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Partners

Austria: BMVIT (Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology);
FFG (Austrian Research Promotion Agency)

Belgium: BELSPO (Belgian Federal Science Policy Office Aeronautics)

Croatia: Uni. of Zagreb (University of Zagreb)

France: ONERA (Aeronautics and Space Research Centre)

Germany: BMWI (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology);
DLR, PT-LF (German Aerospace Center - Program Management Agency /
Aeronautics Research)

Greece: GSRT (General Secretariat for Research and Technology)

Hungary: NORT (National Office for Research and Technology)

Ireland: EI (Enterprise Ireland)

Italy: MIUR (Ministry of University and Research);
CIRA (Italian Aerospace Research Center)

Netherlands: EZ (Ministry of Economic Affairs);
NLR (National Aerospace Laboratory)

Poland: NCBIR (National Centre for Research and Development)

Portugal: FCT (Foundation of Science and Technology)

Romania: ROSA (Romanian Space Agency)

Slovakia: MDPaT (Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication
of the Slovak Republic);
Uni. of Zilina (University of Zilina)

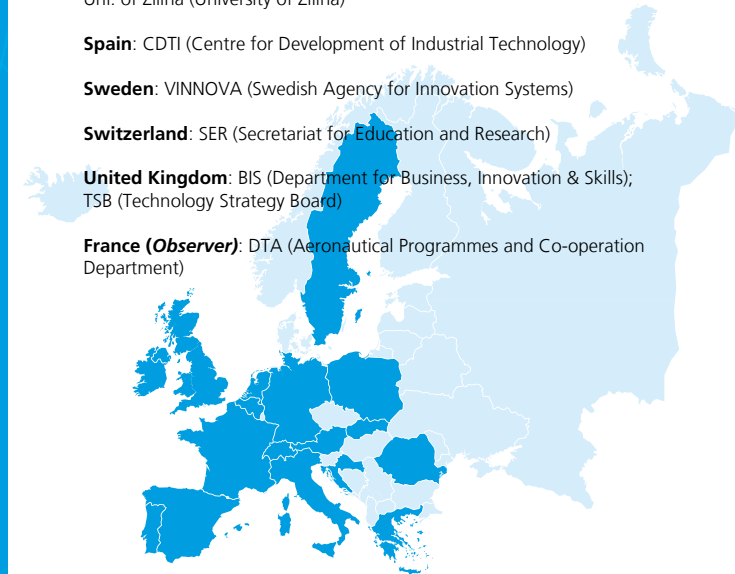
Spain: CDTI (Centre for Development of Industrial Technology)

Sweden: VINNOVA (Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems)

Switzerland: SER (Secretariat for Education and Research)

United Kingdom: BIS (Department for Business, Innovation & Skills);
TSB (Technology Strategy Board)

France (Observer): DTA (Aeronautical Programmes and Co-operation
Department)



Acronym: AirTN-FP7

Name of proposal:

Air Transport Net (AirTN) as one of the key enablers for the
prosperous development of Aeronautics in Europe

Contract number: 235476

Instrument: CSA-SA

Total costs: 1.900.000 €

EU contribution: 1.900.000 €

Call: FP7-ERA-2008-RTD

Starting date: 01.01.2010

Ending date: 31.12.2012

Duration: 36 months

EC officer: Dr. Dietrich Knörzer

„Air Transport Net (AirTN) - The European Research Area Network in Aeronautics“

State of the Art – Background

Aeronautics is one of the biggest and important industries in the EU, not only for its pivotal role in the transport of people and goods, but for European manufacturing industries as well. The air transport industry in Europe currently employs over 3 million people and this will grow to between 5 and 7 million by 2020. But if Europe intends to maintain and expand its aeronautics industry it needs to have a strong policy on research and development, putting this into action by carrying out top quality state-of-the-art research and innovation activities in all areas of the aeronautics industry including infrastructure, development, passenger care and supply chain operations.

Growth and competitiveness are important objectives, but aeronautics policy must also take into account many other factors including the importance of sustainable development and the manifold environmental objectives that are now of such pressing importance. Balancing environmental goals with research and development objectives is a delicate balancing act that requires a precise set of goals and values.

In addition to more and better quality R&D, research programmes need to be better coordinated throughout Europe to avoid duplication of research efforts and pinpoint which areas of research need to be focused on. EU Member States must have opportunities to collaborate on research activities that they do not have the financial, academic or technical means to carry out independently.

This is the purpose of ERA-NET's Air Transport Net (AirTN). AirTN is a consortium of 24 partners from 18 EU Member States that came together to enhance Europe's air transport industry to prepare for future expansion and competitive success. The initiative first received support under the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) and many Work Package (WP) objectives were already delivered under this. Continued support under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) has allowed further development and more involvement and collaborations between Member States.

Objectives

AirTN FP7 will strengthen this coordination and strive for long lasting co-operation. It will bring added value to the foundation of the European Research Area and the development of European Research Policy, especially in relation for aeronautics and air transport. The focus will be on the implementation of Joint Activities step 3 of the ERANET instrument and step 4, the funding of transnational research.

The governing objective of all AirTN activities is to continue strengthening the European Research Area within the framework of the ACARE Strategic Research Agenda.

One of AirTN's foremost goals was to create a better awareness of the research development mechanisms that are already well established in Europe.

AirTN has successfully established and maintained an extensive network of European aeronautics stakeholder groups that include ACARE and GARTEUR along with universities, research institutes, manufacturers and airports.

Other programmes that AirTN is working with include the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative, SESAR-JU (Single European Sky Joint Undertaking), the NCP Network (National Contact Points), EUROCONTROL (European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, which is made up of 38 European Member States and aims to improve and coordinate air traffic control across Europe), and the ETNA-European Transport NCP Alliance. By working together with AirTN for research excellence these organisations are strengthening aeronautics R&D under the ACARE umbrella.

In particular, the following objectives shall be pursued in AirTN-FP7:

- Increased efficiency, synergy, and avoiding the duplication of research performed on European, national and regional levels;
- Increased complementary research activities within Europe;
- Unlocking the untapped potential of skills and resources in Europe, especially in the Member States from Central and Eastern Europe that joined the EU

in 2004 and 2006 (EU12) and smaller member states and regions;

- Facilitating the development of a joint strategy for research structures and facilities;
- Identifying successful approaches to ensure a skilled workforce.

Description of Work

The work plan is as follows.

WP1:

- Point of contact for the EU Commission and fulfilment of contract obligations;
- Management of the consortium;
- Coordination of activities and fulfilment of objectives;
- Analysis of common strategic issues;
- Consideration of specific target groups' interests with respect to joint activities, briefing of specific target groups' with respect to AirTN activities and objectives.

WP2:

- Information collection on research programmes;
- Research topics for joint activities;
- Establishment of a catalogue of aeronautical research infrastructures in various EU countries and analysis of corresponding investment policies, priorities and mechanisms.

WP3:

- Development of documentation and processes for implementing joint activities;
- Providing best practise information to member/ associated states aiming to set up joint activities/joint research programmes;

- Supporting both modalities of joint activities: Project-by-project basis and structured approach.

WP4:

- Preparing the ERA-Net for Transnational programmes by developing schemes and procedures, and also to provide plans and facilities for the network with the possibility of becoming sustainable post EC funding;
- These aims will be further supported by multinational pilot actions, joint activities and joint calls on some widely used components and instruments of national and international programmes.

WP5:

- Maintenance of the public website;
- Maintenance of the virtual laboratory to be used as an electronic means of communication;
- Organisation of thematic fora;
- Organisation of a dissemination conference.

Expected Results

Aeronautics is important in Europe, socially, economically and strategically. AirTN-FP7's role will be to continue strengthening the foundation of European Research and Aeronautics and Air Transport.

This will be achieved through further co-operation and co-ordination of national and regional research programmes, and the development of policies in support of strategic planning.

Ambitions for Europe, set at the highest political level, envisaged the development of the European economy towards becoming the most innovative in the world. Aeronautical capability plays a pivotal role in this. Whilst paying attention to issues such as environment increased Air Transport System capacity, security and safety, AirTN-FP7 will enhance and centralise the European aeronautics focus and increasing the alignment of national programmes, leading to more innovation and hence greater probability of funding solution to policy-driven challenges.