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Per e-mail:

Funding Opportunities for transnational research projects of SMEs, SME associations and RTOs in Aeronautics Research

Dear European Technology Platform member,

Your platform has developed a vision, a strategic research agenda and related roadmaps in your domain. Like other platforms, yours has national representations in different member states gathering national stakeholders including large industry, industrial SMEs, academy, associations and public instances.

These national stakeholders, especially SMEs, are key actors in the implementation of your strategic research agenda at national and regional levels. Often however they are only facing bureaucratic funding opportunities for their projects. To respond to this fact CORNET and EraSME provide low threshold access: they enable SMEs to further increase their competitiveness by trans-national cooperation in R&D projects which is of major relevance, particularly in the current crisis. These transnational projects are funded directly by national or regional programmes easily accessible to SMEs from your platform.

CORNET supports trans-national European co-operation between SME associations, SMEs and R&D performers. EraSME supports trans-national research co-operation between individual SMEs and RTOs. In both initiatives two calls for proposals are organised per year, following a bottom-up approach, which means that topics are not pre-defined and can be chosen by applicants from any technological area and in any sector. Funding is based on national and/or regional programmes. CORNET and EraSME have established a close collaboration with Eurostars in proposal evaluation.

Currently the 9th CORNET call and the 7th EraSME call are open for proposal submission until March 31, 2010. Partnering Events in January 2010 in Hungary and The Netherlands will facilitate project and consortium building. Please visit our websites for further information on calls and partnering events.

We would like to ask you to distribute information about CORNET and EraSME to your national or regional representations. We will be happy to present these two funding opportunities during one of your general technology platform meeting or your National Platform network meeting and answer all your questions on how to participate, submit a proposal and get financial support for projects.

Thanks for your cooperation and looking forward to hearing from you very soon,

Yours sincerely,

Almut Büchner and Günter Külzhammer
on behalf of the CORNET and EraSME common office

