

SCRATCH PHASE IV
Support for SMEs Collaborative Aeronautical Technical Research
Contract N°: ASA3-CT-2004-510981

Specific Support Action
Specific Programme: Integrating and strengthening the ERA
Thematic Priority: 1.4 Aeronautics and Space

PUBLISHABLE FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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Coordinator: Mr Jean-Louis BONAFE
EURO INTER TOULOUSE

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PUBLISHABLE FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The SCRATCH (Support for SMEs Collaborative Aeronautical Technical Research) principles have obtained the support of the EC thanks to funded stimulation actions since 01/02/99, in the field of Aeronautics.

From 01/02/99 to 01/05/2004: 5000 SMEs have been directly contacted, 450 have been audited and 160 different research expressed interests have been collected. SCRATCH Consortia have serviced and presented 64 proposals to the Commission evaluation, all of them being coordinated by SMEs. 28 are or have been funded, which demonstrates the efficiency of the SCRATCH approach to the benefit of SMEs technological acquisition in Aeronautics.

The support offered to SMEs in SCRATCH Phase IV from 01/05/04 to 31/04/06 was a follow-up to the previous SCRATCH Stimulation Actions. It dealt with Specific Targeted Research Projects (STREP) preparations in the field of aerospace (Partnership servicing). Serviced SME STREPs proposals were short-term oriented, led by an SME, with a maximum involvement of SMEs, with the help of technology providers (large manufacturers and RCs or Universities).

SCRATCH Phase IV was a Specific Support Action funded by the European Community under the 'Integrating and strengthening the ERA' Programme (FP6 2002-2006). It had a duration of 24 months (from May 1st, 2004 to April 30th, 2006). All information needed on the SCRATCH support action are available on the web: <http://www.aero-scratch.net>.

1 SCRATCH Phase IV objectives

- To bring Technology Acquisition opportunities and RTD (Research and Technical Development) awareness mechanisms to a maximum number SMEs, directly or indirectly involved in the European Aerospace supply chain.
- To audit and help SMEs to structure their corporate research plan and to point out jointly the technology acquisition themes able to be acquired collaboratively within the Aerospace Programme (FP6).
- To enrich the European Aerospace SMEs data base, in cooperation with ASD, AeroSME.
- To set up a list of short-term, product oriented, expressed research needs from aerospace SMEs.
- To offer aerospace SMEs with services in order to have access to FP6 RTD funds dedicated to SMEs (which target is, in particular, to allocate 15% budget in the "Aerospace thematic priority").
- To bring together aerospace SMEs from the EU Member States and Associated States to prepare in cooperation SMEs technology acquisition proposals.
- To support the initial management when setting up a serviced SME STREP proposal
- To submit at least 15 serviced collaborative RTD (STREPs led by SMEs in the field of the Aerospace Programme) for evaluation to the Commission.
- To undertake investigations dealing with aerospace SMEs needs and capabilities in view of the Framework Programme 7 preparation

- To remain flexible to adapt the SCRATCH objectives to the FP6 evolving implementation mechanisms. In particular, the participation of SMEs within the Integrated Project Proposals will be helped by the SCRATCH Partnership.

2 SCRATCH Phase IV partnership

SCRATCH Phase IV is represented by a Partnership of seventeen associations or firms from Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Greece, Israel, Canada, Ireland, Sweden and Hungary. This partnership extends directly its activities to Malta, Cyprus and Luxemburg, it covers twenty nations in total. All the partners have a significant experience with European research and technology support programmes in FP6, FP5, FP4, FP3 and FP2 like Aeronautical Thematic Priority, Growth, IMT, Brite-Euram, IST, Innovation and Encouragement of SMEs.

Coordinator: EURO INTER, France: limited company having a deep knowledge of European RTD, Aerospace SMEs, Large Manufacturers and Research Centres, it has coordinated SCRATCH Phases I, II and III.

EURO INTER Contact details:

Mr. Jean-Louis BONAFE, General Manager

33, Boulevard Deltour

F - 31500 TOULOUSE

e.mail: jl.bonafe@eurointer.fr

Tel: +33 (0)5 62 47 14 18

Fax: +33 (0)5 62 47 12 26

Web site: <http://www.eurointer.fr>

Partnership:

PRO SUPPORT, the Netherlands, Partner 2

T4TECH, Italy, Partner 3

RHEA, Belgium, Partner 4

INASMET, Spain, Partner 5

EURO-CONSULTANTS, Israel, Partner 6

EUROPUS, United Kingdom, Partner 7

ALROUND, Germany, Partner 8

ISTRAM, Greece, Partner 9

TEKEVER, Portugal, Partner 10

INCAS, Romania, Partner 11

IoA, Poland, Partner 12

TBUZ, Czech Republic, Partner 13

CTA, Canada, Partner 14.

IASRN, Ireland, Partner 15

RTN, Sweden, Partner 16

SLOT Consulting Ltd, Hungary, Partner 17

3 Work performed

SCRATCH comprises 6 major Work Packages, without counting WP1, which deals with management and upper support to the partnership.

- In **WP2 (Awareness Campaign)**, the Partners offer SMEs explanations on European Framework Programme mechanisms as far as Aeronautical technology acquisition is at stake.
 - ➔ **WP2:** *awareness campaign has been done by all SCRATCH partners. More than 4156 Aerospace SMEs have been informed in order to make them directly aware of the support offered by the Commission through the SCRATCH Partnership.*
 - In **WP3 (Quality Hearing)**, an internal SCRATCH forum has been organised to analyse the possibilities to improve proposals servicing.
 - ➔ **WP3:** *a Quality Hearing has been done in October 2004 and a quality handbook has been published within the consortium.*
 - **WP4 is dedicated to audits and partners search:** companies having expressed interest to the awareness campaign are audited and invited to express their technology acquisition needs.
 - ➔ **WP4:** *Each partner informs, visits and audits local Aerospace SMEs in order to make them aware of the support offered by the Commission through the SCRATCH Partnership. To date, around 296 companies have been visited and 296 audits have been published within SCRATCH Consortium, under SCRATCH IV contract.*
 - In **WP5 (SMEs expressed RTD needs)**, expressed RTD needs collected will be checked versus the FP6 Aerospace Work Programme, taking into account the capabilities to coordinate RTD from the companies having expressed their needs.
 - ➔ **WP5:** *100 expressed technological needs have been registered within SCRATCH further to the audits performed in local Aerospace SMEs. Finally, 131 expressed needs have been registered.*
 - **WP6 deals with Project Proposals Servicing.** Each SCRATCH partner, working in WP6, helps SMEs to prepare proposals for evaluation.
- WP6: 22 STREPs from SMEs are serviced by within SCRATCH consortium. Finally, 18 STREPs have been submitted to the EC and only two have been successfully evaluated
- In **WP7 (SMEs towards FP7)**, each partner will undertake a survey of the SMEs wills, needs and expectations from the future FP in Aeronautics.

4 SCRATCH Phase IV achievements compared with expected results

The SCRATCH Phase IV Partners are expecting the following quantifiable achievements from each of the above objectives and associated means:

- 4,000 SMEs will be contacted by mail in the sixteen countries directly covered by the SCRATCH Partnership and forums will be organized in cooperation with ASD AeroSME.
More than 4000 SMEs already contacted: 4156 SMEs contacted by mailing and around 1000 direct contacts in forum and business events.
- Audited SMEs (WP4) should reach a number of 200 within SCRATCH Phase IV.
296 audits declared and 171 audits published.
- SMEs assessment and research expressed needs, matched with EU Aerospace thematic priorities, will help to identify ideas of research project that would be serviced SME STREPs proposals; a target of 50 expressed ideas should be an achievable target (WP4).
131 expressed needs identified.
- The most promising ideas, able to become serviced SME STREPs proposals, will be serviced up to their submission for evaluation by the Commission within the SCRATCH Phase IV Project duration. They will be serviced by the SCRATCH Phase IV servicing Partners; a number of fifteen collaborative RTD serviced SME STREPs proposals delivered for evaluation seems to be reasonable (WP6).
25 STREPs proposals had been actually serviced to answer 3rd call of FP6 and 18 STREPs proposals were submitted for evaluation.

5 Intentions for use and impact

Dissemination is made thanks to the useful tool: “aero-scratch.net” web-site which statistics are reminded here below.

VISITS	Total for the period 01/11/04 to 30/04/06
TOTAL	17620

Exploitation is not an issue for SCRATCH; serviced proposals if accepted will have full property rights and full exploitation rights.