

**Call for a proposal for an  
indirect RTD action under the  
specific programme for  
research, technological  
development and  
demonstration on a user-  
friendly information society  
(1998 to 2002)  
(The IST Programme)**

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of December 22, 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter 'the fifth framework programme'), and with the Council Decision of January 25, 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on a user-friendly information society (1998 to 2002)<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter 'the specific programme'), the European Commission hereby invites a proposal for an indirect RTD action under the specific programme for the upgrade of the interconnection of the National Research and Education Networks.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme<sup>3</sup>, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives and priorities of the indirect RTD action referred to in this call notice corresponds to that set out in this work programme.

2. This call relates to a proposal called by a fixed deadline following which evaluation will take place. Should the proposal not meet this deadline, it will not be considered under this call notice.
3. The specific programme is implemented through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV to the fifth framework programme and in Annex III to the specific programme.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programme, the Council Decision of December 22, 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter 'the rules for participation and dissemination'), the work programme, and the *Implementation Modalities for the Upgrade of the*

*Interconnection of the National Research and Education Networks*<sup>5</sup>. The fifth framework programme Manual of Proposal Evaluation Procedures, along with its Annex I on this specific programme<sup>6</sup>, and the European Commission Regulation on the implementation of the rules for participation and dissemination<sup>7</sup>, provide further details.

Information on how to prepare and submit a proposal is given in the Guide for Proposers<sup>8</sup>, which can be obtained, along with the work programme, the Implementation Modalities referred to above, and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

*European Commission  
The IST Information Desk  
Directorate General Information Society  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium*

*Email: ist@cec.eu.int  
Fax: +32-2-2968388  
Web: www.cordis.lu/ist*

4. By this call, the European Commission hereby invites the legal entities in each Member and Associated State<sup>9</sup> in charge of operating the National Research and Education Networks to collectively submit an RTD proposal that addresses the following part of the work programme of the specific programme:

Action line: IST 2000 - VII.1.1 (RN1 – Interconnection of Research Networks).

The indicative total budget available for this call is 80 million euro of Community contribution.

The identifier for this call is: IST-00-RN-1

The deadline for the proposal is: May 31st, 2000 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

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5. The proposal must be sent before the deadline by one of the following methods:

<sup>5</sup> Commission Decision C(2000)1318 of 12 May 2000.

<sup>6</sup> Commission Decision C(1999)710 of 24 March 1999, as last modified with respect to Annex I to the Manual by Commission Decision C(2000)1318 of 12 May 2000.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

<sup>8</sup> Version for RN1 IST Call (May 2000).

<sup>9</sup> The following countries are associated to the fifth framework programme: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision C(2000)350 of 9 February 2000 adopting the Information Society Technologies (IST) 2000 work programme.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

- By post, preferably registered, as confirmed by the postmark, by courier<sup>10</sup>, or by hand-delivery, as confirmed by acknowledgement of receipt, to:

encouraged to be involved in proposal preparation and submission.

*The IST Programme  
The Research Proposal Office  
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium*

**Note:** Failure to use this address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having the proposal received by the IST Programme.

- Electronic submission, the details of which are given in the Guide for Proposers. When packaging a proposal for electronic submission, two files are created. The first is a small validation file that provides basic information on the proposal and a unique identification code. The European Commission must receive this validation file before the deadline specified above. The second file contains the proposal and must be received unmodified, as verifiable from the unique identification code, not later than 48 hours after this deadline.

A proposal sent by post must be posted before the deadline. A proposal received by the European Commission up to 10 working days after this deadline will be accepted if both sent by post and clearly postmarked before the deadline. A proposal sent by courier service or hand-delivered must be received before the deadline.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above to submit the proposal, and to submit only one version of the proposal. In the case of the proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be evaluated.

6. In all correspondence relating to this call (eg, when requesting information, or submitting the proposal) please make sure to cite the applicable call part identifier.

In submitting a proposal, either on paper or electronically, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

Any proposal received by the European Commission is treated in strict confidence.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member and Associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policy-making. This knowledge must have been generated by the RTD action supported as a result of this call and which addressed the part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly

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<sup>10</sup> For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use +32-2-2960245.