

www.OLAEplus.eu

OLAE+ : Organic large-area electronics

**EUROPEAN COMPETITION FOR
COLLABORATIVE R&D FUNDING**

OCTOBER 2011

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS
ERA-NET PLUS**



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General conditions

OLAE + is a transnational call for collaborative research and development proposals under the European Commission's (EC's) ERA-NET Plus scheme. We are seeking proposals to develop and stimulate the technology and business relationships within the European organic large-area electronics (OLAE) community, building the supply chain and removing barriers to industrialisation.

OLAE + is a joint initiative by:

- Technology Strategy Board, UK
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
- VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH, Germany
- Israel-Europe R&D Directorate for the EU Framework Program (ISERD), Israel
- Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie (IWT), Flanders
- VINNOVA – Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, Sweden
- National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), Poland
- Agency for the Support of Businesses in Catalonia (ACC1Ó), Catalonia
- Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)/Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), Austria.



It is co-funded by the EC's Directorate-General Information Society and Media (DG INFSO).

The table below shows the national and European funds that have been allocated to fund research projects (these figures are the maximum amounts available). The rules and procedures of this call have been developed and agreed by the participating national funding bodies (OLAE+ agencies) in strict consideration of the ERA-NET Plus scheme as defined by the EC. The call is organised as a competition for funding and will be

implemented jointly by the national funding bodies.

The competition is open to participants from Austria, Catalonia, Flanders, Germany, Israel, Poland, Sweden and the UK (the participating countries and regions). We expect to fund a mixture of small and large projects, with total costs typically in the range €0.5m to €3m. Projects must be bi or multinational, collaborative, application-orientated and pre-competitive.

Applications will need to satisfy general and national criteria to be eligible for funding. The participants in a project to be funded through this competition will need to confirm that a consortium agreement is in place before the project starts.

Each national funding body will issue funding contracts (grant agreements) to individual project participants in accordance with its national law. Grants will be paid to the project participants solely by the national funding bodies. The reporting duties of individual project participants will be determined by the relevant national regulations.

Each project must attend an annual co-ordination meeting of all the OLAE + projects to share progress and best

National and European indicative funding for OLAE+ projects

Country or Region	Contribution from national funding bodies (up to)	Contribution from European Commission (up to)	Country total (up to)
Austria	€500k	€250k	€750k
Catalonia	€500k	€250k	€750k
Flanders	€1m	€500k	€1.5m
Germany	€4m	€2m	€6m
Israel	€1m	€500k	€1.5m
Poland	€600k	€300k	€900k
Sweden	€600k	€300k	€900k
UK	€4m	€2m	€6m
TOTAL	€12.2m	€6m max	€18.2m max



practice as the projects develop. The project co-ordinator, on behalf of the consortium, must also submit an annual short standard report in English on the project's progress. For the final report, the project co-ordinator must summarise the results, accomplishments and impact of the project. The final reports must be suitable to be published by the participating countries and the EC.

This is a two-stage competition. It opens on **24 October 2011**; the deadline for submitting stage-1 pre-proposals is **31 January 2012** (13:00 CET); and the deadline for submitting stage-2 full proposals is **31 May 2012** (13:00 CET).

Purpose

Organic and large-area electronics (also known as plastic electronics, printed electronics or organic electronics) allows electronic circuits and devices to be produced using relatively low-cost printing processes onto any surface, whether rigid or flexible, and over large areas. It will lead to the creation of whole new generations of products, such as conformable and rollable electronic display screens, large-area efficient lighting, low-cost solar cells, low-cost RFIDs and memories, and flexible and environmentally friendly batteries. Its global market value is forecast to increase from a little over €1bn today to more than €200bn by 2027. Europe has a lead in the development of OLAE technology and has a vibrant emerging supply chain that must be supported and strengthened.

The purposes of this proposed coordinated programme are:

- to stimulate the technology and business relationships within the European OLAE community, removing barriers to industrialisation
- to contribute to knowledge and technology transfer from laboratory to manufacture, thus significantly accelerating the speed of innovation and industrial development of OLAE in Europe
- to enhance the supply chain by improving materials and processes and substantially advancing the potential for new business cases in OLAE
- to stimulate collaboration between European enterprises, universities and R&D centres

Scope for applications

All proposals must be based on OLAE technologies. Proposals should address one or more of the following:

- exploration and validation of new and innovative OLAE materials and their use in new functional devices and systems
- process compatibility and integration for advanced system development
- the development of production equipment and processes that enable the large-scale manufacturing of displays, lighting, photovoltaics and integrated smart systems using current or next-generation material sets
- innovations in testing and measurement to enable or demonstrate high-volume in-line testing and repair
- the development of new devices, materials, architectures, circuits or modelling tools to enable additional or improved device functionality, such as complementary semiconductor devices that improve speed and power; or display, sensor or power devices that perform better and/or are more compatible with plastic electronic fabrication processes
- significant improvements in barrier layer performance to manufacture at high speed, large volume and high yield
- device, component and/or system early demonstrators, including organic photovoltaics, displays, lighting, and integrated smart systems
- early validation of OLAE manufacturing techniques, including modelling and development of design/layout tools
- showcasing the potential for new products and new business models and business cases in the supply chain through any of the above.

General rules of participation

The competition will be open to participants from Austria, Catalonia, Flanders, Germany, Israel, Poland, Sweden and the UK (the participating countries and regions).

In exceptional circumstances, partners from additional countries may be involved in the project. However, they will not receive any funding from the OLAE+ agencies and their role must be clearly defined and justified.

In order to be considered eligible and to be admitted to the independent transnational evaluation in the second stage, applications must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- the application must be written in English and it must have been received duly and complete in its entirety before the deadline given in this announcement
- at least two independent partners/organisations from at least two participating countries have to be involved in the project
- not more than 75% of the total eligible project costs shall be incurred by any single organisation or by the organisations from a single participating country
- project duration shall be between 24 and 36 months
- all applications must align with the technical scope defined in section three
- the project results have to be exploitable in the participating countries.

In addition, the national eligibility criteria that apply to the participants of a project proposal must be met. For the national eligibility criteria see Appendix A 'Criteria for eligibility and evaluation'.



Evaluation criteria

Projects will be expected to focus on critical issues in the areas defined above, explaining why they are critical, and exactly what impact the successful completion of the project will have.

Proposals should also be explicit about their future path to commercialisation. In the second stage, the full proposals will be judged against the following evaluation criteria:

- scientific and/or technological excellence
- quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management
- potential impact.

Process

All proposals must be submitted online by one of the partners, acting as the project coordinator on behalf of the consortium. Application forms (including national annexes) are available for download from the OLAE+ website at www.olaepius.eu

For applicants looking to build collaborations, visit the 'Find partners' section of the OLAE+ website. Your national contact point may also be able to help (visit http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html).

There are two stages to the competition:

Stage 1: pre-proposal

Applicants must submit a four-page 'light' proposal containing a description

of the consortium, an abstract of the work plan including technical details, and a finance plan. Budgetary figures shall be included in the proposal so that participating countries can plan their national budgetary commitments at an early stage.

The national funding bodies will check these pre-proposals against the general and national eligibility criteria (see Appendix A, sections A1 to A2).

Consortia whose proposals cannot for any reason be funded by one or more of the participating countries will be warned at this early stage. Letters will be sent to the project coordinators, with comments and advice about eligibility (general and national), technical scope, and finances and budget.

No applicants will be formally excluded at stage 1. The relevant funding bodies may give additional oral feedback; for example, to the other participants in a consortium. This may include advice about how the project can become eligible for funding.

Stage 2: full proposal

All of the members of an R&D project consortium must jointly submit a 30-40-page full proposal, containing a structured description of the proposed work (objectives, state-of-the-art technology, work plan and resources, impact and exploitation) and a list of the partners.

Along with the full proposal, each

consortium partner must also submit a national annex relating to their country of origin, where requested. The national annexes address the eligibility criteria of each participating country (see Appendix A, section A2). We will use the full proposal and the national annexes to determine if the project and the partners are eligible for funding.

The project coordinator must collect signed commitments in writing from all the partners and send them to their national OLAE+ contact (see Appendix B) within 30 days of submitting the full proposal.

The full proposals will be evaluated in two steps:

Evaluation step 1: Each participating country will assess proposals that include project partners from their country, and perform a final check against the national eligibility criteria. Proposals that do not meet each participating country's eligibility criteria will be rejected, and a letter will be sent to the project coordinators explaining the reasons for rejection.

Evaluation step 2: Proposals that are accepted by the participating countries will then be assessed by independent international experts. The experts will check the proposals against general evaluation criteria (see Appendix A, section A4) which will result in a ranked list of how well they meet the criteria.

The available funds will be allocated to the projects on the ranked list in descending order. To ensure that the projects can be funded according to the final ranking, 20% of the EC funds will be reserved in a common 'balancing pot'. The balancing pot will be used to fund eligible consortium partners who cannot otherwise participate because their country has allocated all of its funds to the projects ranked above, while funding for other partners in the consortium is still available.

Key dates

Competition opens	24 October 2011
Deadline for submission of stage-1 pre-proposals	31 January 2012 (13:00 CET)
Feedback to applicants on stage-1 pre-proposals	9 March 2012
Second Stage opens	12 March 2012
Deadline for submission of stage-2 full proposals	31 May 2012 (13:00 CET)
Feedback to applicants for full proposals	17 August 2012
Projects start	end of 2012

Appendix A: Criteria for eligibility and evaluation

A1 General eligibility criteria

Participating countries: The competition is open to participants from Austria, Catalonia, Flanders, Germany, Israel, Poland, Sweden and the UK (the participating countries and regions). In exceptional circumstances, partners from other countries may be involved in the project. However, they will not receive any funding from the national funding bodies and their role must be clearly defined and justified.

Language: All applications, contractual documents and reports at consortium level must be written in English.

Minimum number of participants: At least two independent partners or organisations from at least two participating countries must be involved in the project.

Balance: Not more than 75% of the total eligible project costs shall be incurred by any single organisation or by the organisations from a single participating country.

Project duration: Projects must last between 24 and 36 months.

Scope: All applications must align with the technical scope (see section 3, 'Scope for applications').

Exploitation: The project results must be exploitable in the participating countries and the EU. The full proposal must clearly demonstrate the plan to exploit, apply and/ or commercialise the results of the project.

A2 National eligibility criteria

Austria

The following legal entities are eligible for funding:

- enterprises
- non-profit research institutes
- universities
- associations.

Entities that are part of the Austrian federal administration are excluded from funding.

Funding intensity depends on the

research category and the organisation type as outlined in the table below:

Projects with Austrian participation must involve at least one Austrian enterprise. Austrian partners are not allowed to be the project coordinator. A national annex must be submitted.

Detailed information is available from the FFG at www.ffg.at/olaepus

The national rules on eligible costs for Austrian participants are available from the FFG at www.ffg.at/kostenleitfaden ('Kostenleitfaden für Vorhaben mit EU-Kofinanzierung' in the most recent version).

	Small enterprises	Medium enterprises	Large enterprises	Research organisations
Industrial research	80%	70%	55%	80%
Experimental development	60%	50%	35%	60%



Catalonia

Small, medium and large companies can be funded. Private research centres, universities and other public research entities registered in Catalonia can participate as sub-contractors.

Technically and financially feasible R&D projects based on OLAE technologies that lead to a significant increase in the R&D company's activities are eligible.

Personnel costs, external collaborations for R&D activities related to the project, equipment (where applicable), intellectual property rights activities (for small and medium-sized enterprises only), and other costs such as travelling and management costs (only when the Catalan organisation is coordinator) are eligible.

Funding intensity:

- large enterprises receive a maximum of 50% of the costs of research activities and 25% of the costs of development activities
- medium-sized companies receive a maximum of 60% of the costs of research activities and 35% of the costs of development activities
- small companies receive a maximum of 70% of the costs of research activities and 45% of the costs of development activities.

Check specific rules for participation at www.acc10.cat/ACC10/cat/ajuts-financament

Flanders

The eligibility criteria for Flanders are published on the IWT website at www.iwt.be/subsidies/oeno-bedrijfsproject

Germany

Project consortia with German participants must include at least one industrial partner (company) based in Germany.

Funding of German participants is available:

- for companies (funding up to 50% of the total eligible costs; SMEs may receive an additional bonus of up to 10%)
- for universities and research institutes/ organisations (funding up to 100% of the total eligible costs/expenditures).

Companies are expected to contribute to the costs of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)-funded academic and research partners within the project consortium (if any) according to their economic capacity.

The national regulations AnBest-P, BNBEST-BMBF 98 and/or NKBF 98 apply. The documents can be found at www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/formular.html

Special regulations for German universities of applied sciences ('Fachhochschulen'): Universities of applied sciences that have been

successful in the OLAE+ evaluation and selection procedure will have the option to receive additional funding.

This advanced funding can be formally requested for an additional (secondary) research project within a qualification/ profiling category of the BMBF funding scheme 'Profil – Neue Technologien (ProfilINT)'.

The topic and the work to be performed in the additional project must relate to the subject matter of the primary project. At the same time, it must include advanced or new research issues while varying significantly in terms of the tasks in order to avoid duplication.

The work plans and the personnel resources of the primary and secondary project must not overlap. The evaluation of the secondary projects and the granting of the ProfilINT funds will be subject to a separate selection procedure.

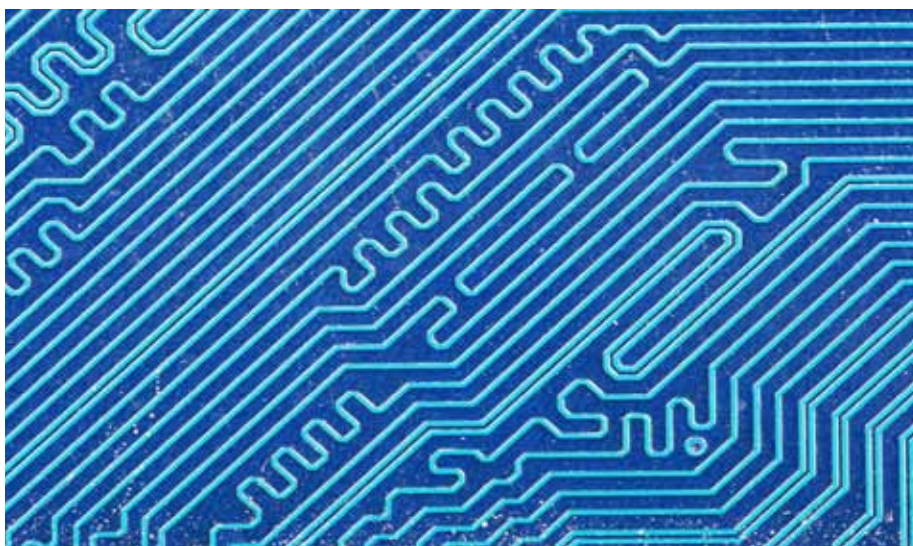
The funding agency responsible for the implementation of the ProfilINT funding scheme on behalf of the BMBF is the AIF F.T.K. GmbH. Further information (legal basis, eligibility, hints for applicants, etc) is available on the internet at www.bmbf.de/de/1956.php

Israel

Only industry partners are eligible for funding. Proposals must include a single or multi-year programme that will provide know-how, processes or methods for the manufacture of a new product or the significant improvement of an existing product, or a new process or a significant improvement in an existing process. The product must have a sizeable potential for export sales.

The support is in the form of a conditional grant amounting to 20%, 30%, 40% or 50% of the approved R&D budget. Israeli participants recommended for funding will be required to submit a proposal to the R&D fund and will be funded based on its rules.

More details and application forms in Hebrew are available from the website www.moital.gov.il/madan.htm





Poland

The following organisations are eligible for funding:

1. research organisations: public and non-public universities, institutes established by the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institutes (including international). Funding quota is up to 100% of eligible costs
2. enterprises (including micro, small, medium and large enterprises) registered in Poland. Funding for this category depends on type of research and size of enterprise.

Funding intensity of the total budget for industrial research:

- micro and small enterprises up to 80% of eligible costs
- medium enterprises up to 75% of eligible costs
- large enterprises up to 65% of eligible costs

Funding intensity of the total budget for experimental development:

- micro and small enterprises up to 60% of eligible costs
- medium enterprises up to 50% of eligible costs
- large enterprises up to 40% of eligible costs

The Polish participants recommended for funding will be required to submit a proposal to the Polish National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR) and

will be funded based on its rules. More details and application forms in Polish are available from the website www.ncbir.gov.pl

Sweden

Swedish enterprises, research organisations and secondary and higher education establishments are eligible for funding. At least one of the project participants has to be a Swedish enterprise and VINNOVA will fund up to 50% of the Swedish participants' total eligible costs

UK

The following types of organisation are eligible for funding:

- national industry – small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (up to 60%)
- large companies (up to 50%)
- academics and universities (80% of full economic costs).

Grants must not exceed 50% of the project's total eligible costs. Eligible projects must include at least one UK industrial partner and all UK project participants must be separate legal entities. At least 50% of the research must be carried out by the industry partner(s), and sub-contracting should not exceed 25% of the project's total eligible costs.

A4 General evaluation criteria

The stage 2 proposals will be judged against the following criteria:

- scientific and/or technological excellence
- relevance to the purpose and the objectives of this competition
- the potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results
- the quality and efficiency of the implementation and management.

NOTE: Most funding agencies will not pay grant claims without a consortium agreement that has been signed by all the partners on a project. The project team is encouraged to discuss and finalise a consortium agreement as early as possible in the application and funding process.



Appendix B: National Contact Points

We strongly encourage all participants to communicate with their national contact point to determine eligibility before submitting an application. Details are as follows:

Austria

Funding agency:
FFG
Contact:
Doris Vierbauch
E-mail:
doris.vierbauch@ffg.at
Tel:
+43 (0)5 7755 – 5024

Catalonia

Funding agency:
ACC10
Contact:
David Rovirosa
E-mail:
drovirosa@acc10.cat
Tel:
+34 93 567 49 13

Flanders

Funding agency:
IWT
Contact:
Francis Deprez
E-mail:
fd@iwt.be
Tel:
+32 2 432 4301

Germany

Funding agency:
VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH (on behalf of the BMBF)
Contact:
Sebastian Krug
E-mail:
krug@vdi.de
Tel:
+49-211-6214-472

Israel

Funding agency:
The CSO fund - The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor
Management agency:
ISERD - www.iserd.org.il
Contact:
Aviv Zeevi Balasiano
E-mail:
aviv@iserd.org.il
Tel:
+972-3-5118121

Poland

Funding agency:
NCBIR
Contact:
Jacek Pardyak

E-mail:

j.pardyak@ncbir.pl

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+48 22 58 30 501

Sweden

Funding agency:

VINNOVA

Contact:

Ulf Öhlander

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UK

Funding agency:

Technology Strategy Board

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Contact 2:

Greg May

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greg.may@tsb.gov.uk

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+44 (0)1793 442700

Further information

To find consortium partners and details of OLAE+ events and national information days, please visit the OLAE+ website at www.OLAEplus.eu