



Collaborative Research Opportunities for Small Firms

The NEXT Integrated Project supported by EC Framework Programme 6 is seeking to contact Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) operating in the machine tool sector, or more generally in manufacturing industry, to share or contribute to the innovative research results of this major consortium. This will be achieved by the setting-up of "Collaboration Agreements" between SMEs and NEXT partners for the exploitation and demonstration of research results through practical short-term projects.

It is our intention to establish a Pilot Collaboration Agreement to trial the principles and procedures with a target start date of 1 July 2007. Further information of the emerging technologies and the Description of Work (DoW) can be found by exploring this web site.

Initially you are invited to submit an Expression of Interest by 30 June which is a brief one-page extract of the project objectives, work plan, potential impact, consortium and project management. A decision will be made within days whether to invite you to make a full proposal using the "Guide for Proposers of an SME Collaborative Agreement" which can be found on this site.

Briefly, your project should:

- contribute to the DoW to develop technology needed to achieve the NEXT objectives;
- exploit the results particularly by SMEs;
- have a duration of 12 months maximum;
- require support funding of €50,000 maximum or 50% of the project cost, whichever is the lower amount.

You are invited to apply to the SME Office of NEXT hosted by CECIMO in Brussels for more information about your application. The closing date for expressions of interest is 30 June 2007 and for submission of a full proposal by 31 July 2007.

Content for Collaborative Agreements Page

The NEXT Consortium announces a **Call for Proposals** for Collaborative Agreements between an SME and a partner of NEXT. Financial support for the SME is available for short term (12-18 months) practical projects which aim to contribute to, exploit and/or demonstrate the research results from NEXT.

An Expression of Interest - a brief one-page extract of the project objectives, work plan, potential impact, consortium and project management - should be submitted to CECIMO by 30 June.