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**INNOVAWOOD SUPPLEMENT**

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## 1 EVENTS, CONFERENCES AND COURSES

### *1.1 Events in brief*

FP7 training course (how to write a competitive FP7 proposal). Brussels, Belgium. 7-9 October 2008. For more information visit [www.hyperion.ie](http://www.hyperion.ie).

Next generation biofuels markets – Driving the development of next generation. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 6-7 October 2008. For more information on the event visit [www.greenpowerconferences.com/biofuelsmarkets/nextgen\\_08.html](http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/biofuelsmarkets/nextgen_08.html).

6<sup>th</sup> European wood-based panel symposium: Economic and ecological challenges, new products and technologies. Hanover, Germany. 8-10 October 2008. Visit [www.wki.fraunhofer.de](http://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. 15-16 October 2008.

3<sup>rd</sup> International Softwood Conference. Helsinki, Finland, 16-17 October 2008. For more information visit the conference website at the following address: [http://eos-oes.ue/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=39&itemid=12](http://eos-oes.ue/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&itemid=12).

25<sup>th</sup> Passive and Low Energy Architecture (PLEA) International Conference – Towards zero energy building. Dublin, Ireland. 22-24 October 2008. Visit [www.plea2008.org/](http://www.plea2008.org/) for more information.

End user’s needs for wood material and products – COST E53 Conference. Delft, The Netherlands. 29-30 October 2008. For more information visit the conference website at the following address: [www.citg.tudelft.nl/live/pagina.jsp?id=0cb87cff-4fcb-46c3-a259-e8df865353ad&lang=en](http://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. 5-6 November 2008. Visit [www.forest-tech.net](http://www.forest-tech.net) for more information.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> international forestry training centres conference. Lyss, Switzerland. 19-21 November 2008. Visit [www.eduforest.eu/index3.php?page=31](http://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. 20-21 November 2008. Visit the event website at [www.pindeslandes.org/arbora/colloque.html](http://www.pindeslandes.org/arbora/colloque.html).

European Paper Week, including seminars on paper recycling, climate change and forest biodiversity from the paper industry perspective. Organised by CEPI. Brussels, Belgium. 25-27 November 2008. Visit [www.cepi.org/epw](http://www.cepi.org/epw) for more information.

## *1.2 FP7 Environment and Energy National Information Day*

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted an information day for organisations interested in addressing certain of the research themes contained in the calls published for the Environment and Energy programmes at the start of the month. With over 80 attendees, the event proved very informative and provided a clear indication of the growing interest in Irish participation in research funded by the EU's Framework programmes.

There were a total of 25 presentations made on the day, detailing the relevant programmes, and highlighting the 'does and don'ts' of applying for research funding under FP7, and the benefits and pitfalls of participation in European research. In addition to short presentations made by international guests providing comparisons between the uptake of FP7 funding in Ireland and other European countries, there was also a series of flash presentations made by various Irish research organisations seeking to put themselves forward as potential research partners.

### **Submitting a proposal**

The key message put across by all of the speakers with experience of Framework Programme proposal writing and evaluation was to follow the application guidelines precisely, as all proposals deviating from the instructions will be rejected at the first hurdle, irrespective of the quality of the research concept. Having ensured that the proposal meets all of the formal requirements for application (number of partners, maximum proposal length, deadline, budget, etc.), project evaluator Prof. J. Owen LEWIS stressed the importance of addressing the particular theme outlined in the work programme. Proposals should be concise and specific, address the key criteria, indicate key performance indicators and targets, and state coherently the specific roles of the individual partner organisations.

The increase in the competitiveness of the applications for EU research funding over the years was mentioned on numerous occasions, with various speakers stressing that 'good' proposals are no longer good enough to receive funding. Accordingly, project consortia should be prepared to invest considerable time in the preparation phase, and possibly be ready for repeated rejection and subsequent revision of project proposals before they are finally accepted.

The importance of communicating with the various responsible national contact points (NCPs) was also stressed on a number of occasions, as were the benefits of consulting with the NCPs as the work programmes are being drafted, rather than waiting until they are published. The NCP details can be found on Enterprise Ireland's website at [www.fp7ireland.com/contacts.aspx](http://www.fp7ireland.com/contacts.aspx).

### **National support for FP7 applicants**

Dr Imelda LAMBKIN of Enterprise Ireland presented an overview of Irish participation in FP research to date, the funding that will be available under FP7, and also highlighted a number of support opportunities that are available to Irish organisations contemplating submitting, or intending to submit, a research proposal under FP7. In addition to a wide variety of information events organised by Enterprise Ireland, the EPA, the Department of Agriculture and others, there is also financial support

available from Enterprise Ireland to cover the costs of proposal preparation (including up to 100 % of the management costs incurred).

### **The advantages and pitfalls of European research**

The benefits of participation in European research are many and varied, as highlighted by a number of the speakers with past experience of such projects, particularly Dr Colin O'DOWD of NUI Galway and Dr Ned DWYER of UCC. These include:

- Excellent research, where the sum of the components is greater than the individual parts;
- Increased cross disciplinary research;
- Access to knowledge, technology and resources not available nationally;
- Improvement of own research capacity;
- Greater research outputs – new technologies, publications;
- Sustainability of research activities;
- Diversification of grant income;
- Increased profile and productivity;
- Generation of international networks.

A number of difficulties associated with EU funding were also highlighted by the speakers. These were:

- Understanding EU jargon;
- Being recognised and becoming established;
- Great competition for funding;
- Excessive travel;
- Large projects can be chaotic and inflexible;
- Reporting and paper work;
- Communication difficulties and cultural differences between international partners.

### **Irish research organisations interested in FP7**

Representatives of a number of Irish organisations interested in participating in FP7 spoke briefly on their interest in participating in specific areas of the FP7 Environment and Energy programmes, and presented the credentials of their organisations and what they can bring to a project consortium. The organisations and their representatives were:

- Dr Andy MAGUIRE (Dublin Institute of Technology)
- Prof. Michael BRUEN (University College Dublin)
- Dr David BUTLER MANNING (InnovaWood)
- Dr Geoffrey O'SULLIVAN (Marine Institute)
- Dr Thomae KAKOULI-DUARTE (Carlow Institute of Technology)
- Dr David TAYLOR (Trinity College Dublin)
- Prof. Dermot DIAMOND (Dublin City University)
- Dr Paul BOLGER (University College Cork)
- Dr Martina PRENDERGAST (National University of Ireland, Galway)

A document outlining the presentations made at the Information Day will soon be available online at [www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/fp7/).

## 2 EUROPEAN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### 2.1 Calls for proposals

After a quiet summer the long-awaited third round of calls to be issued under FP7 has begun. The details of a number of open calls under the People, Cooperation and Ideas Specific Programmes of FP7 and also a call recently issued under the LIFE+ Programme were presented in recent issues of the InnovaWood supplement to the COFORD newsletter. Please refer to the newsletter cited in the right hand column of the table below for more information about the programme in question. The links to the relevant newsletters can be found below the table.

The work programmes for all of the published calls can be found on the Cordis website ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)). For more information about the calls of possible relevance to those in the forestry sector within each of the work programmes contact InnovaWood at (01) 676 3181 or email [office@innovawood.com](mailto:office@innovawood.com).

PROGRAMME	THEME / GRANT SCHEME	CLOSING DATE	COFORD NEWSLETTER
Cooperation	Energy - Energy call part 2 (FP7 DG TREN)	08.10.08	June '08
Ideas	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	12.10.08	September '08
Ideas	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	29.10.08	September '08
Ideas	Coordination and support action	12.11.08	September '08
Ideas	ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant	19.11.08	September '08
LIFE+	Calls for the themes: Nature and biodiversity Environmental policy and governance Information and communication	21.11.08	September '08
Cooperation	Energy	25.11.09	June '08
Cooperation	Biorefinery (joint call)	02.12.08	June '08
Cooperation	Space (includes land cover related themes)	04.12.08	June '08
People	European Reintegration Grants (ERG)	31.12.08	April '08
People	International Reintegration Grants (IRG)	31.12.08	April '08
Cooperation	Food, agriculture, fisheries and biotechnology	15.01.09	June '08
Cooperation	Energy	29.04.09	June '08

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

June: [http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iwscoford\\_newsletter\\_june08.pdf](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iwscoford_newsletter_june08.pdf)

September: <http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/iws-september08.pdf>

It is expected that calls for the priority area 'Nanosciences, Materials and New Production Technologies' (NMP) will be issued on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. This theme will contain a number of projects of relevance to those researching wood products.

### 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](mailto:office@innovawood.com). Our current projects are listed in the table below.

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

#### 3.2 Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform: the first years

To coincide with the 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@innovawood.com).

#### 3.3 Management of recovered wood: proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European COST E31 conference

InnovaWood has a number of copies of the proceedings of last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:office@innovawood.com).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**[WWW.INNOVAWOOD.COM](http://WWW.INNOVAWOOD.COM)**