



Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation

*Newsletter #5
February 2002*

www.feastonline.org

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The FEAST Office is established, and our website has moved

The new details are:

New tel: +61 (0) 2 6273 4823

New fax: +61 (0) 2 6273 4848

New email: info@feastonline.org

New site: www.feastonline.org

FEAST Office

Engineering House

11 National Circuit

Barton, ACT 2600

Australia

The Executive Manager, Michael Parker, can be contacted at

mparker@feastonline.org

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Apply now for the Descartes Prize

Applications are due April 15 for the 2002 Descartes Prize (the March deadline has been extended). The Descartes Prize is awarded to research teams who have obtained exceptional results from European collaborative research. The prize is open to all fields of scientific endeavour.

The prize is valued up to EUR 1,000,000.

European/international collaborative research teams submit details of their outstanding research results to the European Commission. Teams must involve at least two mutually independent legal entities established in two different European Member States (or in a Member State and an Associated State). Provided that these minimum criteria are fulfilled entries may involve teams from countries outside the European Union, ie Australia.

For more information, visit our FEAST home page, www.feastonline.org and click on the Descartes Prize link in the "What's New" box.

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Australian government departments re-structure

Following the Australian federal election, the new Department of Education, Science and Training now has responsibility for science policy and programs, including CSIRO, ANSTO AIMS, and the CRC program. Australia's formal international science and technology relationships with France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the European Union, including FEAST, form part of the new Department also. The competitive grants element of the government's Innovation Access Program will continue to be delivered by AusIndustry for the time being.

For further information please contact Graeme Rankin, International S&T, Department of Education, Science and Training, tel: +61 (0) 2 6240 5163.

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Progress on the Sixth Framework Program

On 28 January 2002, the European Council formally adopted its Common Position on the Sixth Framework Program. The Commission has now largely endorsed this, and the second phase of negotiation between the Council and the European Parliament is under way. The Commission has also adopted the modified proposals for the Specific Programs and for the Rules for Participation and Dissemination. It is hoped that the European Parliament will address the whole package (i.e. the Framework Program, the proposal on Specific Programs and the Rules for Participation) during its May session. The Spanish Presidency is committed to seeing substantial progress on this, by the end of their term in June 2002. Final adoption of full package is hoped to take place by October 2002, in time for the formal launch to be held 11-12-13 November 2002.

A major conference will be held in Brussels to mark the launch of the Sixth Framework Program 2002-2006. Priority fields of research and rules of

participation will be presented at various sessions. The launch conference will include seminars, symposiums, round-tables, workshops and exhibitions not only from the European Union but also from international players, including Australia. The conference will be held in the Palais du Heysel in Brussels. The cost is Euro 180 (approx. AU\$300). Further information can be obtained from the following website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002>

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Coming Events

Post Your Event Here

Are you holding (or attending) an exhibition or conference that would be of interest to other researchers interested in collaboration between Europe and Australia? Email Lisa@feastonline.org to arrange the inclusion of your event in our newsletter.

The Italian-Australian Technological Innovations Conference and Exhibition 2002 will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 25-28 March 2002, and will include both an exhibition/trade display and a conference/workshop series.

For more information, see our website

www.feastonline.org/otherevents/comingevents.htm

FEAST 2

FEAST 2 will take the form of a series of targeted information exchange sessions with multiplier and networking agencies having an interest or involvement in European-Australian S&T cooperation. This program will start around mid-year and more details will be available in coming months. If you wish to propose that your organisation or corporation be included in this program, please advise the FEAST office. You may wish to email

mparker@feastonline.org

FEAST 3

FEAST3 will be held in conjunction with the Australian Research Management Society's annual conference (ARMS 2002) in November.

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Business Plan for FEAST

The Joint Implementation Group for FEAST endorsed our business plan at its meeting in December and the mission of FEAST: *"to maximise the joint benefits of European-Australian cooperation in Science and Technology."* Under the business plan, our goals for our first year of operation have special emphasis on establishing an effective FEAST office, enhancing the visibility of FEAST, and improving the functionality and usefulness of our website (see below).

An Executive Board with representation from the European union and from Australian organisations and chaired by the current European Presidency oversees the operations of FEAST. For the period January to June 2002, the European Presidency is held by Spain, and the Executive Group will be chaired for that period by Ms Gracie McNamara of the Spanish Embassy. A broadly representative Joint Advisory Group (JAG) for FEAST provides support for and guidance in, the management and operation of FEAST.

For more information about FEAST and its role, email us at info@feastonline.org

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FEAST website is to be redeveloped

Under the chairmanship of Science Communicator Michael Harvey of the British Council, a small group will look at issues such as the registration process, the design of the page, navigation, and the database behind the site. Members of the group include Maureen Swanage (Australian Academy of Science), Andres Cuevas (ANU), Alain Moulet (Embassy of France), working with FEAST staff. The group will survey random FEAST members in order to gauge the success of the site, and find out how it may be improved. Maximise your benefit from the website, and email us your views!

You are invited to send your suggestions for the website to our webmaster@feastonline.org

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Group studies existing European-Australian research collaborations

Lynne Hunter of the EC Delegation is chairing a group which aims to establish baseline data on current collaborative research relationships between Europe and Australia. The first step will be to define indicators to use to measure the relationship. An initial project may be to set up an inventory of joint European-Australian Research Projects regardless of size or nature. Data will be obtained from various sources including researchers, funding bodies, industry research groups, and so on. The group hopes that a comprehensive database can be created and maintained which will be informative and statistically illuminating without jeopardising any confidentiality or privacy considerations.

If you or your organisation currently collaborates with partners overseas,
please contact lynne.hunter@delaus.cec.int.eu

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FEAST at the ARMS 2001 Conference, November 2001

The Embassy of France sponsored a session on "International Partnerships and Best Practice" as part of the Australian Research Management Society's annual conference (2001) and invited FEAST to make a presentation at the session. This provided an opportunity to outline the recent development of FEAST and to strengthen our links with ARMS and its constituency of research managers. You can view Michael Parker's presentation to ARMS at www.feastonline.org/otheractivity/pastevents.php

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Share your experiences

The FEAST office is interested to hear from researchers already involved in European-Australian collaboration. Do you have a success story to share? Don't waste that valuable experience: Consider sharing them with others through our newsletter. Publication in our newsletter is free, and your contributions may be edited for clarity.