

**Call Title: Theme 4 – NMP - Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new
Production Technologies – SMEs 2012**

- **Call identifier:** FP7-NMP-2012-SME-6
- **Date of publication:** 20 July 2011
- **Deadline¹:** first stage: **8 November 2011** at 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)
- **Indicative budget:** **EUR 48 million²**. The budget for this call is indicative. The final budget of the call may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.
- **Topics called:**

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
Cross-cutting and enabling R&D	NMP.2012.1.4-3 Nanoscale mechanical metrology for industrial processes and products	<i>SME-targeted Collaborative Projects</i>
Innovative materials for advanced applications	NMP.2012.2.2-5 Halogen-free flame retardant materials	
Integration	NMP.2012.4.0-1 Novel materials and design-based solutions for the creative industry	
Raw materials	NMP.2012.4.1-2 Innovative recycling technologies of key metals in high-tech applications	

- **Eligibility conditions:**

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this Work Programme, and in the guide for applicants. Please note that the completeness criterion also includes that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

For SME-targeted Collaborative Projects the minimum conditions to participate are: at least three independent legal entities, each of which is established in a Member State or Associated Country, and no two of which are established in the same Member State or Associated Country. Please note that the financial resources mobilised within a project will be assessed during the evaluation against the real work to be carried out in the project.

The eligibility criteria apply to both first and second stage proposals. At stage 1, only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds, while part B will be used to check the number of eligible participants. At stage 2, part A will be used alone to determine these eligibility conditions.

¹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

² Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority

- **Additional eligibility criterion:**

SME-targeted Collaborative Projects will only be selected for funding on the condition that the requested EU contribution going to SME(s) is 35% or more of the total requested EU contribution. *This will be assessed at the end of the negotiation, before signature of the grant agreement. Proposals not fulfilling this criterion will not be funded.*

- **Evaluation procedure:**

The evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. The first stage proposal, of a maximum of 10 pages (A4 pages; font size 11 points; top, bottom, left right margins: 15mm), should focus on the S&T content and on clear identification of the intended results, their intended use and the expected impact (economic, social, environmental, etc), plus 2 pages to describe the consortium and the estimated financial resources involved. Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the EPSS. The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.

Stage 1 proposals will be evaluated remotely. Stage 1 proposals shall be submitted at the closure date mentioned above. Coordinators of retained proposals in stage 1 ('go' proposals) will be invited to submit a complete proposal that will be then evaluated against the entire set of evaluation criteria. The closure date of the second submission will be specified in the invitation to submit the complete proposal. The indicative closure date is: **3 May 2012**. Experts will carry out the individual evaluation of proposals remotely.

In order to ensure industrial relevance and impact of the research effort, the active participation of industrial partners represents an added value to the activities and this will be reflected in the evaluation, under the criteria Implementation and Impact.

In order to ensure an efficient implementation and maximum impact of SME-related activities, the following aspects will be evaluated under the criteria 'Implementation' and 'Impact':

- the leading role of SMEs with R&D capacities: the coordinator does not need to be an SME but the participating SMEs should have the decision making power in the project management and the output should be for the benefit of the participating SMEs and the targeted SME dominated industrial communities, and;
- level of SME involvement. Please take note of the additional eligibility criterion below.

For this call, the following criteria and thresholds are applied:

- **Evaluation criteria and thresholds for stage 1 proposals:**

Stage 1 proposals are evaluated on the basis of the following two criteria: **S/T quality and Impact**. For each criterion marks from 0 to 5 will be given, with the possibility of half-point scores. Successful proposals must pass the minimum thresholds as follows:

	Minimum threshold
S/T quality	4/5
Impact	3/5
Overall threshold required	8/10

Coordinators of retained proposals in stage 1 ('go' proposals) will receive the Evaluation Summary Report without scores. They will be invited to submit a complete proposal that will be then evaluated against the entire set of evaluation criteria.

- Evaluation criteria and thresholds for stage 2 proposals:

Stage 2 proposals are evaluated on the basis of the following three criteria: **1. S/T quality; 2. Implementation; 3. Impact.** For each criterion marks from 0 to 5 will be given, with the possibility of half-point scores. Successful proposals must pass the minimum thresholds as follows:

	Minimum threshold
S/T quality	4/5
Implementation	3/5
Impact	3/5
Overall threshold required	12/15

See also Annex 2: Eligibility and evaluation criteria for proposals. Further information on elements to be taken into account in the evaluation is given under the respective topic descriptions.

In contrast with Annex 2 to this Work Programme, at panel stage, the priority order of the proposals with equal overall scores will be established in accordance with their scores for the S/T Quality criterion. If they are still tied, they will be prioritised according to their scores for the Impact criterion. If proposals are still tied, they will be prioritised on the basis of the Work Programme coverage.

- **Indicative timetable:**

Evaluation Stage 1 proposals: November/December 2011; Evaluation stage 2 proposals: June 2012. Evaluation results: estimated to be available within two months after the call closure date. A reserve list of projects may be established.

- **Consortium agreements:**

Participants are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

- **The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates** which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Cooperation work programme.

- **Use of flat rates for subsistence costs:**

In accordance with Annex 3 to this Work Programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call. The applicable flat rates are available at the following website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html under 'Guidance documents/Flat rates for daily allowances'.