

FLAG-ERA

News release, Brussels, 25 September 2015

FLAG-ERA, the Flagship ERA-NET, will fund 19 transnational research projects in synergy with the Graphene Flagship and the Human Brain Project for a total of € 13.5 million.

FLAG-ERA is pleased to announce the results of its first Joint Transnational Call (FLAG-ERA JTC 2015). 19 transnational projects were selected for funding after evaluation by an independent international scientific evaluation panel supported by external reviewers. The selected research projects include 13 projects in synergy with the Graphene Flagship and 6 with the Human Brain Project (HBP) Flagship, for a total budget of € 9.9 million and € 3.6 million, respectively.

Among the thirteen projects related to the Graphene Flagship, four are in the scientific area of advanced nanofabrication and spintronics, three are in the area of new layered materials and heterostructures, while the others cover various areas: immunogenomics and proteomics; biological and chemical sensors; functional coatings; nanofluidic applications; computational modelling of devices and systems and prototypes.

Concerning the projects related to HBP, four out of the six funded projects will contribute to the understanding of brain functioning through a targeted mapping of the mouse and human brains. The other two projects are in the areas of theoretical neuroscience and neuroinformatics.

The call was launched in October 2014 and closed three months later, in January 2015. Funding organisations from 14 European countries committed funding for projects related to the Graphene Flagship and organisations from 11 countries did for projects related to HBP. Investigators based at universities, research institutions, SMEs and larger enterprises were invited to team up with their peers abroad to submit proposals in the area of the Flagships. 108 proposals were received, 78 in the Graphene domain and 30 in the HBP domain.

The FLAG-ERA JTC 2015 was designed to expand the current Flagships to new researchers while also supporting researchers already in the Flagships. The partners of successful projects which are not already Flagship members will be invited to become associate members. The inclusion of associate members into the Flagships allows for a larger geographical coverage, opens access to additional expertise and can lead to the discovery of new research areas for the Flagships. Associate members will thus help the Flagships to achieve their science and technology targets. Conversely, associate members will benefit from their participation in the large-scale Flagship initiatives in a variety of ways.

“The 19 projects funded by FLAG-ERA members in the framework of this call will become the first partnering projects of the Flagships. This is a major milestone in the implementation of the Flagship funding model.”

Edouard Geoffrois, coordinator of FLAG-ERA

“The Joint Transnational Call strengthens the Graphene Flagship greatly on the lower technology readiness levels, and demonstrates a good alignment between the EC-funded part of the Flagship and the investments by the member states. We are looking forward to working with these projects and the organizations participating in them.”

Jari Kinaret, director of the Graphene Flagship



“We are excited about the first partnering projects joining the HBP and we look forward to the critical contributions of these six projects”

Christoph Ebell, executive director of the Human Brain Project”

FLAG-ERA gathers 38 research and innovation funding agencies, research councils and ministries (NRFOS) from 26 countries within the EU and beyond, all working together to create an environment which enables the coordination of national and regional funding to support the Flagships. As such, FLAG-ERA coordinates the national investments in the Flagships and encourages their actual development and take up of their results and aims to widen their impact. The FLAG-ERA coordination activities are funded by the EC under the 7th Framework Programme for an initial three year period.

The Graphene Flagship and the Human Brain Project are the two European Commission’s Future and Emerging Technology (FET) Flagships, whose mission is to address the big scientific and technological challenges of the age through long-term, multidisciplinary R&D efforts.

The Graphene Flagship is tasked with bringing together academic and industrial researchers to take graphene from the realm of academic laboratories into European society, thus generating economic growth, new jobs and new opportunities.

The Human Brain Project (HBP) aims to accelerate our understanding of the human brain, make advances in defining and diagnosing brain disorders, and develop new brain-like technologies.

To learn more about the topics of the call, the participating funding organisations, the eligibility and evaluation criteria, please consult the official call page at <http://www.flag-era.eu/FLAG-ERA-call-2015>.

The list of funded projects is available here: <http://flagera.eu/?q=FLAG-ERA-call-2015-projects>

Contacts:

FLAG-ERA coordinator: edouard.geoffrois@agencerecherche.fr

FLAG-ERA communication: freia.vanhee@frs-fnrs.be

Web links:

FLAG-ERA website: <http://www.flagera.eu>

Information on the FET Flagship programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/fet-flagships>

Information on the Graphene Flagship: <http://www.graphene-flagship.eu>

Information on the Human Brain Project: <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu>