

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

- **Call identifier:** *FP7-NMP-2009-SME-3*
- **Date of publication:** 19 November 2008
- **Deadline:** For SME-targeted Collaborative Projects - first stage: 17 February 2009 at 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)
- **Indicative budget<sup>1</sup>:** **EUR 15 million<sup>2</sup> in 2009.** An amount for the 2010 budget is expected to be added to this call for which a new financing decision to cover the budget for that year will be requested at the appropriate time.
- **Topics called:**

Activity/ Area	Topics called	Funding Schemes
Advances in chemical technologies and materials processing	<b>NMP-2009-2.4-1 New biomass-based composite materials and their processing</b>	SME-targeted Collaborative Projects
Rapid transfer and integration of new technologies into the design and operation of manufacturing processes	<b>NMP-2009-3.4-2 Holistic and integrated approach to high performance, reliable and adaptive machine tool design and production</b>	
Integration of technologies for industrial applications	<b>NMP-2009-4.0-5 Innovative and knowledge-based tooling industry</b>	

- **Eligibility conditions:** The minimum number of participating legal entities for all funding schemes is set out in the Rules for Participation. For Small or medium scale focused research projects the minimum conditions to participate are: at least 3 independent legal entities, each of which is established in a MS or AC and no 2 of which are established in the same MS or AC.  
The general eligibility criteria are given in Annex 2 of the work programme. For SME targeted projects **no upper or lower limits** in EC contribution are applied.  
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.
- **Evaluation procedure:** For SME targeted projects the evaluation shall follow a two-stage procedure. The first stage proposal, of a maximum of 10 pages (font size 12) 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.) and 2 additional pages to describe the consortium and the estimated financial resources involved. It will be evaluated on the basis of two evaluation criteria, i.e.: *scientific quality and expected impact*. 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: 22 July 2009.

<sup>1</sup> The budget for this call is indicative. The final total budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of projects, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

<sup>2</sup> Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2009 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

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 selection criterion below.

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.

For this call, implemented via a two stage procedure, 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:

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

**- 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:

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

See also Annex 2: Eligibility and evaluation criteria for proposals

In contrast with Annex 2, 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.

• **Additional selection criterion**

SME-targeted Collaborative Projects will only be selected on the condition that the SME involvement is of the order of 35% or more of the requested EC contribution.

• **Indicative evaluation and contractual timetable:** Evaluation Stage 1 proposals: March 2009; Evaluation stage 2 proposals September 2009. Evaluation results: estimated to be available within two months after the closure date. A reserve list of projects might be established.

• **Consortia agreements:** Participants are required to conclude a consortium agreement.

• **Forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates** for projects funded through the Cooperation work programme are given in Annex 3.