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FP7 and SME's: Aspirations versus Opportunities

John CLEUREN,
Unit G.2 : New Generation of Products
Directorate G: Industrial Technologies
DG Research

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Main opportunities in FP7 for SMEs in Manufacturing

1. Research for the benefit of SMEs

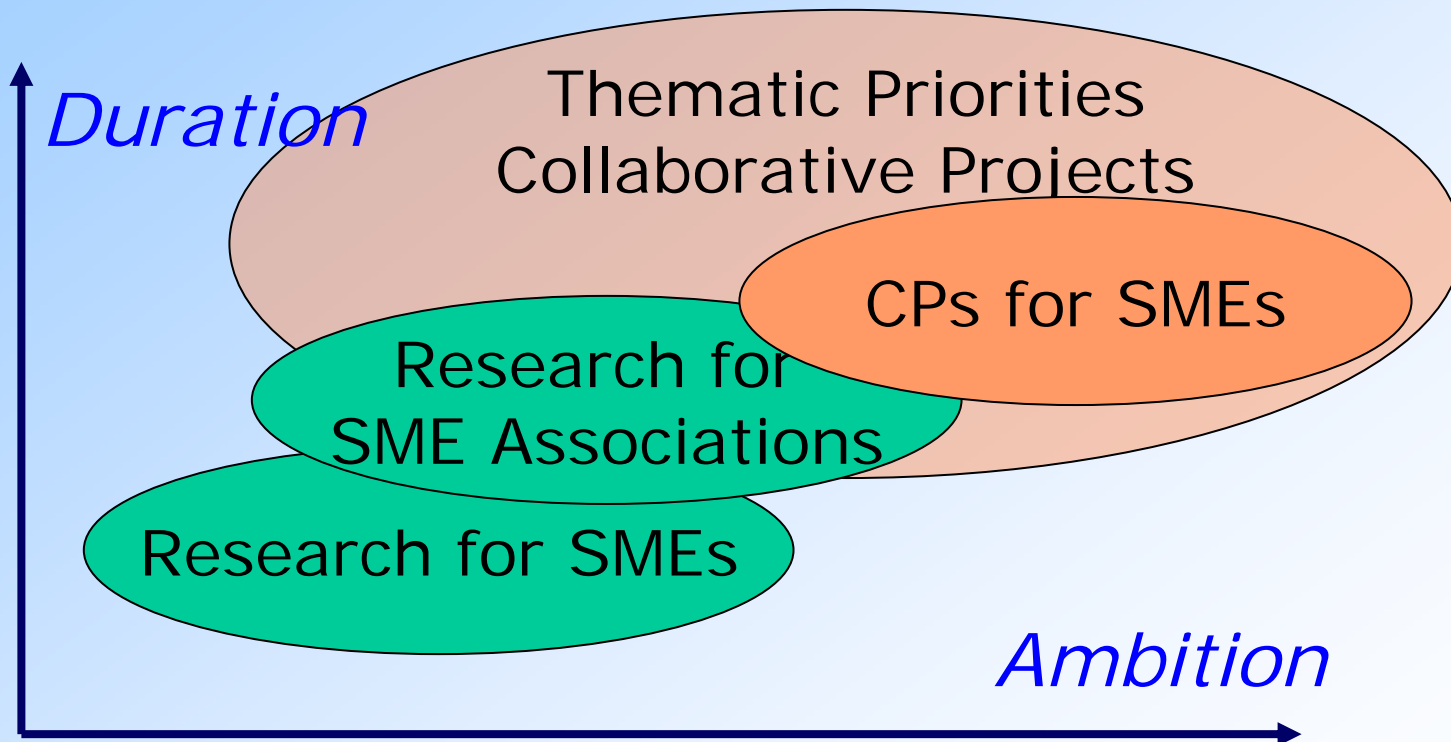
- Research for SMEs
- Research for SME associations

2. Collaborative Projects

- Small/medium scale (former STREP)
- Large scale (former IP)
- SME dedicated



Difference in focus





Research for SMEs

- **outsourcing research to RTD performers (similar to former CRAFT)**
- **participation of individual SMEs**
- **project size €0,5 to 1,5 Million**
- **1 to 2 year duration**
- **5 to 10 participants**
- **dedicated to specific RTD and innovation needs**
- **covers the whole field of science and technology**



Research for SME associations

- **outsourcing research to RTD performers (similar to former collective research)**
- **participation of SME associations and some individual SMEs**
- **project size €1,5 to 4 Million**
- **2 to 3 year duration**
- **10 to 15 participants**
- **dedicated to RTD and innovation needs of larger groups**
- **covers the whole field of science and technology**



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Collaborative Projects

- the most widely used instrument of FP7
- SME participate at equal level
- SME participation widely encouraged
- Overall, at least 15% of the EU funding budget will be dedicated to SMEs
- In NMP theme high SME participation is expected



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FP7-NMP-2008-SME-2

Collaborative Projects targeted to SMEs

- CP-SME projects are a separate category within the collaborative projects instrument.
- It is aimed at the participation of SMEs in the R&D activities themselves.
(no passive but active participation)



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Call: FP7-NMP-2008-SME-2

- Indicative EC funding 65 M€
- 4.855 M€ to be committed in 2008 and the rest in 2009
- 5 topics ⇔ 13 M€ per topic average
- No formal minimum or maximum project size but:
- It is expected that in total about 20 projects can be financed
- Recommended maximum number of partners is 15
- Recommended maximum duration is 4 years



Comparison to FP6 (IP-SME)

- No longer a pure IP character
 - Smaller budgets and consortia
 - Focus shifts to R&D activities
 - Training is no longer necessary
 - Limited selective demonstration activities
 - Exploitation and dissemination within the sector remains important!!
- No minimum percentage SMEs but
- At least 35% of the funding should be dedicated to the SME partners in the project
- The 2005 SME definition is applicable



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Consortium & Management

- Leading role of R&D intensive SMEs in the project
-> decision making vote in project management
- Co-ordinator does not need to be an SME
- Larger enterprises, research institutions and universities are welcome



SME Definition

An SME is a private organisation

- **with less than 250 “Annual Working Unit” employees**
- **with a turnover not exceeding 50 M€ and/or a balance sheet total not exceeding 43 M€**
- **that is autonomous**
- **that is either commercial or non-profit**



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Thank You and Good luck

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/nanotechnology_en.html

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-sme_en.html

e-mail: john.cleuren@ec.europa.eu

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