

Announcement of a competitive call for additional project partners

Project acronym: LASHARE

Project grant agreement number: 609046

Project full name: Laser Equipment Assessment for High Impact Innovation in the Manufacturing European industry

The project LASHARE is currently active in the Seventh Framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities contributing to the creation of the European research area and to innovation (2007-2013). LASHARE requires the participation of new partners to carry out certain tasks within the project. Please note that the Seventh Framework programme offers part-funding not full-funding of research activities.

LASHARE has a vacancy in its consortium for partners established in an EU Member State or FP7 Associated State.

LASHARE aims to advance innovative equipment solutions that have been demonstrated at laboratory level, Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3-4, towards robust prototypes at TRL 7-8. The development is guided by an Assessment Framework that involves an industrial user, an RTD partner and the supplier of the equipment. The laser based equipment assessment (LEA) should focus on the benefit of the supplier which should be an SME. The role of the users is to provide guidance towards requirements and provide the basis for validation.

All assessments shall be related to equipment for laser-based material processing. Suppliers of innovative high-tech equipment are expected

to install and assess their prototypes or products in production-like environments and validate them in a manufacturing line or in an industrial environment that is very close to manufacturing conditions. The primary aim is to strengthen the ICT equipment supplier base, predominantly SMEs, through a close cooperation with globally acting manufacturers, by improving the manufacturing processes in relation to quality, speed, environmental and resource efficiency. Equipment assessments require the following steps:

Task 1: Initialisation of the Assessment that defines the requirements and objectives for a specific application scenario;

Task 2: implementation of a development and improvement plan;

Task 3: Validation in an industrial like environment; and

Task 4: Resume of the Assessment which collects the achievements and identifies the next steps towards successful market launch. Special emphasis is on SMEs on the supply side.

The LEAs shall cover innovative laser applications in laser-based material processing and address improvements related to quality, speed, flexibility and resource efficiency of laser-based material processing. The project aims to select between 10 and 12 new LEAs for funding in this competitive call. Each of the LEA teams will consist of a user, a supplier and an RTD partner. The RTD partner must be one of the existing LASHARE RTD partners.

The core task of the laser-based equipment assessment shall focus on sensors and knowledge based ICT systems that enable at least one of the following aspects;

- autonomous set up of machine and laser parameters for fast and flexible manufacture
- process and quality control for robust processes and fully documented production in the area of complex manufacturing tasks.

Opening: The call will open on 1 February 2014

Deadline: The call closes on 16 March at 17h00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation in the project: 24 months

Duration of an assessment: maximum of 22 months

Funding: Total funding available for new partners amounts to 1,767,000 €, the requested funding for each LEA (including user, supplier and RTD) should not exceed 250,000 €

Call identifier: LASHARE Competitive Call 1

Language in which proposal should be submitted: English

Web address for further information (full call text/proposal guidelines): www.lashare.eu

Email address for further information: cc@lashare.eu