

FFG FORUM 2010 – Vienna – 9th of September 2010

***How did competence centres in France Develop ?
the CARNOT programme***

Arnaud TORRES – “Carnot” Programme Officer

The Carnot programme was created to support the development of research in partnership with industry by bringing closer public research actors to the socio-economic world while facilitating and bridging the gap from fundamental research to industrial one.

In order to implement this policy, the 4-year Carnot label is delivered by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research to public research structures, i.e. the Carnot Institutes, which commit to putting public-private research at the heart of their strategy.

33 Carnot institutes were selected between 2006 and 2007. The 2009 key figures of the Carnot network are the following: 13 000 researchers, 1.45 B€ of consolidated budget, 5 000 research contracts with industry leading to 215 M€ of income.

The selection and the monitoring processes of institutes are performed by “l’Agence Nationale de la Recherche” (ANR). ANR was created in France in 2005 to enhance channelling of funds to project-based research.

ANR grants Carnot institutes with an additional funding calculated on the basis of their income from contractual research with industry. This funding, 61.5 M€ in 2009, is to help them renew their scientific and technological skills and thus ensure the long-term viability of their capacities and their participation in the innovation process, as well as improve the quality and professionalism of their research partnerships.

Moreover, in order to encourage international networks, ANR and “Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung” (BMBF) have set up a 3-year bilateral programme. It leads to dedicated calls for proposals for French-German collaborative research and innovation projects between the Fraunhofer and the Carnot institutes.

A first assessment of the programme shows that there is a good balance between the research offer of the Carnot institutes and the industrial fields. Furthermore, it shows that the system put in place is promising and enables the growth of partnership income: +30% in 3 years.