European technology platforms, right through to financing. With its Thematic Programmes, the FFG sees itself as a partner for the thematic and strategic development of the subject areas, and is also responsible for cooperating and coordinating with other funding institutions and the Austrian provincial governments.

### European and International Programmes

The task of the FFG's European and International Programmes is to strengthen Austria's participation in programmes, initiatives and actions of European and international research and technology cooperation, especially in the EU Framework Programme. Companies, universities, research institutions and other organ-

isations receive targeted information and advice on project types and collaboration opportunities with European partners and assistance in formulating project proposals, all free of charge.

The European and International Programmes of FFG regularly provide information to over 30.000 persons interested in the EU Framework Programme. About 40% are from the industry, 29% from universities, 11% from non-university research institutions and 20% from other organisations.

Organisations in active contact with the FFG have a significantly higher success rate than organisations who have not requested advice from the FFG's European and International Programmes. Austrian companies and institutions participated in roughly 2000 projects of the 7th EU Framework Programme. This represents research funding of approximately 830 Mio Euros.

The European and International Programmes are financed by the republic of Austria and the Austrian Economic Chambers.

### Aeronautics and Space Agency

The Aeronautics and Space Agency (ALR) is the docking station to the international aerospace world for Austrian business and science. The agency implements national aerospace policy and represents Austria on international aerospace committees. Austrian representation in the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Airbus Intergovernmental Committee is of special strategic importance.

The goal is to strengthen the international standing of Austrian industry, business and science in these key technologies for economic and technological development and to continuously extend the Austrian aerospace cluster. The ALR supports the involvement of Austrian researchers in international and bilateral aerospace partnerships and encourages the establishment and expansion of international networks.

## CONTACT

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