



## FP7 European Research Funding

### What is FP7 funding

FP7 is the European Commission's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research. It runs from 2007 – 2013 and has funds of €50 billion allocated for research activities in this period.

FP7 funds research in a wide range of areas. The main objectives are to fund activities under the headings of Cooperation, Ideas, People, & Capacities.

Each of these headings has a specific focus and funds projects to aid meeting the objectives of Cooperation, Ideas, People, & Capacities.

Each year there are calls under the 4 main categories, covering the following themes: **Agriculture and Food Supply, Biology and Medicine, Energy, Environment and Climate, Industry and Industrial Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Research in Practice, Research outputs, Social and Economic concerns, Transport and Construction.**

### FP7 & SMEs

SME participation is a core objective of the European Commission and there is a drive to see even more SME participation going forward.

There are typically 3 main roles in an FP7 project. 1. The role of Project Co-ordinator, 2. The role of a Research & Technical Development (RTD) organisation, 3. The role of a project partner. It is possible for SMEs to undertake any of the roles listed above, provided they meet certain criteria.

Calls typically look for a number of partners from a number of jurisdictions to form a consortium. In the Research for the Benefit of SMEs call at least 3 SMEs from 3 different European countries are required to meet the criteria as well as at least 2 RTD providers.

### Benefits to SMEs

- **RTD activities funded 100%** – In the Research for the Benefit of SMEs call, SMEs get funding to pay for research activities to be carried out by RTD providers, the RTD providers are 100% funded under this call. The guiding principle is also that the SMEs get all IP rights under this call.
- **Access to world class R&D** – SMEs benefit from working with world renowned research organisations to develop solutions.
- **Pre-financing** – projects are pre-financed by 55%, this really helps SMEs from a cash flow point of view.
- **Networking** – SMEs benefit from the networking opportunity that involvement in an FP7 project affords. It is normal that SMEs in the value chain come together and form long lasting relationships beyond the end of the particular FP7 project.
- **Funding level** – typically the funding level is in the 70 -80% region with the possibility of making up the remainder by time in kind.

### CDAMC & FP7

- **Projects** –CDAMC is currently involved in 2 FP7 projects: FP7-SME-2010-1 project 262072 µECM & FP7-ENV-2010 project 265095 LCA to go
- **Funding**- In total the projects have secured €4.7 million in funding. CDAMC has secured close to €250,000 in funding.
- **Roles** – CDAMC is a Research performing SME in one project which means that the activities are 100% funded. CDAMC has also undertaken 50% of the co-ordination activities in that project. In the other project CDAMC is a normal SME partner with a funding level of about 70%
- **Mentoring** – Dr. Carl Diver was hired by the Institutes of Technology Ireland in 2010 to support a number of the IT's to secure a co-ordinator grant to write a proposal and then to continue the support through the process of writing and submitting an application.
- **Successes** – Involved directly and in-directly in 3 FP7 projects that secured €5.9 million in funding.

## CASE STUDY - Micro ECM FP7 project

Project no: 262072

Project duration: 2 years

Funding: €1.2million

Consortium: 7 partners from 4 countries

Program: Capacities

Web: [www.microecm-project.eu](http://www.microecm-project.eu)

CDAMC worked closely with Institute of Technology Sligo with the support of the Institute of Technology Ireland's mentoring program to put together a proposal around the area of micro-machining using Electrochemical machining technology under the Research for the Benefit of SMEs call. The focus on this call was very much on the impact that the development would have on the SMEs. The principle behind the call is that the SMEs own the IP generated and are responsible to commercialise the research. The research partners are effectively suppliers to the SMEs but they get 100% funding. CDAMC is sharing project co-ordination with Sligo IT and is leader of a technical workpackage and is seen as a research performing SME in this project.

## CASE STUDY - LCA 2 Go FP7 project

Project no: 265096

Project duration: 4 years

Funding: €3.5million

No. of Partners: 18 partners from 9 countries

Program: Cooperation

Web: [www.lca2go.eu](http://www.lca2go.eu)

The full project title is Boosting Life Cycle assessment use in European SMEs. LCA is to be considered to be one of the foremost tools for improving the environmental performance of products. A wide range of sectors are being addressed such as: bio-based plastics, industrial machinery, electronics, renewable energy, sensors, & smart textiles. CDAMC's main focus is on industrial machinery and supporting the development of an on-line LCA tool for this sector. CDAMC is working closely with the Technical University of Vienna on the industrial machinery sector. The project co-ordinator is Fraunhofer IZM.



"In 2010, IOTI engaged CDAMC to provide advisory support to academics who wished to build their experience in FP7. Carl Diver acted in a mentoring capacity with a number of our research teams and I cannot overstate the value of his contribution to our initiative. Carl brought excellent technical credentials but more importantly, an excellent knowledge of FP7, that he has gained through his own experience and prior success. He was a highly skilled mentor, demonstrating exceptional inter-personal skills and building great relationships.

Carl successfully guided a number of research groups through the demands and deadlines that are part of the FP7 application process and in doing so made a direct contribution to our success. As a result, I would highly recommend the FP7 advisory services provided by CDAMC and Carl Diver".

**Dr. Orna Duggan**

Senior Executive, Research

Institutes of Technology Ireland

## Useful Links

FP7 website: <http://cordis.europa.eu/>

Enterprise Ireland FP7: [www.fp7ireland.com](http://www.fp7ireland.com)

Financial support for Irish participants:  
[www.fp7ireland.com/Page.aspx?SP=225](http://www.fp7ireland.com/Page.aspx?SP=225)

Research for the Benefit of SMEs call:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme_en.html)

Are you an SME, the SME check list:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm)

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