

Results of First EU Fifth Framework programme IST call for Proposals

2519 proposals were received up to July 1 1999 by the European Commission in response to the User Friendly Information Society (IST) programme's first call for proposals. Of these 555 proposals were retained for negotiation for a total budget of 930 million Euros. A further 64 proposals have been kept in reserve. This represents a success rate of more than one in five proposals, while the successful projects will receive around one-sixth of the total funding applied for.

The proposals received comprised 2347 research proposals for the fixed deadline of 16 June 1999, and 172 received (up to 1 July) under continuous submission for the future and emerging technologies open scheme, SME awards, Marie Curie industrial host fellowships, and accompanying measures.

A representative of the Commission's Information Society

Directorate-General said the response was good, covering all areas well, with proposals on average of high quality.

The received proposals were fairly evenly spread across the four Key Actions of the IST programme. However the quality of proposals was higher under the Key Action for 'Essential technologies and infrastructures', reflected in the fact that almost double the number of proposals were retained for negotiation than for any other Key Action.

Proposals were weakest in application-oriented areas where it appeared that the criteria of innovation and exploitation of results were poorly understood. Sources in the Commission said a lot of proposals aiming at service and application development scored low on these criteria. The Commission intends to tighten up its definitions of these concepts in the second call for proposals and make information available as to what is meant in order to strengthen calls in the future.

E-MRS Website recently upgraded

The E-MRS website has been recently upgraded and may be found at URL:
<http://www-emrs.c-strasbourg.fr>

The website is a useful source of update information for members and non-members alike on the society in general as well as on its upcoming activities.

E-MRS Proceedings available on CD-ROM for the first time

In October, delegates that attended the 1999 E-MRS Meeting in Strasbourg were sent copies of the complete proceedings of the conference on CD-ROM. This represents a first step by E-MRS into the complexities of electronic publication, and while the process has, at times been difficult for all concerned, the finished result shows just what can be achieved using this medium.

In addition to having a complete record of the whole conference, delegates can now perform complex and accurate searches on author name, title and abstract to find papers of interest to them, or, if they prefer, they can simply browse the table of contents according to symposium and session. Abstracts are presented in html and therefore can be viewed using your normal web browser (Netscape, Internet explorer etc) while full text are presented in the familiar PDF format viewable using Adobe's Acrobat software.

In previous years delegates were entitled to receive one hardbound proceedings volume for free, as part of the registration package

and would need to purchase any other volumes in which they were interested. In 1999, the CD-ROM sent to delegates included all submitted papers from all symposia.

Meanwhile all the papers handed in during the meeting have been peer reviewed and revised for publication in one of Elsevier's internationally recognised journals, an option that is greatly appreciated by many authors.

If you have any questions or comments about the 1999 E-MRS Proceedings on CD-ROM or if you are involved with the organisation of a conference and would like further information about the conference publication services offered by Elsevier please contact p.mestecsky@elsevier.co.uk.