FET Flagships are...

Ambitious, large-scale, science-driven research initiatives that aim to achieve a visionary goal. 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 the best 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.

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.

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.

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.

FET Flagships - Roadmap towards 2013

April 2009  EC Communication ‘Moving the ICT frontiers,’ COM(2009) 184
Dec 2009  Endorsement of FET Flagships by COMP Council
2010  Open consultation with the scientific community
      Setup of stakeholder Working Groups. Study on FET Flagships
June 2010  First joint Scientific / Policy Forum on FET Flagships
July 2010  Opening of Call for FET Flagship Preparatory Actions
Jan 2011  Selection of 6 FET Flagship Preparatory (Pilot) Actions via a competitive call for proposals
May 2011  Official launch of the Pilot Actions at the fet11 presidency event by EC Vice-President Neelie Kroes
      Preparation of legal framework, governance and funding models
Dec 2011  Flagship Pilots mid-term presidency event with participation of scientific, policy, and international stakeholders
May 2012  Completion of the Pilot Actions: finalised design and established feasibility of the FET Flagship Candidates
2012 /13  Selection of two FET Flagships
2013  Launch of first FET Flagships

6 FET Flagship Preparatory (Pilot) Actions
funded by the European Commission

FuturICT
The FuturICT Knowledge Accelerator

Guardian Angels
Guardian Angels for a Smarter Life

ITFoM
IT Future of Medicine

Graphene
Graphene-Driven Revolutions in ICT and Beyond

HBP
Human Brain Project

RoboCom
Robot Companions for Citizens

The preparatory work of the 6 Flagship Pilots is assisted by the Support Action **FLEET**

You are invited to contact the Flagship Preparatory (Pilot) Actions for potential collaboration if your research could contribute to their objectives