"Effective asset management meeting future challenges"
Cross-border funded Joint Research Programme
- Call for proposals -

1) Introduction

"Effective asset management meeting future challenges" is a cross-border funded, trans-national joint research programme that was initiated by **ERA-NET ROAD II** (ENR2). The ENR2 project is a Coordination Action funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the EC.

The participating National Road Administrations (NRA) in this Joint Research Programme are Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. As in previous ERA-NET ROAD programmes, they establish a Programme Executive Board (PEB) and decide on a Programme Leader (PL).

The Common Obligation Programme Model from the 'ENR-toolkit' is foreseen for this joint programme. It means, that the call for proposals will be opened and conducted by the PL in its country under its law and regulations and the budget is jointly funded by all participants of the PEB.

2) Objectives

The overall aim of the joint research programme "**Effective asset management meeting future challenges**" is to improve the management of the European road network. The research will focus on the development of efficient management tools in a **holistic approach** covering **all components** of the road network (pavement, bridges, tunnels, gantries, signs, lighting system, etc) and encompassing the whole service life "from cradle to grave" in order to maximise the potential benefits of these important national assets.

The programme is based on the following **four objectives** (described in the Description of Research Needs):

A) **Meeting stakeholders' requirements and expectations**

B) **Understanding asset performance**

C) **Development of suitable key performance Indicators (KPIs) for the future**

D) **Framework for optimised asset management**

These objectives were developed following a series of workshops involving specialists from the partners Road Authorities. In these workshops, it was recognised that the traditional approach to managing roads, based primarily on the condition of the pavement and structures, is inadequate for today's needs as they largely ignore the wider issues such as stakeholders expectations, whole life costing, sustainability and the environment. This research programme seeks to redress the problem by integrating these issues into an optimised management framework.

Applicants should ensure their proposals are clearly linked to **only one of the four objectives, although it is accepted that there is considerable overlap between them. Proposals should emphasise the trans-national benefit** of the project outcomes for the participating Road Authorities in the context of effective road management.

3) Eligible applicants

Only applicants from legal independent entities established in Europe are eligible.

Applications must be submitted by a coordinator of a consortium of at least two independent legal entities (including the coordinator) from different countries in Europe. A maximum 75% of the workload can be assigned to one partner.

Organisations which have taken part in drafting the Description of Research Needs cannot be part of a consortium submitting an application.

(*see: ENR SRO4 Guide for Applicants*)

4) Budget and timetable

The total budget earmarked for the cofinancing of projects amounts to EUR 2.85 million. Financial assistance will exceed to 100 % of the total eligible costs for "applied research" projects.

Given the budget of **EUR 2.85 million**, it is estimated that **10 to 15 projects** could be financed.

The duration of this joint research programme is 30 months.

The duration for individual projects can be up to 24 months.

The call **opens on 29th of January 2010**.

The call **closes on 12th of March 2010** (13:00 CET)

5) Further information

The programme language is English. The programme currency is Euro.

The full text of this call for proposals, ***Description of Research Needs***, the ***Guide for Applicants*** and the ***Application Form***, can be downloaded at the following internet address:

Information and download: http://www.eranetroad.org/

Applicants must comply with all terms of the full text and be submitted on the forms provided.