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BRUSSELS, December 11, 2013 - Today the European Commission's (EC) much anticipated Horizon 2020 programme has been launched with the announcement of its first calls by Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. Horizon 2020 will be the largest European Union Research and Innovation programme so far with a budget of almost €80 billion for the period 2014 – 2020.

Horizon 2020 has an enhanced focus on innovation to ensure that more of Europe's excellent research ideas are swiftly transferred into successful products and services in the global market. This offers a huge opportunity to boost jobs and growth and increase the competitiveness of the European Union. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed.

The major commitment of the European Commission to EU industry-driven research and innovation in Horizon 2020 has been demonstrated through the support for eight Public-Private-Partnerships

(PPPs), Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency (SPIRE)PPP being one among them. Innovating within the process industry will constitute the basis and the driver for the sustainable re-industrialisation, rejuvenation and the competitiveness of the whole European economy.

The SPIRE PPP will be launched on the 17th of December through the official signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the A.SPIRE association.

It is now vital that European industry and research institutions respond positively to this opportunity and challenge. In Horizon 2020 the portfolio of funding schemes has been simplified and the bureaucracy and other barriers to participation – especially for SMEs - have been significantly reduced.

The first 2014-2015 Horizon2020 Work Programme has now been published. It includes eight SPIRE PPP calls: four calls in 2014 with the overall indicative budget of €60.3m and four calls in 2015 with the indicative budget of €77m.

The deadlines for the submission of projects to these calls are as follows:

- For the SPIRE calls in 2014 – 20 March 2014
- For the SPIRE calls in 2015 – 9 December 2014

Links

- EC press release
- Horizon2020 Work programme 2014-2015
- More about SPIRE: www.spire2030.eu