



Announcement of a competitive call for an additional project partner

The following project currently active in the *Seventh Framework of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European research area and to innovation (2007-2013)* requires the participation of a new partner to carry out certain tasks within the project. Please note that the Seventh Framework programme offers part-funding not full-funding of research activities.

Project grant agreement number: HEALTH-F5-2010-259867
Project acronym: EuroMOTOR
Project full name: European multidisciplinary ALS network identification to cure motor neuron degeneration

Competitive call objectives and description

EuroMOTOR is a European collaborative project dedicated to discover new causative and disease modifying pathways to pave the way for novel therapies for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. EuroMOTOR aims to elucidate ALS disease mechanisms and common causative pathways by a comprehensive systems biology approach to generate a robust and well-validated ALS model of disease. This in turn may provide validated targets and target combinations for the development of novel therapeutics.

EuroMOTOR has retained a specific budget dedicated to favour the integration of new Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the project. The overall objective, as described in the EuroMOTOR project contract, is the validation of novel targets for treatment of ALS.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is one of the most devastating diseases in neurology affecting some 50,000 individuals at any time in Europe, and causing around 10,000 deaths each year. ALS is characterized by progressive degeneration of motor neurons in brain and spinal cord leading to muscle weakness. The median survival is 3 years after onset of symptoms. There is no cure for ALS. The only available drug (Riluzole) is marginally effective in extending the lifespan of ALS patients with 3 to 6 months.

The EuroMOTOR consortium consists of recognized experts in proteomics, metabolomics, genetics, bioinformatics and ALS researchers. Up-to-date cellular and animal models for motor neuron degeneration as well as innovative -omics technology is available and can also be applied to patient samples.

The EuroMOTOR consortium is currently identifying/prioritizing the top 3-5 lead candidates identified in an integrated approach from the results of genomics studies, proteomics studies, metabolomics studies and high-throughput screening in motor neuron neurons derived from iPS cells from ALS patients. The ultimate goal of the EuroMOTOR consortium is to translate its findings towards an effective treatment for patients suffering from ALS.

EuroMOTOR aims to strengthen the consortium by including an ambitious SME that can contribute to one and/or combination of the following tasks:

- Identification of the most promising drugable compounds by defining their chemical structure
- Production of analogues of the compounds
- Determination of the structure-activity relationship (SAR) of the compounds



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- Determination of the compounds' potential to cross the blood-brain barrier, solubility and pharmacokinetics

How to apply

An applicant may participate in/apply for several of these tasks and one SME will be selected to contribute to the EuroMOTOR project.

In order to apply applicants must complete and submit two forms:

- Proposal form
- Administrative form

The applicant must add to the application a detailed budget related to the planned work.

Both forms can be found in the call text on <http://www.eurotmotorproject.eu>.

Evaluation procedure

The evaluation of the applications will be carried out by a panel of external experts validated by the European Commission. To evaluate the submitted proposal, the evaluators will follow the same rules which apply to the selection of EuroMOTOR original project partners. In addition to these rules, and because it is a competitive SME call, the evaluators will also consider the proposal's potential for maximising the socio-economic impact and integration to the activities of the project.

Applicants will find the evaluation form to be used by the evaluators in the call text on <http://www.eurotmotorproject.eu>.

Further call details and time schedule

Expected duration of participation in project: Month 46-60 of the project, which is November 2014-February 2016

Estimated costs and funding for the task(s)

Research costs: € 360,000

Total Commission funding available: € 360,000

Call identifier: *EuroMOTOR 2014 SME call*

Language in which the proposal should be submitted: English

Date of close of call: Wednesday 29 October

Time of close of call: 17h00 Brussels time

All proposals should be submitted by email to the project coordinator:

b.j.thuss@umcutrecht.nl

Web address for further information:

<http://www.eurotmotorproject.eu>