

newsletter



Issue n .17 – July 2016 – Summer Issue

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Editorial: News from Brussels

RFCS Workshop on EU funded steel projects

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) organized a workshop on Tuesday 2 February 2016 on the EU funding in the steel sector, to increase the visibility of its activities. ESTEP contributed considerably to the success of this event. One hundred guests from all over Europe engaged in discussions and listened to presentations about the steel industry and its research from both Commission and industry side. The agenda and presentations can be found [here](#).

After a welcoming speech and introduction to the Research Fund for Coal and Steel the Secretary General of the European Steel Platform, Klaus Peters, presented ESTEP's Strategic Research Agenda. After some questions from the audience ongoing and completed projects, funded by the RFCS presented their projects. The presenting projects were focused in two clusters. The first cluster, Industry 4.0, started with a presentation on Integrated Intelligent Manufacturing which began work in this field already in 2011. The afternoon offered presentations from successful research within the construction cluster. Fire safety and long span bridges were two hot topics.

The president of the German Steel Federation and chairman of the World Steel Economics Committee, Hans Jürgen Kerkhoff, offered a perspective from the industry, with benefits of steel research and focus on the challenges of increased steel import in the EU.

The workshop clearly demonstrated the strong position of the RFCS program for the European steel sector. High industry involvement, bottom-up approach, peer-expert review of RFCS projects and the opportunity of resubmissions were identified as key success factors of RFCS.



RFCS documents including the list of experts of the years 2014 and 2015 can be found at the bottom of the page following this [link](#).

Horizon 2020

The European Commission has confirmed the calls of the second year of the 2016-2017 work programmes. A detailed list of calls for proposals is [published](#) together with further important documents.

Hereinafter are summarized relevant [revisions](#):

- New provisions have been added on “Open Access Data” for 2017 calls with an opening date on or after 26/07/2016;
- Three “Coordination and Support actions” have been added, related to supply chains, Pilot projects and the poten-



tial industrial symbiosis in Europe (SPIRE-13);

- Three new actions have been added, related to risk assessment of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) projects and on the dual use in KETs research;
- Slight changes in the **SPIRE-12-2017** topic “Assessment of standardisation needs and ways to overcome regulatory bottlenecks in the process industry”.

A call for expression of interests establishing a High Level Group for the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020 has been published on the [participant portal](#). The group shall be composed of twelve experts. The deadline for expression of interests is 9 September 2016.

Two new Frequently Asked Questions have been published on the Participant Portal, for topic [PILOTS-05-2017](#) (TRL?) and topic [NMBP-19-2017](#) (co-electrolyses?)

13th ESTEP Steering Committee



On March 22nd the 13th Steering Committee (SC) of ESTEP was held being challenged by adapting to the special situa-

tion in Brussels after the terror attacks at the Brussels airport and the Metro. Nobody of the steel sector was injured. The European Commission could not attend the meeting. The key messages were exchanged with DG RTD by phone.

The members of the SC meeting appreciated that all objectives of the previous SC were accomplished. For 2016 the main targets are the finalization of the update of the RFCS legal basis, the acceleration of projects and initiatives addressing the low carbon industry goal, the continuation of the close relationship with European Commission and the assessment of ESTEP becoming a legal entity (international ASBL). The latter is followed up by a dedicated task force working on several issues such as organisational structure, membership fees and communication to the ESTEP stakeholders.

Changes of personnel

Changes within DG RTD included: Mr. Strohmeier, now appointed as Director General of the Publications Office (OP) in Luxembourg. So far the deputy Director general position within DG RTD is vacant and Robert Jan Smits is Acting Deputy Director General. Peter Dröll is the new Director of Industrial Technologies (Dir D). Laurence Moreau is no longer acting head of unit D4 (Coal and Steel) due to her promotion to head of unit in ERCEA (European Research Council Executive Agency). Robert Burmanjer is now head of unit D4. Robert Burmanjer as well as Cees Vis and L. Janssen are the main contact points for ESTEP.

ESTEP’s Working Group (WG) Transport has a new chairman: Oliver Moriau (ArcelorMittal) is indeed the successor of Mr. Chan (thyssenkrupp Steel Europe). Enrico Malfa became Director of R&D Metals within TENOVA. He confirms his contribution to ESTEP as Chairman of WG planet.

Innovation Deals

The European Commission launched a new pilot scheme called the [Innovation Deals](#). The scheme aims to help innovators with promising solutions within the [Circular Economy](#) package to overcome regulatory challenges, which hinder the innovators to implement their solutions. The initiative was introduced in the margins of the Competitiveness Council meeting on May 26, 2016 by [Frans Timmermans](#), the Commission's First Vice-President, and [Carlos Moedas](#), European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. The innovation deals are inspired by the Dutch instrument [Green Deal](#). Green Deals are supporting the Dutch Green Growth policy by providing regulatory clarity for innovative solutions.

The call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the pilot phase of the ‘Innovation Deals for a Circular Economy’ will close on 15 September 2016. As it is a pilot only five Expressions of Interest will be selected. The timeline is as follows:

| Timeline of Innovation Deals | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Opening of the call for expression of interest (EOI) | 26 May 2016 |
| Closing of the call for EOI | 15 September 2016 |
| Selection of IDs | October – December 2016 |
| Signature of IDs | beginning of 2017 |
| Evaluation of the pilot | mid 2018 |

Applicants have to outline their innovations and identify where they think EU regulatory frameworks are preventing the project to take off. Innovation Deal will not provide any funding but support by the Commission in discussing the blocking regulatory issues with European, national and regional authorities together with the innovator. Innovation Deal is part of the [Better Regulation Agenda](#) and is complementary to the [REFIT](#) initiative, which addresses small businesses in particular.



K. Peters

WG I2M



Additionally to the two physical meetings (27th of January in Brussels and 20th of April in Dusseldorf, see picture of the group) a telephone- and web-conference had been organised on the 28th of June. At these meetings the following topics have been discussed: contribution to RFCS Workshop, continuation of the new I²M-Roadmap, contribution of I²M to the renewing of the ESTEP SRA, preparation of common research proposals and communication with Working Group People

Contribution to RFCS workshop: At the 2nd of February the European Commission organised a workshop on “EU Funded Steel Projects”. The ESTEP working group I²M contributed to this workshop by helping to organise one session with the title “Cluster Industry 4.0”. In this session it had been demonstrated, that the European Steel Industry is very active in this new field since some years and that a strong support of the RFCS program. The following presentations were given: “Integrated Intelligent Manufacturing” by Harald Peters, “Integrated dynamic energy management for steel production” by Fabio Sanfilippo; “Predic-

tive Sensor Data Mining for Product Quality Improvement” by Gabriel Fricaut and “Development of a new automation and information paradigm for integrated intelligent manufacturing in steel industry” by Marcus Neuer. In this presentations the outcome of some current and finalised research projects in the field of I2M were described and demonstrated the powerfulness of the developed technologies and the usefulness of the RFCS funding in this field. A very interesting discussion about the importance of the technology for the European steel industry finalised the session.

New roadmap: Based on the general structure developed in 2015 and the contributions of the working group members to the different chapters of the new roadmap up to the end of last year the work has been continued. Especially the chapter “Industrial needs” has been finalised as a cooperation of the working group members representing one machine supplier (Danieli) and four steel producers (Tata, ArcelorMittal, voestalpine and ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe). Furthermore a new chapter about IT-security and “transversal integration” have been added. Because of the huge and underestimated work it was unfortunately not possible to finalise the roadmap until spring time, the new target is now autumn this year.

Renewing of SRA: In the current version of the SRA the topic of Integrated Intelligent Manufacturing (I²M) is represented only by a short explanation. For the next revision it is planned to use the new roadmap as basis (in a shortened version) and to give additionally some ideas about concrete research topics for the future. The collection of these topics is just in progress.





Research proposals: As every year the working group collected first ideas for common research proposals in its spring meeting in April. Now the construction of the consortia and the discussion of the detailed research topics are under progress. At the moment two flagship proposals for RFCS are planned, one regarding the application of Big Data technologies in steel industry and another one regarding predictive maintenance topics.

Communication with working group People: The meeting of the chairmen of the working groups People (Veith Echterhoff) and I²M (Harald Peters) together with Antonius Schroeder and Peter Limberger in June, had as outcome the discussion of a common workshop about the topic of "Knowledge Management". This meeting will probably be organized in Brussel at the beginning of October. It will be structured as a kind of open innovation workshop to exchange the ideas of both groups regarding the handling of knowledge with all its different aspects. The expected results are ideas for common activities like research proposals or dissemination workshops.

H.Peters

WG TRANSPORT



The new chairman of WG Transport - who took over the responsibilities of Mr. Chan in June 2016 - introduces himself.

Since 2007 I'm the head of the Steel Solutions Design department at ArcelorMittal Global R&D Montataire - France, a Research Centre dedicated to automotive product applications.

I graduated as a PhD in Material Sciences from the University of Lille, France.

I joined the ArcelorMittal group in 1998 as Research Engineer in OCAS Research Centre, Belgium. In 2002 I joined ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Europe and the Automotive commercial team as Resident Engineer at a carmaker Technical Center. In 2006 I came back to ArcelorMittal Global R&D Automotive Product Ap-

plications to develop the steel solution engineering approach like the S-in motion® initiatives.

These lightweight steel solutions for subsystems or full vehicle structures are part of the steel industry initiatives to keep steel as first material of choice in the vehicle engineering.

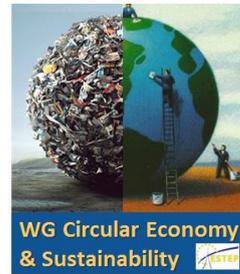
Regarding EU funded projects, I participated to SuperLightCar project in 2006-2009 and more recently to a project proposal in the scope of Horizon 2020 NMBP08-2016 call.

The next WG Transport meeting is in preparation for early September. Topics like the update of the strategic research agenda, lightweight solutions, life cycle assessment and EU funded projects are candidates for the agenda.

O. Moriau

WG Planet

Two meeting has been organized: a telephone- and web-conference in January and a face to face meeting the 22nd of June in Brussels. At these meetings the following topics have been discussed and organized: document on Steel&Biodiversity, contribution of Planet to the renewing of the ESTEP SRA, communication with working group Planet, task force sustainability and preparation of workshop Circular Economy.



At the end of June the document "**Examples of steel production going hand in hand with biodiversity**" has been finalized and approved by EUROFER Environment Committee.

E. Malfa

WG People



Social Innovation:

The WG identified five key questions that should help to identify social innovation in technical research proposals to find starting points for cross boarder collaboration.

tion.

By usage of an online questionnaire, the WG wants to identify the degree of interaction between technical and social research activities along these key questions.

The questionnaire will help to reflect on this interaction and on the relevance of social impact and people issues. Moreover the questionnaire works out, if the innovation process is accompanied by change management and training activities for the affected staff.

Management of Knowledge:

The WG identified key issues and topics to manage knowledge in a more effective way in their workshop in January. A joint workshop with the WG I2M is planned for October 2016. The aim is to discuss overlapping ideas and develop ideas for proposals.

The next meeting will take place in the first half of October 2016.

V. Echterhoff

WG Energy Market



During the first semester 2016 the working group continued to strongly support the European Commission (EC) public-private partnerships (PPP) initiatives dealing with the group thematic topics such as Sustainable Process Industry Resource Efficiency (SPIRE -Applications) and Energy Materials Industrial Research Initiative (EMIRI).

Various initiatives on more specific energy technical topics were also carried out. In addition a relevant participation of members to activities in the EERA frame especially for

nuclear topics and CCS has been recorded. For the coming months additional workshops on renewable and power generation are under preparation.

Coming to the funding, some projects in the H2020 frame are just to be sign by the EC,

Concerning both the proposals and projects presented and approved in the RFCS frame has to be highlighted the very strong increase in those numbers in 2015. The interest of energy steel products and applications is continuously growing and currently the preparation of new proposals is ongoing.

Furthermore in the second part of the year various initiatives and actions on Horizon 2020, the R&I Programme of the European Commission that will last from 2014 up to 2020, will be carried out. Among them, representatives of the WG participated to various Brokerage Events regarding SPIRE (Applications) and for EMIRI held in Brussels.

All those initiatives on energy themes put once more the activities of the WG on the wave top in the EU research and innovation activities!

Tentative date of next meeting or phone call: last decade of September 2016.

P. Gimondo

Successfully concluded in Terni (Italy) the VIII edition of the Eurosteelmater

The VIII edition of the Eurosteelmater has been successfully held at the Acciai Speciali Terni training center from 16 to 20 May 2016. The advanced course for the European steel and related industries, designed and directed by Enrico Gibellieri, is organized by the Centro Sviluppo Materiali with the support of the European Commission, EUROFER, industriAll, ESTEP and Federacciai.

Both participants (14 the total number) and lecturers to the course came from the European steel companies, RTOs and research centers, EU

institutions (EIB-EC), advisory companies, and universities.

The course, started with a lecture on the history of the EU Steel industry, had six panels:

- Politics, Markets and trade
- Technology
- Sustainability
- EU & MSs industrial policy for the steel sector
- Research & Innovation
- Steel product development & applications

and a visit to the AST's steel plant.

The course has been concluded by two lectures on ETS and MES to China, subjects of paramount importance for the future of the EU steel sector.

The Steelmaster, Italian edition of the course which lasts two weeks, will reach this year its twentieth edition. It will be held in Cremona (hosted by Arvedi group) and Vicenza (hosted by Beltrame group).

E. Gibellieri





Forthcoming events

ESTEP

- Oct. 18th 2016: Support Group Meeting
- Oct. 19th 2016: Steel sector internal workshop on Circular Economy with external Key Note speaker
- Oct 26th 2016. 'Valorisation of carbon emissions for a sustainable, competitive European industry'. The workshop is organized by the DG Energy and is supported by the steel (ESTEP&EUROFER) and chemical (CEFIC) sector.
- Nov. 14th – 17th. ESTEP became member of K4I and its member can participate in many of the events of K4I. The biggest is the [8th innovation summit](#), which will be organized in Brussels.
- Nov 22nd 2016: Mirror Group Meeting

EU EVENTS (in Brussels)

- Sept. 8th : SPIRE WG day
- Sept. 15th+16th: EFFRA/FOF conference
- Sept. 19th: Horizon 2020 EE infoday
- Oct. 12th. ETP Textile conference: European Textile going digital and high-tech
- Oct. 14th cPPs Infoday
- Oct. 26 to 28: Reindustrialization of European Union (Bratislava, Slovakia) www.reineu2016.eu
- Nov. 10th Sthaldag 2016 (Dusseldorf)
- Dec. 6th and 7th: conference on CO₂ as feedstock in Cologne.

The ESTEP Newsletter is issued on a regular basis by the ESTEP Secretariat to the ESTEP members. The editorial panel consists of K. Peters, R. Di Santo and W. Moonen. Contributions for the newsletter can be sent to the ESTEP secretariat.

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