SESSION 1

The role of “FET Flagship” for the ERA construction

Prof. Gonzalo León
Vice Chancellor for Research, UPM
A complex map of ERA-based initiatives
Evolutionary approach

• The FET concept is a well established scheme in the ICT priority of the Cooperation programme
  – Both proactive and reactive schemes attracted the interest of research groups in very innovative consortia
    • Filling the gap with large industry-led consortia
    • Focused on promising interdisciplinary research
    • Complementing other schemes (i.e. ERC advanced grants)
  – But with some limitations:
    • Limited funding to have an impact in European priorities
    • Limited participation of European industry
    • Very limited participation of non European partners
    • Limited additional synergy with national or international long-term research initiatives

• Is there room for another type of FET-based scheme?
Conditions for FET flagships

The FET proactive scheme could be expanded in order to provide higher impact and positioning of Europe in long-term advanced research.

IST priority Cooperation programme

FET Flagship project

IST priority National research programmes

International partnerships

Relevant topics shared by involved stakeholders

Towards large initiatives with industrial interests

How to combine it with national interests? (human resources, research infrastructure...)

FET Flagships. 9-10 June 2010. Brussels
Conditions for success

• Boost inter-disciplinary research in new promising areas
  – Scientific-driven needs between (mature) disciplines benefiting from new approaches

• Long-term projects (i.e. 10 years)
  – Phased approach with visible intermediate milestones

• Flexible coordination with national efforts
  – Support for prioritisation at national level with additional funds by combining human resources, research infrastructures, etc.

• Increasing international participation
  – Fulfil the goal: “Opening ERA to the rest of the world”

• Development of new or immature technologies
  – Closer to the interest of industry in an indirect way
FET flagship: A set of related activities

From the mainstream of activities, many other research activities can be defined at the national level or in other areas of the FP (i.e. Capacities or People)

- Associated national research project
- Industrial project on specific technologies

Research infrastructures

Initial consortium  Expanded consortium  Updated consortium
Possible approach for FET flagship governance

Board
(MS and Commission representatives)

Use of common Facilities
(computing, microscopy, databases,...)

Core consortium

Common research agenda
(scienfitic council)

Project budget

Other (private) sources

Other national partners

International partners

In-cash + in-kind contributions

resources

outputs

In-cash + in-kind contributions

FET Flagships. 9-10 June 2010. Brussels
Governance experience
(from the “Cajal Blue Brain Project”)

• The Spanish governmental goals
  – To promote interdisciplinary research as a national priority
  – To participate in international long-term research from the beginning (opening of national research plan)
  – To coordinate different research groups in a defined area

• The funding and governance scheme
  – Agreement between the Ministry of Science and Innovation and the UPM
    • Follow-up S&T joint commission established by the Ministry
    • UPM is committed to coordinate and fund other research groups
  – Long-term funding through a 25M€ loan (10 years, 0 interest rate) for a bank deposit
    • The project uses the interests generated by the deposit
    • Other external resources can/should be added (through industry or national and international competitive calls)