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INNOVAWOOD SUPPLEMENT

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1 EVENTS, CONFERENCES AND COURSES

1.1 Events in brief

Ecowood: 3rd international conference & exhibition on environmentally compatible forest products. 10th-12th September 2008. For more information visit the conference website at <http://homepage.ufp.pt/ecowood/>.

Woodfuel supply chain – Sharing experience. International workshop. Warwick, England. 14th-19th September 2008. Visit www.ieabioenergytask31.org for more information.

Environmental technologies work programme information day. Brussels, Belgium. 15th September 2008. Visit http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/environment/events_en.html for more information.

FP7 – Environment & Energy National Information Day. Dublin, Ireland. 22nd September. Visit www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/events/ for more information.

International panel products symposium. Helsinki, Finland. 24th-26th September. For more information visit www.ipps.uk.com.

Socio-economic perspectives of treated wood for the common European market – COST E37 Conference. Bordeaux, France. 29th-30th September 2008. For more information visit www.bfafh.de/cost37.htm.

Next generation biofuels markets – Driving the development of next generation. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 6th-7th October 2008. For more information on the event visit www.greenpowerconferences.com/biofuelsmarkets/nextgen_08.html.

6th European wood-based panel symposium: Economic and ecological challenges, new products and technologies. Hanover, Germany. 8th-10th October 2008. Visit www.wki.fraunhofer.de for more information.

Forecasting methods and assessment tools for sustainable development. FP7 information day for proposals under the ‘Environment (including climate change)’ theme. Brussels, Belgium. 15th-16th October 2008.

3rd international softwood conference. Helsinki, Finland, 16th-17th October 2008. For more information visit the conference website at the following address: http://eos-oes.eu/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&itemid=12.

End user’s needs for wood material and products – COST E53 Conference. Delft, The Netherlands. 29th-30th October 2008. For more information visit the conference website at www.citg.tudelft.nl/live/pagina.jsp?id=0cb87cff-4fcb-46c3-a259-e8df865353ad&lang=en.

Forest Tech Europe 2008 – International conference on emerging technologies for the forest industry. Helsinki, Finland. 5th-6th November 2008. Visit www.forest-tech.net and refer to section 1.4 of this newsletter for more information.

The European forest-based sector: bio-responses to address new climate and energy challenges? International conference. Nancy, France. 6th-8th November 2008. For more information visit www.nancy-congres.com.

2nd international forestry training centres conference. Lyss, Switzerland. 19th-21st November 2008. Visit www.eduforest.eu/index3.php?page=31 for more information.

Contribution of wood science and wood industries to the issues of sustainable development. Bordeaux La Bastide, France. 20th-21st November 2008. Visit the event website at www.pindeslandes.org/arbora/colloque.html.

1.2 European Forest Week – Working together for sustainable forest management in Europe

European Forest Week will take place between the 20th and the 24th of October 2008, with events taking place in Brussels, Rome and throughout Europe. The objectives of European Forest Week are to:

- increase the visibility of the forest-based sector and its contribution to the development of the economy and society in Europe;
- raise awareness of the forests' contribution to mitigating climate change, providing fresh water and protecting the environment and
- engage with other sectors in participatory dialogue on forest-related issues.

European Forest Week is jointly organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the European Commission (EC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In addition to the events planned in Rome and Brussels, a variety of other 'in-country activities' are expected to take place over the course of the week, the purpose of which will be to highlight the available means of fully utilising the potential of European forests. These events will feature press conferences, high level policy discussions and networking opportunities in relation to a variety of topical issues, including climate change, energy and water. To organise an event or to find out about events taking place in your area visit www.europeanforestweek.org for more information.

1.3 Follow on from the InnovaWood FP7 workshops

As reported in the August newsletter, InnovaWood recently held a number of workshops to prepare for the calls for research proposals to be issued under the 7th Framework Programme in September. The major call topics potentially of interest to the InnovaWood membership were extracted from the draft work programmes on energy, agriculture, environment and nanotechnologies-related themes prepared by the European Commission, and put up for discussion amongst those present.

As a result of the workshops a number of preliminary project consortia were formed to prepare proposals addressing the topics of the upcoming calls for research. The majority of the consortia are still in the formative stages of development and would welcome serious expressions of interest from Irish and international research organisations active in the forest-based sector interested in participating in European research projects. Interested parties can get in touch with InnovaWood for more information (email: office@innovawood.com; tel.: +353 (0)1 676 3181).

1.4 Forest Tech Europe 2008 opens call for contributions

Forest Tech Europe 2008 is an international conference on emerging technologies for the forest industry in Europe. Forest Tech Europe recognises that there are considerable benefits to be derived from the application of emerging technologies within the forest sector and will provide participants a number of insights into the potential future of the forest industry. Forest Tech Europe 2008 will take place on 5th - 6th November 2008 in Helsinki, Finland. The call for contributions for Forest Tech Europe 2008 has now been opened.

Forest Tech Europe 2008 will bring together top scientists, leading international companies, public funding agencies, policy makers and investors. The conference will cover the following themes: innovation, sustainable development, materials, chemicals, energy & biorefining, nanotechnology, international cooperation and the future of the forest industry.

To be considered for inclusion amongst the speakers at Forest Tech Europe 2008 submit an abstract to the organisers by September 8th. The organisers are looking for presentations of innovative research work, which fits in with the focus areas of the event, and which also demonstrates an awareness of the potential applications. Submissions are welcomed from universities, research centres and companies.

The organisers of Forest Tech Europe 2008 are looking for contributions on a range of forest industry renewing themes. For all presentations a strong focus is required on the potential for commercialisation and innovations with a great potential impact on forest technology development. The themes for possible contributions are:

- Nanotechnology
- Materials
- Chemicals
- Energy & biorefining with focus on forest industry: with positive impacts on environment

For more information visit the Forest Tech website at www.forest-tech.net.

2 EUROPEAN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 Calls for proposals

Summer is a quiet time in Europe, and consequently there are few additional calls for proposals to report again this month. The details of a number of open calls under the People and Cooperation Specific Programmes of FP7 and also a call recently issued by COST were presented in recent issues of the InnovaWood supplement to the COFORD newsletter and are reiterated here. New to this edition are the calls issued under the Ideas Specific Programme and under the LIFE+ Programme.

For more information on the details of the calls and the objectives of the various programmes please refer to the InnovaWood supplement to the COFORD newsletter quoted in the right hand column of the table. The links to the relevant newsletters can be found below the table. The details of the Ideas Specific Programme are presented in section 2.2 of this newsletter and the LIFE+ Programme in section 2.3.

| PROGRAMME | THEME / GRANT SCHEME | CLOSING DATE | COFORD NEWSLETTER |
|-------------|--|--------------|-------------------|
| COST | Call for proposals to support scientific and technical collaboration in Europe | 26.09.08 | June '08 |
| Cooperation | Energy - Energy call part 2 (FP7 DG TREN) | 08.10.08 | June '08 |
| Ideas | ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant | 12.10.08 | |
| Ideas | ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant | 29.10.08 | |
| Ideas | Coordination and support action | 12.11.08 | |
| Ideas | ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant | 19.11.08 | |
| LIFE+ | Calls for the themes: Nature and biodiversity Environmental policy and governance Information and communication | 21.11.08 | |
| People | European Reintegration Grants (ERG) | 31.12.08 | April '08 |
| People | International Reintegration Grants (IRG) | 31.12.08 | April '08 |

April: <http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iwapril.pdf>

June: http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iwscoford_newsletter_june08.pdf

The third call for proposals for collaborative research to be funded under FP7 will take place in the second half of 2008. It is expected that calls for the priority areas 'Food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology' and 'Environment (including climate change)' will be issued in September. Both themes contain plenty of scope for forestry and forestry-related research proposals.

2.2 Ideas Specific Programme

Investigator-driven 'frontier research,' within the framework of activities commonly understood as 'basic research', is a key driver of wealth and social progress, as it opens new opportunities for scientific and technological advance, and is instrumental in producing new knowledge leading to future applications and markets.

Despite many achievements and a high level of performance in a large number of fields, Europe is not making the most of its research potential and resources, and urgently needs a strengthened capacity to generate knowledge and translate such knowledge into economic and social value and growth.

The objective of the specific programme 'Ideas' is to reinforce excellence, dynamism and creativity in European research and improve the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers from both European and third countries, as well as for industrial research investment, by providing a Europe-wide competitive funding structure, in addition to and not replacing national funding, for 'frontier research' executed by individual teams. The communication and dissemination of research results is an important aspect of this programme.

To implement the Ideas Programme, a European Research Council (ERC), consisting of an independent Scientific Council and a dedicated implementation structure, has been established by the Commission. The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe such as those of the national research funding agencies, and is a flagship component of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) with an overall budget of €7.5 billion over seven years (2007-2013).

Being 'investigator-driven,' or 'bottom-up,' in nature, the ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions for research, rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. This approach ensures that funds are channelled into new and promising areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility.

ERC grants will be awarded through open competition to projects headed by young and established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working in Europe - the sole criterion for selection is excellence. The aim here is to recognise the best ideas, and retain and confer status and visibility to the best brains in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad.

By challenging Europe's brightest minds, the ERC expects to bring about new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries - the kind that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and broader social innovations of the future.

The ERC aims to:

- support the best of the best scientific efforts in Europe across all fields of science, engineering and scholarship;
- encourage wholly investigator-driven, or 'bottom-up' frontier research
- encourage the work of the established and next generation of independent top research leaders in Europe;
- reward innovative proposals by placing emphasis on the quality of the idea rather than the research area;
- harness the diversity of European research talent and channel funds into the most promising ideas;
- raise the status and visibility of European frontier research and the best researchers of today and tomorrow.
- put excellence at the heart of European Research

More information on Ideas and the other specific FP7 programmes can be obtained from http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html.

2.3 LIFE+ Programme

LIFE+ is the EU's new financial instrument for the environment. With a budget of €2.143 billion (for the period 2007-2013), LIFE+ is a limited but focused funding instrument providing specific support for the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation, in particular the objectives of the 6th EAP (Decision 1600/2002/EC) and resulting thematic strategies. It comprises three components:

- LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity
- LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance, including
 - Climate change
 - Water
 - Air
 - Soil
 - Urban environment
 - Noise
 - Chemicals
 - Environment and health
 - Natural resources and waste
 - Forests
 - Innovation
 - Strategic approaches
- LIFE+ Information & Communication

At least 78 % of LIFE+ will be for the co-financing of project action grants, of which at least 50 % will be for nature and biodiversity projects. The European Commission will use the remaining sum for operational expenses.

Only expenditure in EU27 countries is eligible at present, although the future participation of certain third countries is possible if supplementary appropriations are received (see Article 8 of the LIFE+ Regulation).

The Commission will organise the annual call for proposals and, with the help of external experts, will select, revise and monitor the projects and be responsible for making the appropriate payments. Member States will forward the project proposals to the Commission, may set national priorities and objectives (from 2008 onwards) and may prepare comments on proposals, in particular in relation to national annual priorities.

For more information on the LIFE+ Programme visit the following website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

3 INNOVAWOOD INFORMATION SERVICE

3.1 InnovaWood projects

One of InnovaWood's main tasks is the dissemination of the knowledge derived from research projects carried out throughout the forest-based sector in Europe. To this end, we are actively involved in a number of EU-financed projects as the partner responsible for dissemination and knowledge transfer. We produce and distribute a wide variety of brochures, booklets and posters outlining the various aspects of the projects we are involved in. To receive an information pack detailing our current projects just send an email to office@innovawood.com. Our current projects are listed in the table below.

| TITLE | TOPIC | WEBSITE |
|----------------------|---|---|
| EFORWOOD | Sustainability Impact Assessment for the forest-based sector | www.eforwood.com |
| DIPP | Innovative particleboard | www.dipp-project.net |
| ModelPACK | Modelling for improved packaging performance | www.modelpack.org |
| InnovaWood EDU | Best practice vocational education and training | www.innovawood.com |
| InnovaWood SSA | An innovation strategy to integrate industry needs and research capability in the forestry/wood chain | www.innovawood-ssa.net |
| WoodEMC ² | Middle manager education in the timber frame construction sector | http://www.leonardo-woodemc2.eu/ |
| Change-Up | Change management in the upholstered furniture sector | www.change-up.org |

3.2 Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform: the first years

To coincide with the 5th Conference of the FTP held in May of this year, the organisation has just published a glossy 18 page document summarising the progress that has been made since its inception in 2004. InnovaWood has a limited number of these brochures, which may be obtained by sending an email to office@innovawood.com.

3.3 Management of recovered wood: proceedings of the 3rd European COST E31 conference

InnovaWood has a number of copies of the proceedings of last year's 3rd European COST E31 conference entitled 'Management of recovered wood – Reaching a higher technical, economic and environmental standard in Europe.' Edited by Dr. Christos Gallis, the 319 page book contains outlines of all 18 presentations held at the conference in Klagenfurt in May of last year, as well as four posters. To obtain a copy simply send an email to office@innovawood.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.INNOVAWOOD.COM