

Project: STOICISM

Sustainable Technologies for Calcined Industrial Minerals in Europe

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FP7 funding



- Framework Programme 7 – the seventh package of money put aside for research through the EU.
- 2012 FP7 is the biggest ever EU funding package under “FP” with a €7 billion budget and is expected to create around 174,000 jobs in the short term.
- Each project is funded individually through a bidding process
- Imerys chose to bid under the call “NMP.2012.4.1-1: New environmentally friendly approaches in minerals processing.”



What is STOICISM?

- An industry-led 4 year research project, specifically focused on calcined industrial minerals in Europe.
- 17 Partners, with a total budget of €8.5 million of which €5.8 million is EU funded.



Quality • Service • Pride



Aims and objectives of STOICISM

- To enhance the competitiveness of the European Industrial minerals industry by developing cleaner, more energy efficient process technologies.
- Specific focus on calcined industrial minerals which are presently energy intensive to produce.
- Studying kaolin, diatomite and perlite, but with research transferable to other industrial minerals.
- STOICISM will research, develop and demonstrate a range of new innovative technologies along the industrial minerals value chain. Including extraction, beneficiation, drying, calcining and waste recycling.



FP7 –

A personal reflection from a large industrial minerals supplier



Our journey – the decision

- July 2011 – the “team” is told that we WILL be bidding for the funding call

WE have to go for this funding call - its perfect!



Our journey – Part 1 proposal

- November 2011 - We assemble 14 partners and put together a 20 page first-stage proposal

The BID - part 1



Our journey – first smell of success

- January 2012 - We hear that we have been successful in our first stage bid. 37 projects are selected from 189 proposals
- The Consortium meets for the first time to start work on the Stage 2 proposal – the detailed document
- February 2012 – meeting with our Monitoring Officer to help prepare the project

Success! We are through to Stage 2!



Our journey – Part 2 proposal

- May 2012 - We finalise the project of 100 pages
 - We all breathe a collective sigh of relief thinking the worst is over....
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The Project Plan - phew!



Our journey – more success

- June 2012 - We hear that we have been successful in our bid – 12 projects are selected
- We all breathe a collective sigh of relief thinking the worst is over....

Hooray - we made it!



Our journey – the final struggle

- July – September 2012 - We work on refining the proposal
- Check legal and financial status of all the partners
- Ensure that all the budgets are robust
- No “third parties” will be funded

This last part is taking forever!



Our journey – the final final submission

- September 2012 - we upload the final project plan into the "Portal"
- 1 partner has been removed and 4 have been added
- The document is 132 pages long
- A draft Consortium Agreement is circulated that covers the decision-making process and Intellectual Property clarification

Surely this must be it now?



Our journey – the loose ends

- October 2012 – we supply the signatures of all parties for the Grant Agreement
- We send the Consortium Agreement – version 2 to all parties

Is it over yet?



Our journey – where are we now?

- November 2012 – we are waiting for the Grant Agreement and Acceptance of Funds
- Recruiting taking place within Imerys and other Consortium members ready for the project start
- Start date is 1st January 2013

I think we finally made it!



Final thoughts ..

- It's a whole new language
- You need help to steer your way through the process
- You need time – Imerys alone has spent over 2000 person hours to date
- You need determination, optimism and the strength to never give up



BUT ...

- The funding gives all parties to undertake fundamental research in emerging technologies
- The research is linked to the EU's vision and, in some cases, policies
- You have the opportunity to work with many partners and make new links to industry and academia
- Significant funds are available – 50% for large companies



Dissemination of the work through IMA

“STOICISM is expected to impact significantly on the sustainability of the EU’s industrial minerals industry by decreasing the use of natural resources (both mineral and energy resources) leading to the sustainable production of better and purer products with less waste and lower environmental impact.”

All minerals producers should benefit from the research with IMA providing the link between the project and the wider industrial community.



Thank you for your time

If in doubt – do it!

