

International Cooperation between EU & China in the area of Materials Research

1. The S&T Co-operation Agreement

This agreement with China entered into force on 14.12.1999. Chinese entities are eligible to participate (without any transfer of funds from one party to the other) in projects of all Thematic Programmes of FP5. The Agreement also provides for reciprocal participation of research entities established in the European Community to Chinese projects in similar sectors of RTD. For more information see <http://www.cordis.lu/inco2/src/r-china.htm>.

2. The Implementing Arrangement between EU and China in the area of Materials Research

The Commission is exploring the possibility to conclude an «Implementing Arrangement » with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST) in the area of Materials Sciences. This allows Chinese research organisations, including industry, to participate in European research projects and to apply for Chinese funding.

Domains for Research

The domains for research in the field of materials, including their processing and transformation, cover cross-cutting generic materials technologies, advanced functional materials, sustainable chemistry, expanding the limits and durability of materials as well as steel research. Materials related research could also be integrated in proposals covering the different Key Actions of the GROWTH programme. For further information, please consult the workprogramme under: <http://www.cordis.lu/growth.htm>.

Eligibility and selection

Proposals must comply with the relevant EU eligibility criteria and rules for participation, and will be evaluated according to the respective criteria. Selection criteria for proposals with Chinese partners will be the same as for normal European proposals. Proposals must have a single, jointly developed workplan involving all the partners, which however clearly sets out the division of labour, the expected results, synergies and added value and budgets for each side. Consortia of co-operating partners are expected to demonstrate the mutual benefits obtainable from complementary international research. A multidisciplinary approach combining strengths of researchers and technologists in the EU and China will be favoured. In selecting projects, priority will be given to problem-solving oriented research with breakthrough potential. For the participation rules in FP5 as well as for evaluation procedures see <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/scr.htm>.

Funding

If selected, project participants from the European Union and from associated States will receive funding from the EU budget in accordance with the normal EU rules. Participants from China will not receive funds from the EU. If the proposal is retained, they may apply for financial support from the Chinese Ministry for Science and Technology (MOST) during the contract negotiation period.

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4. Participation by EU entities in Chinese projects

The S&T Cooperation Agreement also provides for reciprocal participation of research entities established in the European Community to Chinese projects in similar sectors of RTD. Participants from Europe can already participate in particular in the Chinese “National Key Basic Research Development Programme” (the “973 Programme”) and will be able to participate in the “National High Tech Programme” (the “863 Programme”). A “Guide to co-operation with the EU in the National Key Basic Research Development Programme” was developed by the Chinese authorities and can be found on <http://www.delchn.cec.eu.int>.