



Bioenergy Sustaining the Future 2 – a call for Bioenergy Demonstration Proposals

Early Market Engagement

October 2013

1. Introduction

A consortium of European funding agencies (likely to include the UK, Germany, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Denmark), supported by the European Commission, are planning to launch a **joint call for Bioenergy Demonstrator projects**. The call aims to encourage the commercialisation of bioenergy projects and thereby increase renewable energy production across the EU.

The competition will be open to both industrial and research organisations, but **projects must be industry-led**. This document provides early awareness of the upcoming competition and invites interested parties to express an interest by providing their contact details in order to receive further communications related to the call.

2. Background

The European Union (EU) is committed to combating climate change and to increasing security of its energy supply. Bioenergy is a renewable energy source that, if produced sustainably, saves greenhouse gas emissions and could play a key role for both EU targets. Bioenergy already accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU, and importantly, is a reliable, non-intermittent source of energy.

This activity is part of the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI), which is one of the industrial initiatives launched under the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (the technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate policy). The EIBI aims to contribute to the commercial availability of advanced bioenergy at large scale by 2020, aiming for production costs that are competitive with fossil fuels. This includes advanced biofuels which are to meet 2% of EU transportation energy needs by 2020.

The member states participating in this initiative are implementing an ERANET Plus activity entitled **Bioenergy Sustaining the Future 2 (BESTF2)**, a follow-up from a previous joint call (BESTF) that closed in March 2013 and recommended 3 projects for funding with a total project cost of €33Million.

3. Project Eligibility and Timing

This activity will provide funding and support to collaborative bioenergy projects at a pre-commercial stage that demonstrate one or more innovative steps. It will support demonstration of novel technologies or whole plants which are not yet commercial. The principal objective of the BESTF2 call is to fund public-private projects that de-risk bioenergy technologies at demonstration¹ scale and to encourage further private exploitation. BESTF2 funding will be used to support projects that:

1. Will deliver a **pre-commercial demonstration**
2. Address one or more of the following seven value chains:
 - a. Synthetic liquid fuels and/or hydrocarbons and blending components via gasification
 - b. Bio-methane and other synthetic gaseous fuels from biomass via gasification
 - c. High-efficiency heat and power generation via gasification of biomass
 - d. Bioenergy carriers via other thermochemical processes (e.g. pyrolysis, torrefaction)
 - e. Ethanol and higher alcohols from ligno-cellulosic feedstock via fermentation
 - f. Renewable hydrocarbons through biological and/or chemical synthesis from biomass containing carbohydrates
 - g. Bioenergy carriers from CO₂ and sunlight through microorganism-based production and upgrading into fuels and valuable bio-products;
3. Involve active participation of at least **two participating member states**;
4. **Are industry-led**;
5. Demonstrate **value for money** and appropriate sources of matched funding.

National Requirements will also apply and a complete set of eligibility requirements will be made available as soon as the BESTF2 call is launched at www.eranetbestf.net.

The competition is expected to open in December 2013 and will close in March 2014 with first projects commencing from January 2015. Please note that dates are provisional and will be confirmed later in the year.

¹ EIBI definition (current draft): Demonstration plants are considered the last non-economic step to demonstrate the overall performance and technical reliability of all unit operations in a value chain so that the first-of-a-kind, commercial-scale industrial unit can be designed with sufficient confidence for the investment. These projects correspond to TRLs 6-7.

4. Early Engagement Opportunity

The BESTF2 funding agencies are inviting interested industry and academic parties to consider this opportunity at an early stage and express their interest in applying for the scheme.

Provision and acceptance of this information does not constitute any commitment by either party. Organisations expressing an interest at this time are under no obligation to apply in any eventual call, and can modify any aspect of the details provided as they see fit.

Interested parties should complete the form below and send it by email **with the subject heading 'BESTF2 – Expression of Interest'** to:

innovation@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Any information provided to the BESTF2 Management Group will fall under the relevant Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations. Please clearly mark responses to show any information that is commercial in confidence or bound by IPR.

5. Further Details

Further details will be posted onto the BESTF website closer to the launch date.

Any queries related to this request can be emailed to:

Megan Cooper (DECC): megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Ewa Bloch (TSB): ewa.bloch@tsb.gov.uk

Annex A Template for Response

Name		
Contact Details	E:	T:
Organisation name		
Organisation description Maximum 50 words		
Areas of Interest / Expertise Maximum 100 words	Please detail any relevant areas of interest and/or expertise that you would use to apply for this call.	
Ability to apply Maximum 100 words	Please indicate whether you would consider applying for this competition given the eligibility criteria and timeline. If there are any factors limiting your ability to respond to the competition call please detail them here.	
Collaboration questions (delete as appropriate)	Are you interested in leading a project?	Yes/No
	Are you interested in participating in a project as a partner?	Yes/No
	Please indicate whether you agree to your response being published on the BESTF website	Yes/No

