



France – Austria: Joint Action for R&D Projects in EUREKA

Submission by July 2011

Scope

EUREKA promotes the competitiveness of European companies through international collaboration, in creating links and networks of innovation. In the framework of the EUREKA network, Austria and France have decided to implement a Joint Action in order to support Austrian/French Joint R&D projects and strengthen the bilateral collaboration of both countries. The joint R&D projects will focus on developing innovative products and applications in all technological areas, which have strong market potential for Austria and France.

The main objective of this initiative is to promote projects with joint participation from both countries and provide R&D funding to qualified participants through the national programmes managed by the respective national funding bodies: the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) in Austria and OSEO in France. OSEO and FFG will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase. In addition, both national funding bodies will facilitate the EUREKA/Eurostars application process and the acquisition of the EUREKA/Eurostars label for accepted proposals.

This Joint Action is managed within the framework of EUREKA-Eurostars Innovation platforms (www.eurekanetwork.org and www.eurostars-eureka.eu).

Joint Action deadline

This Joint Action is launched in **June 2011**. This Joint Action invites partners to submit joint proposals for R&D projects.

It is implemented within the framework of the EUREKA and Eurostars programmes.

Please note: Key deadlines for submitting EUREKA and Eurostars proposals:

- EUREKA: 4 labeling dates per year (February, April, June, October).
- Eurostars: 2 call for proposals per year (next closing dates: 22 September 2011 and 1st March 2012)

Within this joint EUREKA Cooperation interested parties have **two collaboration possibilities**:

- 1. For EUREKA individual projects** the common project idea should be submitted with the EUREKA project application until **July 20th** to **FFG and OSEO**.

Austrian partners should submit a national funding application via eCall to FFG till July 22nd to guarantee a funding decision in September or till October 1st for a decision in December 2011. For French partners, the national funding application form should be requested from OSEO contacts.



French partners should submit their national labeling and funding application till August 10th in order to be presented for labeling in October or till November 21st for labeling in January.

Following this timeline the EUREKA Label can be assigned at the HLG meeting at 17-20 October 2011, for later project applications 23-26 January 2012. Projects starts are foreseen at the fourth quarter of 2011 (respectively first quarter of 2012).

2. Since the **Eurostars framework** is specifically targeted to support R&D performing SMEs (www.eurostars-eureka.eu), project outlines that meet the Eurostars criteria will be recommended to submit funding applications for the next Eurostars submission deadline on Thursday **22nd September 2011**. FFG and OSEO will provide the submission guidelines and timetable to the project partners.

Partnering Opportunities

Contact details for partner search requests are given below.

Project content and evaluation

Expected project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, applications and /or services. The proposals should comply with the following guidelines:

- The partnership should include at least **one Austrian and one French commercial partner** (participation of additional participants or subcontractors is welcome according to each country's funding regulations).
- Companies from other countries may also participate, but they will be funded neither by FFG nor by OSEO.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from both countries (e.g. increased knowledge basis, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries on an equal basis, and the project must be equally significant to both participants.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the afore mentioned criteria can apply to the present Joint Action in accordance with the national Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

Submission and evaluation procedures for EUREKA Individual Projects

Projects should be submitted using the EUREKA Application form. An electronic copy of the proposal should be e-mailed to the respective representatives of FFG and OSEO (for e-mail addresses, please see end of this document). The EUREKA application form is available at:

<http://www.EUREKAnetwork.org/download-project-application-form>

The EUREKA Application Form will be screened and evaluated by OSEO and FFG.

Financing for EUREKA Individual Projects

Each country will fund its eligible participants according to their national procedure and funding rules. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary from one country to another. In summary, main aspects of the funding criteria are explained below:



France:

All companies that are established in accordance with the French Law can apply for funding for their international projects. Companies as well as universities and research centers participating in international projects are funded within the EUREKA Individual projects.

In the framework of **EUREKA Individual projects**, OSEO finances French partners mainly through refundable loans without interest. The approval by OSEO of a financial aid will depend on the finalization of a consortium agreement approved by OSEO.

The percentage for enterprises with less than 2000 employees is up to 50% (no maximum amount). University/Research Organisations are financed through a mix of two different kinds of funding: grant (up to 40% of their real costs with a maximum amount of 50K Euros) and refundable loans without interest.

Austria:

Applying the EUREKA structure, project participants will finance their costs from own funds, capital market or the applicable national, regional or international funding schemes.

Applications for research funding in the General Programmes of the FFG can be submitted at any time by companies of all sizes and all fields of industry. Research institutions and universities are supposed to apply together with an Austrian company for funding. Funding depends on whether the project meets the technical and economic evaluation criteria.

In addition to general research funding General Programmes offer other specific funding instruments of structure-oriented instruments.

Funding is up to 50 % (for start-ups up to 70 %) of total eligible project costs. The FFG uses a mix of three different kinds of funding

- > Grants
- > low-interest loans
- > guarantees for bank loans plus interest subsidies.

Contacts for questions and partner search requests

Austria - FFG

DI Reingard Neto, Tel.: +43-(0)5- 7755- 4901, Fax: +43-(0)5- 7755 - 94900,
e-mail: reingard.neto@ffg.at

DIDI (FH) Klemens Kabon: +43-(0)5- 7755- 4902, fax: +43-(0)5- 7755 - 94900,
e-mail: klemens.kabon@ffg.at

France - OSEO

Mr. Patrick Cornet, Tel.: +33141798438, Fax : +33 1 41 79 96 88,
e-mail: patrick.cornet@oseo.fr

Ms. Amandine Karoui, Tel : +33 (0) 1 41 79 91 47, Fax : +33 1 41 79 96 88,
e-mail : amandine.karoui@oseo.fr