



ERA-IB 1st Joint Call

“Industrial biotechnology for Europe: an integrated approach”

Information for German Applicants

ERA-IB's objective is to foster economic and academic IB players in sharing risks, costs and skills related to innovation in order to develop new knowledge, new products, technologies or supply services that could reach the market more efficiently. It is aimed at establishing cross-border partnerships between industrial and academic IB research, improving and accelerating technology transfer, and strengthening European efforts to achieve sustainable industrial development. These goals should be achieved by implementing common calls for trans-national R&D projects.

Under the umbrella of ERA-IB, most of the research programme funding and/or management organisations¹ have together decided to open the first joint call for multilateral research projects addressing “Industrial biotechnology for Europe: an integrated approach”. The ERA-IB first joint call was announced January 29th, 2008 and published in February 2008. In order to support the German applicants some information are summarised in this document.

The following organisations from Germany will take part in the ERA-IB 1st joint call:²

- Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR)
- Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft (SMUL)

Expected Projects

Funding possibilities will be offered to excellent innovative industrially relevant R&D and applied research projects. Applications should integrate several of the below given topics of industrial biotechnology into the proposal:

- Novel enzymes and microorganisms for new and more efficient bioprocesses
- Metabolic engineering for the improvement of industrial microorganisms
- Enzyme design combining rational and or evolutionary methods
- Development of multi-enzyme processes and modular enzymes
- Microbial stress under process conditions
- Development of new platform chemicals, including biomonomers
- Development of new and functionalised biopolymers
- Process analytical technologies for improved bioprocess understanding
- Scale-up of bioprocesses
- Innovative down-stream processing and biocatalyst recycling
- Biotechnological upgrading and valorisation of biorefinery byproducts

ERA-IB wants to foster the integration of different steps of the whole value chain. Therefore projects only covering one of the above given topics will not be considered.

The funding is carried out according to the “nationality principle”, meaning that each participating national or regional funding agency funds their respective national research partners in a particular project consortium. The applications should fit to the specific remit of the national/regional funding organisations. They will be addressed in an annex to the call.

¹ Not all organisations of ERA-IB will participate in the 1st joint call.

² Although BMBF/PTJ is a partner in ERA-IB, it will not be participate in the 1st joint call.



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For Germany the regulations have to fit to the guidelines of the participating German funding organisations, i.e. the following national or regional regulations/programmes are to meet:

- **BMELV-Förderprogramm “Nachwachsende Rohstoffe”** (for applicants to the Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR))
- **“Förderrichtlinie besondere Initiativen – RL BesIn/2007“** (for Saxon applicants to the Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft (SMUL))

Applicants are strongly recommended to contact FNR and SMUL for advice. Saxon applicants should preferably contact SMUL.

Consortia consisting of at least three partners from three different participating countries or regions may apply for funding. The consortia can involve a maximum of ten partners. Large companies, small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and academic research groups / organisations can be a part of a consortium. The funding and/or required participation of industrial partners is subject to national or regional regulations.

Parties from countries which do not take part in the ERA-IB call may be part of a consortium at their own cost if their contribution is mandatory to achieve the project goals. Industrial partners that cannot be funded by their national / regional funding organisation may participate in a consortium at their own cost. However, the maximum of ten project partners may not be exceeded. Within a joint proposal, each group leader will be the contact person for the relevant national or regional funding agency. All research groups agree to abide by the rules and agreements made within the call framework of ERAIB.

All project partners are required to sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) within three months of the project start. The CA must be made available on request to the national or regional funding organisation together with any other information required by national or regional regulations.

Application Procedure

The application process is two-phased with the ERA-IB office as the central communication point for all applicants. First a pre-proposal should be submitted electronically to the ERA-IB office via ERA-IB's website³. The coordinators of pre-proposals which pass the first step will be invited to submit a full proposal. All application forms will be available on the ERA-IB website (www.era-ib.net) after the launch of the call. No full proposal will be accepted without previous submission of a pre-proposal.

Eligibility Criteria

Only pre-proposals meeting all eligibility-criteria given in the call will be considered for evaluation. National or regional eligibility-criteria will be given in an annex to the call. In addition, all pre-proposals must meet the general ERA-IB eligibility criteria and the national or regional eligibility-criteria.

Submission, Forms, Guidelines and further information

All documents related to the call (call texts, application forms, application guidelines, additional information etc.) are available on the ERA-IB website (www.era-ib.net).

Both pre- and full proposals must be submitted through the electronic submission system via the ERA-IB website

³ Details are given in the call text and the call documents.



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As the countries may have additional national or regional requirements it is strongly recommended to contact the national or regional contact persons for further information. Information for German applicants are given by:

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Time schedule

29.01.2008	Call announcement
08.02. 2008	Call publication
05.03.2008	Partnering Workshop (Frankfurt, Germany)
31.03.2008	Deadline for submitting the pre-proposals
Beginning of May 2008	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal evaluation
30.06.2008	Deadline for full project proposal submission (for those projects that pass the pre-proposal phase)
30.10.2008	Communication of the funding decision
Early 2009	Project start

National/Regional German regulations and eligibility criteria**Fachagentur Nachhaltige Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR)**

- Funding is based on the German national programme called „Programm des Bundesministeriums für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (BMELV) zur Förderung von Forschungs-, Entwicklungs- und Demonstrationsvorhaben im Bereich der Nachhaltigen Rohstoffe“ (www.fnr-server.de/cms35/Nachwachsende-Rohstoff.84.0.html). Only projects, which are fully consistent with this RTD-programme, are eligible for funding.
- Projects concerning the areas “Food” and “Feed” cannot be funded.
- The German participation in the proposed project must be conducted in Germany.
- Double funding is not possible.
- Funding for companies in Germany is only possible if the company is registered in Germany. The company must be well established in Germany with plants, laboratories, employees, etc. The company must have appropriate own financing for the project that they are applying funding for. The company must demonstrate its capability (in terms of dimension: personnel, laboratories, facilities) to gear properly its project effort.
- The project must add benefit to the German economy.
- All German applicants passing the pre-proposal stage have to submit a national application immediately after they have submitted their full proposal to ERA-IB. The national application forms including further information are found under the internet page www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy. The national application forms must be submitted electronically and as hardcopy to FNR.
- The applicant shall provide all information needed for evaluation to FNR, ERA-IB and the evaluation panel.

- The funding frame is the SMUL-guideline "Richtlinie des Sächsischen Staatsministeriums für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft für die Förderung von besonderen Initiativen vom 1. August 2007 (Förderrichtlinie Besondere Initiativen - RL Besln/2007).
- For the proposals (not for the pre-proposals!) regional application forms are to be used.(see http://www.umwelt.sachsen.de/de/wu/umwelt/1744_2653.htm)