



NRP 64 “Opportunities and Risks of Nanomaterials”

Additional Call for Proposals

Following the 1st call for proposals of the National Research Programme “Opportunities and Risks of Nanomaterials” (NRP64), the steering committee of the programme selected a number of projects, most of which fell within 2 of the 5 areas of research originally specified in the implementation plan of this programme (see <http://www.nrp64.ch> -> Publications), more specifically in the medical and the environmental areas (for a list of selected projects, see www.nrp64.ch -> Publications).

However, the steering committee of the programme is of the opinion that there are significant scientific and perceptual barriers regarding the safety of nanomaterials in other important sectors of application besides the medical and environmental areas. These barriers need to be overcome if synthetic nanomaterials are to find a sustainable use in food products and food packaging, cosmetics, textiles, construction materials, household appliances, electronics and energy technologies.

Furthermore, over the last years, the controversy surrounding nanomaterials in the media, symposiums, audits and forums has focused on synthetic nanomaterials present in cosmetics, food products and food packaging, and paints and lacquers.

Research carried out in the context of this programme should provide a scientific basis for formulating recommendations and appropriate measures for the manufacture, utilisation and disposal of nanomaterials, thereby allowing society to benefit from scientific advances in the form of nanomaterials-based products whilst protecting consumers and the environment.

As demonstrated by third parties (Action Plan Nanomaterials, TA-Swiss, NanoImpactNet’s stakeholders’ sessions, etc.), concrete knowledge is eagerly awaited in these areas, as much by the general public as by industry and the scientific community.

For these reasons and with a view to a targeted consolidation of the project portfolio of this programme, the steering committee of the programme has decided to organise a 2nd call for proposals for interdisciplinary projects in 5 areas of applications:

- (1) food products and food packaging,
- (2) consumer products,
- (3) energy,
- (4) construction, and
- (5) high risk/high potential projects on innovative nanomaterials.



As specified in the Implementation plan of the programme, chapter 3, research conducted within the context of this programme should investigate opportunities and concomitant risks presented by nanomaterials in the 5 domains of application listed above, at different stages of their life-cycle, for human health and the environment. For more information on these areas of applications, please see the NRP 64 Implementation Plan, chapters 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 (<http://www.nrp64.ch> -> Publications).

Conditions of participation

This 2nd call for proposals will not include a project pre-proposals step.

Full proposals must include all the compulsory information requested on the submission forms as well as all the requisite appendices. Proposals should be written in English and submitted electronically (www.mysnf.ch).

Apart from the above-mentioned restriction regarding areas of research, the conditions of participation and the evaluation process specified in the implementation plan (<http://www.nrp64.ch> -> Publications) and the standard regulations as specified in the SNSF regulations (<http://www.snsf.ch> -> Services for researchers -> Documents for researchers) apply.

Deadline for proposals

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1st December 2011.

Proposal evaluation procedure

The proposal evaluation procedure will only comprise the full proposals evaluation step. Proposals will be evaluated according to the procedure described in chapter 5.2 of the programme's implementation plan.

Selection criteria:

Proposals will be selected according to the procedure described in chapter 5.3 of the programme's implementation plan.

Funding

The programme has approximately CHF 2,000,000 at its disposal for this 2nd call for proposals.

The start of the research is planned for 1st July 2012 earliest. In order to facilitate a consistent progress of the programme, selected research projects must start work 6 months after this date at the latest. Grants will be awarded for a duration of 36 months maximum.

The grant paid by the SNSF will be in keeping with the scale of the submitted project and, as a general rule, will be limited at around CHF 350,000.



Schedule

Publication of the call for proposals:	summer 2011
Submission of research projects:	1st December 2011
Final decision regarding research proposals:	mid-May 2012
Start of research:	from 1st July 2012

Approved by the National Research Council on 15th March 2011