



Success Stories



Researchers' Success Stories / November 2011

European Funding: an opportunity for Small and Medium Enterprises

Rainbow Photonics AG is a small company with nine employees, known as a producer of devices based on terahertz technology. At least two facts about the company are unusual. First, it coordinates a big project funded by the European Union (EU) – which the EU would like to see more. Second, it is led by women – which is rather exceptional in the high-tech industry.

Good for business

For Rainbow Photonics AG, the COSIT-project is an opportunity to conduct research that will ultimately lead to a new saleable product – research that would not be possible without external funding: “We could not bear the cost of two years of research relying solely on the expected revenue of the resulting product”, says Carolina Medrano, who leads the company as CEO together with Mojca Jazbinsek (CTO) and Blanca Ruiz (Product Manager).



Dr. Carolina Medrano
Coordinator COSIT project

of an SME like Rainbow Photonics AG is an opportunity to profit from the expertise of people who know the markets’ needs and what the “real-world” problems are when research is implemented.

How to get funding

COSIT is funded by the EU’s Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)-Open funding scheme. Rainbow Photonics AG learned of this

“The project enables us to conduct research for two years that will lead to the development, engineering and marketing of a new product.”

Good for research

For the European Union (EU), the involvement

ABOUT THE PROJECT

COSIT (Compact High Brilliance Single frequency THz Source) aims at developing a device that can detect the tiniest flaws in materials used for medical applications, for example knee implants. Companies producing such materials need to detect irregularities smaller than 10 μm (= 0.01 mm) in less than 100 ms per pixel. Such irregularities can grow to an extent that the implant has to be replaced. So far materials are checked manually – which, apart from being costly, is not completely reliable.

scheme during an Euresearch event and by an e-mail from an officer in the EU Commission. “At first we were not sure whether it was right for our company. But having the information from Euresearch, we decided to submit the requested 5-page proposal with our idea”, says Carolina Medrano. Both the 5-page proposal and the following detailed one were accepted.

Finding reliable partners

“As a project coordinator, doing one’s own work is one thing; making others do the rest, is quite another”, says Carolina Medrano. The partners’ reliability and quality of work is key. Luckily, as the coordinating institution, Rainbow Photonics AG was able to select the project partners according to the needed expertise: Metz University (France), Institut Jozef Stefan Ljubljana (Slovenia), and CICESE Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (Mexico). “These are institutions with a high scientific reputation doing excellent research work known internationally and to us”, says Carolina Medrano. Now within the frame of this project they will work together during two years, starting in January 2012.

FACTS AND FIGURES

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Project Name: | COSIT – Compact High Brilliance Single frequency THz Source |
| Research Area: | FP7 – Cooperation – Information and Communication Technologies – Future and emerging technologies (FET)-open |
| Coordinator: | Dr. Carolina Medrano |
| Organisation: | Rainbow Photonics AG |
| Start Date - End Date | 2012/01/01 – 2013/12/31 |
| Duration | 24 months |
| Project Cost / Funding: | 1.28 million Euro / 966 868 Euro |
| Contract type: | FP7: Specific Targeted Research or Innovation Project (STREP) |

Euresearch – Your Swiss Guide to European Research and Innovation

Euresearch informs and advises about the participation in European Research and Development Programmes & facilitates Innovation partnerships in Europe.

We guide you in finding opportunities fitting your needs.
We answer all your questions related to FP7, COST and EEN.
We also help you with the preparation of your project.

Funding European Research Projects



FP7 – the 7th Framework Programme for R&D of the EU*

FP7 is the main instrument for scientific and technological cooperation in Europe funding basic and market oriented research, applied development and fellowships.

www.euresearch.ch/fp7

* Euresearch is mandated by the State Secretariat for Education and Research

** Euresearch is mandated by the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology.

Funding European Scientific Cooperation



COST – European Cooperation in Science and Technology*

European scientists can get support to cooperate on a particular project and exchange expertise with financial support for joint activities such as conferences, short-term scientific exchanges and publications. Research itself is not funded.

www.sbf.admin.ch/htm/themen/international

Building European Innovation and Business Cooperation



EEN – Enterprise Europe Network**

Find appropriate cooperation partners in Europe with the support of the Enterprise Europe Network (600 partner organisations in more than 40 countries) facilitating company-company and company-academia innovation partnerships in Europe and beyond.

In Switzerland Euresearch offers personal brokerage support services to find technology partners, new innovation opportunities and to access new markets.

www.swisseen.ch/innovation



EURESEARCH

your Swiss guide to European research

Euresearch Head Office Effingerstrasse 19 3008 Berne
Phone +41 31 380 60 25 www.euresearch.ch

