

## **THE MATERIALS COMMON HOUSE (MATCH) IS LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### **Background**

The fragmentation of research efforts has long been identified as a European weakness. A significant part of national R&D budgets is spent without substantial coordination across the Union, a significant waste of resources at a time of shrinking funding possibilities.

Mastering the design, research and development of new and improved materials will remain key for achieving the goals of the European Innovation Policy, in agreement with the European Strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

A dynamic structure, following materials research and innovation across the European Union, is called for. The goal is to make Europe a more coherent system, and also to help in better coordinating future EU materials activities with those in Member States, Associated Countries, Global Partners, industry and academia, to avoid duplications and gaps.

The MATCH consortium has been able to gather major stakeholders in materials research and innovation in Europe, both in the core group (six ETPs forming the Alliance for Materials A4M, EMRS, FEMS and NoE with strong materials agenda) and through the group of External Partners, covering a broad set of agendas where materials are essential for their developments.

The scope of the activity is to give support to a monitoring system and a forum to debate developments and needs, identify gaps and opportunities, and establish priorities in order to create a sound, authoritative, consensual, science-based, economy pushed, society-driven Europe-wide knowledge base of materials science and engineering.

Synergy with or use of present structures, existing schemes and international collaboration would be welcome. International benchmarking of materials activity is needed to identify features and strengths.

### **Terms of Reference**

The proposal is for the support of technology platforms, institutions, materials organisations from countries outside of Europe to enter into an informal agreement for information sharing and assessment of national policy, foresight, coordination and to give indications in which application areas materials research and innovation has the most impact. The proposal should also provide elements for a constant monitoring system, as well as success cases and best practices stemming from funded advanced materials research strategy and implementation.

### **Expected outcomes**

To define the main policy and strategy crucial for the promotion of sustainable advanced material development and innovation:

- National Science & Innovation Policy, reference and contexts of advanced materials
- Advanced materials initiatives and strategy to accelerate growth and development.
- Government supported coordination.
- The importance of cross cutting technologies in sectors and applications underpinning advanced materials innovation
- The role of advanced materials in enabling advanced high value manufacturing
- Identification of potential integrated hubs/clusters and geographical connection of competencies
- The strategic importance of “security of access” to critical raw materials
- Internationalisation strategy & identification of collaborative programmes and international research project cooperation

### **Information Network**

The external partners supporting **A4M** in this benchmarking task are **IK4-Tekniker** (Spain), **IOM3** (UK), **Tecnalia** (Spain), **CNR** (Italy) & **CEA** (France).

International partners to be approached for assistance could be e.g. Korean Materials Research Society (K-MRS), Japanese Materials Research Society, International Union of Materials Research Society, Japanese National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), Chinese Materials Research Society and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

#### **Coordination of Cooperation**

Coordination and liaison would be supervised through EMRS, a nominated international partner representative and IOM3 as the task leader.

#### **Reporting & Information Provision**

Based on the expected outcomes a summary report will be drafted highlighting the best practices.  
Over the course of the project web links to information source will be recorded for use as an overall reference.

#### **Timescale/Resource**

The anticipated resource allocation is 1.0 MM commencing end May 2015 and completion of draft report by end July 2015.

#### **Required Competences**

Command of English, both spoken and written  
Ability to communicate clearly and concisely