



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Joint Technology Initiatives

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a Joint Technology Initiative?

The Seventh Framework Programme identifies Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) as a means to support trans-national cooperation in industrial research. JTIs are legal entities which are proposed to be set up under Article 171 of the Treaty as a new way of realising public-private partnerships at European level.

JTIs arise primarily from the work of European Technology Platforms. In a small number of cases, European Technology Platforms have achieved such an ambitious scale and scope that they will require the mobilisation of high public and private investments as well as substantial research resources to implement important elements of their Strategic Research Agendas. JTIs are proposed as an effective means of meeting the needs of this small number of European Technology Platforms.

JTIs are critical to making a step change in promoting industry-driven research and development in Europe and to establish European leadership in future strategic technologies.

- In which areas will JTIs be set up?

JTIs will be set up in fields of high industrial and policy significance. Based on a thorough and rigorous identification process, six fields have been identified in the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme, where the setting up of a JTI could be of particular relevance:

- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH)
- Aeronautics and Air Transport (Clean Sky)
- Innovative Medicines (IMI)
- Nanoelectronics Technology 2020 (ENIAC)
- Embedded Computing Systems (ARTEMIS)
- Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

- How has the Commission identified the proposed JTIs?

The Commission has defined a systematic and rigorous identification process to identify where the setting up of JTIs could be of particular relevance. In its proposal for the Seventh Framework Programme, the Commission set out a number of identification criteria for JTIs. These criteria were further developed in the Commission's report on European Technology Platforms and JTIs to the June 2005 European Council (SEC(2005) 800) and subsequently in the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme. The Specific Programme states that:

"Joint technology initiatives are identified in an open and transparent way on the basis of a series of criteria including:

- *inability of existing instruments to achieve the objective,*
- *scale of the impact on industrial competitiveness and growth,*
- *added-value of European-level intervention,*
- *the degree and clarity of definition of the objective and deliverables to be pursued,*



- *strength of the financial and resource commitment from industry,*
- *importance of the contribution to broader policy objectives including benefit to society,*
- *capacity to attract additional national support and leverage current or future industry funding."*

- Will further JTIs be set up under the Seventh Framework Programme?

Six areas where the setting up of a JTI could be of particular relevance have been identified in the 'Cooperation' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme. These will serve as test cases, on the basis of which this new mechanism can be assessed. Therefore, at this stage, it is not intended to propose further initiatives, however the situation could be reconsidered on the occasion of the mid-term review of the Seventh Framework Programme.

- How will JTIs be launched under the Seventh Framework Programme?

In November 2006, the European Commission developed a roadmap in which it reconfirms the six areas and establishes the process leading to the presentation of JTI proposals to Council. This indicates that proposals will be presented when they have reached a sufficiently advanced state of preparedness. This is assessed on the basis of two inputs: demonstration from industry that the 'keys for success' (which relate to additionality, market failure, governance and role of Member States) have been met and an objective assessment of the social and economic effects.

Based on the analysis to date, it appears that the JTI on Innovative Medicines and the JTI on Embedded Computing Systems ("ARTEMIS") are in a state of preparation which could enable the Commission to adopt the proposals by spring 2007.

JTIs are set up on the basis of a Council Regulation following a proposal from the Commission.

- Who can participate in the research activities of a JTI?

As stated in the Commission report to the June 2005 European Council (SEC(2005) 800), JTIs should not be "closed shops", but should be open structures.

As regards the issue of the openness of JTI consortia, any legal entity established in a Member State or country associated to the Seventh Framework Programme is eligible to become a member of a Joint Undertaking during its operation.

Furthermore, each JTI will organise open calls for proposals.

- How will the Secretariats of JTIs be set up?

The Secretariat will be set up as part of the Council Regulation. The implementation modalities will follow on from this.

- How will JTIs be funded?

Financial resources are necessary to support the running costs of the Secretariat as well as the costs of the R&D.

In those JTIs where Member States are not involved as founding members, it is envisaged that the running costs of the Secretariat will be supported by matching in cash contributions from industry and the Commission.

In those JTIs where the Member States are involved as founding members, it is envisaged that the running costs of the Secretariat will be funded by in cash contributions from industry (approximately 2/3) and the Commission (approximately 1/3), in addition to in kind contributions from involved Member States and Associated Countries.

The way in which the R&D will be financed is tailored to the specific objectives and stakeholder base of individual JTIs. While the procedures for organising calls for proposals should be open in all JTIs, the precise way in which funds will be disbursed may differ.

JTIs allow funding from the Framework Programme to be combined with other public funding sources, including, where appropriate, the Structural Funds and the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility. This can have a significant leverage effect on private investment in JTIs and related economic activity.

The contribution of the Community is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total cost of projects supported by the Joint Undertaking.

- What is the role of the Commission in JTIs?

In all JTIs, the Community (represented by the Commission) is a founding member and is involved in the decision-making process.

- What steps will be taken to ensure that JTIs respect the principles of excellence and competition in their use of Community funding?

JTIs will be expected to respect the principles of excellence and competition, as well as of openness and transparency. This should be reflected in the governance structures and the project selection procedures employed.

At the same time, it must be recognised that the proposed JTIs cover a diverse range of technological areas. Therefore, a “one size fits all” approach is not appropriate.

The Commission will ensure that the principles of excellence and competition are implemented, in such a way that the flexibility that JTIs require to achieve their objectives is not unduly restricted. For example, the proposed governance structure and the procedures for Calls for proposals and project selection are among the possible means of ensuring that these principles are adhered to.

- What is Article 171 of the EC Treaty?

JTIs are legal entities which are proposed to be set up under Article 171 of the Treaty.

Article 171 of the Treaty allows the Community to set up any structure necessary for the efficient execution of research, technological development and demonstration programmes. It allows for a wide range of possible implementation structures for Community research and development programmes, of which the most prominent is a Joint Undertaking. A Joint Undertaking offers the advantage of creating a strong and efficient coordination mechanism, able to structure and handle contributions coming from different sources. As such, a Joint Undertaking appears to be the most appropriate structure for the setting up of JTIs.

- How will JTIs help to increase investment in research in Europe?

JTIs will facilitate the creation of critical mass in the areas concerned by developing a coordinated approach to research across Europe. In doing so, they will strengthen the competitive position of European industry, thus making Europe a more attractive location for inward investment in research.

In addition, by allowing funding from the Framework Programme to be combined with other public funding sources, JTIs are expected to have a significant leverage effect on private investment and related economic activity.

JTIs will lead to the formation of wide partnerships that, in addition to the founding members, will involve a large number of players from industry (and notably SMEs), the research community and wider society. By facilitating networking between large companies and SMEs, JTIs are expected to leverage greater research investment in the SME sector.

- Will JTIs benefit all EU Member States?

JTIs are open to all Member States and countries associated to the Seventh Framework Programme.

Given that JTIs involve SMEs in their networks, and SMEs focus on technological niches across the full range of Member States, this will help in particular the smaller Member States to become involved.

- Are JTIs compatible with competition rules?

JTIs will channel substantial amounts of public money to selected undertakings that may give them a technological edge and therefore a competitive advantage. Accordingly, in developing proposals, it has been ensured that their design is compatible with competition rules. Particular attention has been paid to State Aid rules, antitrust issues and merger controls.

- Are there any existing example of JTIs?

JTIs are a novel mechanism; there is no precedent for public-private partnerships set up under Article 171 of the EC Treaty in the field of research.