FET Flagships are...

Ambitious large-scale, science-driven, visionary research initiatives that aim to achieve a scientific breakthrough. The scientific advance should provide a strong and broad basis for future technological innovation and economic exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as novel benefits for society.

Ambitious goals require extensive cooperation

Certain research goals are so ambitious that they are beyond the reach of any single national or EU funded research initiative. Only by mobilising researchers Europe-wide via a shared vision towards a clearly defined unifying goal, and by supporting them over a long period, can such objectives be reached.

A recognised need

The objective of reinforcing research in future and emerging technologies (FET) was expressed in the EC communication COM (2009) 184 ‘Moving the ICT frontiers’, and was endorsed by the Competitiveness Council in early December 2009. The Communication highlights as one key action the launch of at least two FET Flagship Initiatives by 2013.

Federated effort for breakthrough magnitude

To provide lasting support at a level which allows a concerted effort towards fulfilling a grand ambition, FET Flagships are envisioned to run for at least 10 years, with a budget of up to 100 M€ per year, per initiative. This scale can only be achieved through cooperation between the European Framework and National research programmes. The overarching nature and magnitude of these initiatives implies that they can only be realised through the federated effort of the European research community and institutions, national and regional funding agencies, and where appropriate, with the participation of global partners and industry.

Facing great scientific challenges together

Research activities of European and national programmes would be aligned and work together to meet a common scientific challenge, in pursuit of a unifying goal. As new public-public partnerships, FET Flagships would represent a powerful new instrument in shaping and building the European Research Area.

The time for action is now

To implement a joint effort of such a grand scale requires a great amount of preparation in terms of developing key ideas by the scientific community, devising operational mechanisms, defining and implementing a legal framework, and most of all, establishing the political and financial support of stakeholders. The EC is fostering coordinated progress in each of these areas.

For further information please contact:
FET Flagships - Roadmap towards 2013

April 2009  EC Communication ‘Moving the ICT frontiers’
Dec 2009  Endorsement of FET Flagships by COMP Council. Opening of online consultation for ideas
Jan 2010  Start of FET Flagship study to design and validate legal and operational frameworks
Early 2010  Open consultation with the scientific community on initial ideas, including workshop event on January 22nd
2010  Setup of FET Flagship Science Forum and the Member States Working Group
June 2010  First joint scientific / policy event (Science Forum)
2010  Launch of a competitive call to support comprehensive FET-F pilots (5-6 preparatory actions, each focusing on a Flagship challenge)
2010-2011  Preparation of instrumental framework
2011  Implementation of FET Flagship Pilots: design and establishment of feasibility for high-potential candidates
2012  Selection of FET Flagships
2013  Launch of first FET Flagships

You are invited to:

- Submit a description of your FET Flagship idea to the online consultation for sharing and discussing it with the scientific community
- Contact those who have submitted an idea relevant to your own for mapping potential collaboration
- Participate in the FET Flagships Science Forum to represent your science community and take part in the setup of the FET Flagship Initiatives