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## EMRP Call 2007

# Background and Key Steps

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*Expressions of Interest (Eols) are invited by EURAMET e.V. for metrology R&D contributing support to the objectives of the European National Measurement Systems and the European Metrology Research Programme. This Call is open to institutes that are a formal part of a National Metrology Laboratory network from participating countries (as defined in the Eligibility Criteria).*

The central nerve in the spine of our high-tech world is metrology, the science of measurement. Ever more precise and reliable measurements are essential in our daily lives, and to drive innovation within our knowledge based economy. What we cannot measure, we do not understand properly, and cannot control nor manufacture or process reliably. Thus advances in metrology have a profound impact on our understanding of and ability to shape the world around us. Building on an existing collaboration (the European Commission supported ERA-NET "iMERA") this Call will implement the first chapter of a cohesive and strategic joint European Metrology Research Programme (EMRP) for R&D in metrology.

The programme brings together nationally funded metrology activities from around twenty participating countries, creating critical mass to enable Europe to respond to the growing demands for cutting edge metrology. This Call covers four priority topic areas from the EMRP, as identified in the Call Scope. These priority areas are referred to as Targeted Programmes (TPs). The Call encompasses a two-stage process:

- Stage 1: National filtering of topics ensures that only those ideas of appropriate quality, able to attract the necessary national resources, are carried through to the second stage. This first stage encompasses submission of Expressions of Interest followed by development of proposed collaborative R&D projects – Joint Research Projects (JRPs).
- Stage 2: A competitive pan-European independently refereed evaluation and post processing resulting in a final list of collaborative Joint Research Projects.

Following the second stage of the Call and selection process contract negotiations for the JRPs take place, including the provision for financial support, monitoring and impact assessment.

The total budget for successful JRPs is expected to be at least 63 M€, approximately two-thirds funded by the participants through their national actions and one-third funded by the EC. The indicative budget distribution between the four TPs is:

TP1 SI and Fundamental	21 M€
TP2 Health	21 M€
TP3 Length	9 M€
TP4 Electricity and Magnetism	12 M€

This budget distribution is not binding. The supported JRPs will be selected through the independent refereed evaluation process described below which results in a single list of successful projects. Thus the final budget distribution will depend on the quality of the JRPs, independent of the TP in which they sit.

**The key steps in the Call and selection process are summarised below, with those actions directly covered by this Call for Expressions of Interested identified in yellow:**

- Publication of a Call for Expression of Interest against the 4 TPs with indicative budget distribution.
- Each interested eligible institute submits a single Eol per TP (so between 1 and 4 depending on the breadth of their interest) by the deadline using the template provided.
- Within each Eol, the eligible institute:
  - Lists Areas of Interest
  - Nominates one person - the "NMI-expert" - to represent the institute in that TP (so the number of experts per institute can not be more than the number of Eols).
  - Provides a single budget cost figure for the laboratory for a person month

Following submission of the Eols and shortly after the deadline:

- Eols will be made available to all eligible submitting institutes (on a per TP basis)
- The nominated NMI-experts then have a collective responsibility to:
  - Appoint a TP-coordinator for their TP, from amongst the NMI-experts.
  - If they so choose agree a subset “TP drafting group” (the remaining members forming the “TP review group”)
  - Refine the Eols into a suite of draft JRPs that meet the strategic objectives of the TP
  - Appoint one JRP-coordinator responsible for leading the elaboration of each JRP, with outline costing.
- The TP-coordinator prepares a brief overview/summary of the proposed JRPs explaining the role of each of the JRPs and demonstrating how they meet the TP objectives.

Following submission of the proposed JRPs:

- The input Eols, the summary/overview and the proposed JRPs will be sent electronically to the independent referees.
  - The independent referees familiarise themselves with the contents and form a first opinion.
- The referees, the TP-coordinators, the JRP-coordinators and the EMRP Committee (or representatives thereof) led by the TP “guardians” (a “guardian” is member of the EMRP Committee with particular responsibility for that TP), supported by the iMERA-Plus Secretariat, meet in a “Review Conference” spanning all four TPs in which:
  - The iMERA-Plus Secretariat explains the ground rules for the evaluation
  - The EMRP Committee “guardian” explains the strategic vision of the EMRP and the TPs
  - Each TP-coordinator presents the summary/overview of the TP JRPs to the referees
  - Each JRP-coordinator presents their proposed JRP (poster, oral etc as appropriate) to the referees allowing for discussion of the scientific issues
  - The referees meet with the EMRP Committee (or representatives thereof) to discuss strategic issues such as core projects, additional projects, project interdependency etc
  - The referees make an individual preliminary evaluation of the JRPs and then meet together in closed session to jointly reach a consensus evaluation of the JRPs against predefined criteria using a standard protocol
  - The referees make their recommendations to the EMRP Committee including go/no go recommendations and ranking of recommended JRPs
  - The preliminary findings are communicated to the Conference
- The iMERA-Plus secretariat ensure, after the fact, that the final detailed costings follow the funding rules.
- The EMRP Committee finalise the selection list based on the recommendations of the referees, taking into account the closing out of any outstanding comments from them and any impacts from the final detailed costing exercise.
- The “extended panel” (an independent referee sub-panel, consisting of one referee per TP) validate and endorse the final selection list.
- The Research Council reviews the Call and selection process, and the outcome, and provides an advisory “opinion” to EMRP Committee.
- The EMRP Committee endorse the final list which, together with the Research Council opinion, is sent to the European Commission as the deliverable from the ERA-NET Plus.
- JRP contract negotiations take place.
- JRP contracts are put in place, including lifetime monitoring and reporting.

Submission of an Eol does not bind the submitter nor EURAMET e.V. to further negotiations, and EURAMET e.V reserves the right to cancel all or part of the Call. The second stage of the Call is dependent on funding being secured. EURAMET e. V. will make no payment and no reimbursement of expenses related to the preparation of any Expression of Interest or the preparation of any subsequent Joint Research Projects.