

ANNOUNCEMENT

INTAS Thematic Call on Earth Sciences and Environment 2006 in co-operation with the European Space Agency (ESA)¹

In 2006 INTAS launches a **thematic call for research project proposals** in the field of Earth Sciences and Environment, with a budget of €900,000. This call is launched in co-operation with the European Space Agency (ESA), which will contribute through aligning existing resources within the GMES Services Element (GSE) activities, to support the projects selected by INTAS in order to bring partners in the NIS within the GMES² framework.

Scope:

Some environmental issues are currently recognized global concerns of growing importance, requiring more scientific knowledge to find practical, economically acceptable solutions. They include topics of particular interest for some geographic areas of the NIS countries, such as water management and carbon stock balance.

The scope of the call covers two thematic areas:

- Water management and quality;
- Global climate change focussing on carbon stocks.

A more detailed description of the scientific objectives can be found on: <http://www.intas.be/index.asp?s=2&uid>. A description of the ESA GMES Services Element (GSE), including the requirements for proposals to be of relevance to GSE and the benefits of co-ordination and support within the GMES framework can be found on: <http://www.intas.be/index.asp?s=2&uid>.

The call encompasses basic and applied research but excludes market-oriented technology development.

Consortium:

The project consortia must comprise at least one team from each of two different INTAS member states, including the coordinator, and at least one team from a NIS country.

Duration of projects:

The project duration must be 18 or 24 months.

Maximum allowable funding:

The maximum allowable funding per project is **120,000€** subject to the scientific content, the duration and the number of scientists involved. No more than **25% of the total project grant** will be available to teams from INTAS member states.

Indicative Timetable:

Opening of the call:	28 March 2006, 14H00 (Brussels time)
Deadline for submission:	8 June 2006, 13H00 (Brussels time)
Results of the selection:	October 2006
Earliest start of the projects:	January 2007

Proposals must be submitted through the INTAS internet-based Submission System.

¹ ESA, <http://www.esa.int>

² GMES: Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, <http://www.gmes.info/>