

THE STANDARDS, MEASUREMENTS AND TESTING PROGRAMME OF THE EC

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Standards, Measurements and Testing (SMT) Programme

The Standards, Measurements and Testing (SMT) programme is one of the specific programmes which make up the European Union's Fourth Framework Programme (1994-1998) for Research and Technological Development (RTD). It has a total budget of more than 173 MECU for the period 1994-1998 and aims, through RTD, to promote the development of the harmonized system of accurate, reproducible and repeatable measurements, analyses, tests and written standards that is necessary in order to (1) improve the competitiveness of all sectors of European industry (2) support the implementation of Community policy and (3) meet the needs of society.

Shared-Cost RTD Projects

The programme is mainly implemented by means of "shared-cost" RTD projects. Such projects are always of a collaborative nature, involving organizations from at least two different countries which are either part of the European Union or are associated with the programme. They are selected by means of calls for proposals with independent evaluation by external experts. The financial contribution of the Commission does not normally exceed fifty per cent of the total costs. Technology stimulation actions in favour of small and medium enterprises (SME's) aim at encouraging and facilitating the participation of SME's in RTD projects.

Thematic Networks

In addition to RTD projects, the programme also supports thematic networks, which aim to bring together research carried out by different organizations in a particular field of measurement or testing.

2. TECHNICAL AREAS

The Standards, Measurements and Testing programme covers all fields of measurements and testing, including noise and vibration. It is divided into three themes which are briefly described below.

Theme I: "Measurements for Quality European Products, Including Written Standards for Industry"

The objective is to support European industry in the timely production of products of the requisite quality and at an acceptable price by the development of improved measurement and testing techniques required in the course of research, development and production. The activities will also include support to the development of written standards required by industry.

Theme II: "Research Related to Written Standards and Technical Support to Trade"

The objectives are to solve technical problems which impede trade, to assist in the development of Europe's measurement and testing infrastructure and to give technical assistance to the mutual recognition of results and certificates. As well as enabling trade, the results will facilitate consumer and environmental protection.

Theme III: "Measurements Related to the Needs of Society"

The objective is to develop or improve the measurement and testing methods used for the assessment of the quality of life, as well as for the application of Community policies in fields other than trade and industry.

3. CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Calls for proposals are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. A number of calls for proposals have already taken place. The following calls for proposals are planned or are still open.

- **RTD projects: Theme I, "Measurements for quality European products, including written standards for industry".** Publication expected: 15 June 1996. Expected deadline for submission: 27 November 1996.
- **RTD projects: Themes II and III, "European measurements infrastructure and measurements related to the needs of society".** Publication expected: 15 June 1997. Deadline for submission: probably in November 1997.
- **RTD projects in support of Community policy ("dedicated" calls for proposals).** These calls are published as required at regular intervals each year. They are restricted to particular topics defined by the Commission and are particularly

concerned with projects in support of European standardization. The next dedicated call is expected to be published on 15 June 1996 (deadline for submission: 27 November 1996) and may include topics in the field of noise and vibration. For each topic in a dedicated call, a supporting document can be obtained from the SMT programme which details the objectives to be met.

- **Thematic Networks.** This call is continuously open (until 17 December 1997 or until the budget is exhausted).
- **Technological stimulation measures for SME's (exploratory awards and cooperative research).** These calls are continuously open (until 11 June 1997 for exploratory awards for cooperative research and until 17 December 1997 for cooperative research projects or until the relevant budget is exhausted).
- **Accompanying measures (support to conferences, exploitation and dissemination of results, training, studies, etc.).** This call is continuously open (until 30 July 1998 or until the budget is exhausted).

The SMT programme information package explains how to prepare and submit a proposal for an RTD project and can be obtained directly from the SMT programme (telefax + 32 2 295 80 72). Technological stimulation measures for SME's are the subject of a separate information package. In all cases, particular attention should be paid to the eligibility criteria for the call, to the scope of the call and to the instructions for preparing a proposal.

4. CURRENT PROJECTS

The Standards, Measurements and Testing Programme (the Fourth Framework Programme)

To date, only one project has been funded under the SMT programme in the field of noise and vibration (see Table 1). Another project may be funded shortly on the "Development of methods for the measurement of noise generated by machines". This was a topic that was included last year in a dedicated call for proposals for projects in support of Community policy. Whether further projects in the field of noise and vibration are funded will depend upon high quality proposals being received in response to future calls for proposals.

The Measurements and Testing Programme (the Third Framework Programme)

The Measurements and Testing (M&T) programme was the predecessor of the SMT programme. Nine projects which are currently being carried out under this programme in the field of noise and vibration are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Projects currently being funded in the field of noise and vibration under the Measurements and Testing (MAT) and Standards, Measurements and Testing (SMT) programmes

Project No.	Title	Coordinator
MAT 920018	Assessment of hearing protector performance in impulsive noise	Prof. G. Smoorenburg TNO Human Factors Research Institute (NL) Fax: +31 34 63 53 977
MAT 930027	Measurement of the low-frequency sound insulation of building components	Mr. H. Olesen DELTA Acoustics and Vibration (DK) Fax: + 45 86 11 43 77
MAT 940003	Measurement of airborne acoustical noise from household and similar electrical appliances	Mrs. M. Pugin Laboratoire National d'Essais (FR) Fax: +33 1 40 43 37 37
MAST 940095	An intercomparison to validate calibration methods for hydrophones in the frequency range 10-315 kHz	Mr. S.P. Robinson National Physical Laboratory (UK) Fax: +44 181 943 61 61
MAT 940030	Methods for automatic detection and recognition of acoustic sources	Dr. J. P. Lefèvre Agora Conseil (FR) Fax: +33 76 53 16 39
MAT 940049	Test method for the acoustic performance of road traffic noise reducing devices	Ir. J.-P. Clairbois Acoustical Technologies (BE) Fax: +32 2 346 20 99
MAT 940057	Development of mobile machinery vibration emission tests using natural test tracks	Mr. K. Spang DNV Ingemannsson AB (SE) Fax: +46 31 15 66 22
MAT 940077	Development of mobile machinery vibration emission tests using artificial test tracks	Mr. K. Spang DNV Ingemannsson AB (SE) Fax: +46 31 15 66 22
MAT 940054	Intercomparison of laboratory measurements of airborne sound insulation of walls	Prof. R. Pompoli University of Ferrara (IT) Fax: +39 532 768602
SMT 952004	Advanced integrated sensors (for acquiring dynamic information on a structure)	Dr. C. Borgonovi OML Srl (IT) Fax: +39 6 78 26 362
SMT 96----	Development of methods for the measurement of noise generated by machines	A proposal may be funded (topic in dedicated call)