



LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Being understood that

1. SNOWMAN is a platform of European research funders and/or administrations for soil and groundwater research bridging the gap between knowledge demand and supply. The overall objective of SNOWMAN is to enhance the quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in Europe regarding research in the field of soil and groundwater protection.
2. Based on the experiences gained under the ERA-Net contract ERAC-CT-2003-003219 the parties intend to launch a call for research proposals on 12th January 2009. The call identifier is SNOWMAN 2nd Call.
3. The funders for this call are expected to be :
 - Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLFUW) (Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management), Austria;
 - Agence De l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME) (Agency for Environment and Energy Management), France;
 - Stichting Kennisontwikkeling en Kennisoverdracht Bodem (SKB) (Centre for Soil Quality Management and Knowledge Transfer), The Netherlands;
 - Openbare Vlaamse Afvalstoffenmaatschappij (OVAM) (Public waste Agency of Flanders), Belgium;
 - Naturvårdsverket (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, SEPA), Sweden;
 - Forskningsrådet för Miljö, Areella näringar och Samhällsbyggande (FORMAS) (The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and spatial Planning), Sweden.
 - UEFISCSU – Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND YOUTH, Romania.

After 6th January, 2009, other funders have the option to join this call as third party by providing additional national funding for specific research proposals.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTIES

1.1. The Parties' overall objective is jointly to fund transnational projects in the field of Sustainable Management of Soil and Groundwater, with respect to the following topics:

- a) Area management of contamination
- b) Integration of soil management into spatial planning
- c) Use of contaminated land for biofuel crop production.

The call topics and knowledge questions are further described in the Annex 2 "Applicants' guide".

1.2. The call is expected to have a total budget at least of € 1.350.000, and the research projects will run in the period November 2009 to December 2012 at the latest.

1.3 The call will be open to transnational research partnerships containing at least two independent legal entities from at least two of the above mentioned funding countries.

1.4 SNOWMAN aims to finalise the proposal evaluation procedure by 30th June, 2009. National contract negotiations may start on the basis of the Call Steering Committee recommendations from the beginning of July 2009.

2.COORDINATION

2.1 ADEME shall be the call coordinator.

2.2 The call coordinator will lead the management of the SNOWMAN 2nd Call, with the assistance of the other Parties within the SNOWMAN funding consortium until all final reports of the funded research projects will have been approved. The call coordinator will be assisted by the SNOWMAN Secretariat, provided by UBA (Germany), until the end of the SNOWMAN Contract by 30th June, 2009. The tasks and responsibilities of the call coordinator are described in the Annex 1 "Principles of the SNOWMAN Call (SNOWMAN 2nd Call)".

2.3 The detailed procedures for the management of the call (including funding model, roles and responsibilities of each party, evaluation, contractual arrangements, monitoring of the research projects) are outlined in the annexes:

1. Principles of the SNOWMAN Call (SNOWMAN 2nd Call)
 2. Applicants' Guide
- They are part of this letter of commitment.

COMMITMENT

Provided that the following conditions are met:

- That the call generates research applications of suitable quality, falling within the Party's research remit;
- That a virtual pot with juste retour funding model is used and that the funding is based on the respectively existing national funding rules

I, <Representative of funding organisation>

hereby commit *(enter your organisations name here)*
<Party>

to make a maximum contribution of EUR *(enter here the maximum value of your contribution to the call, in Euro)* to the above SNOWMAN Call;

to take part in the Call Steering Committee (one representative per funding organization), to which this organisation's representative and the respective substitute will be

Item	Representative	Substitute
Name		
Full address		
Telephone No		
Fax No		
Email		

to take part in each Project Board set up for each research project my organisation will fund, and whose representative will be nominated later.

If it proves necessary for at least one funding organization, I agree to develop a more detailed Funders' Agreement before the research contracts are offered.

Signature of duly authorised representative:

Date:

Stamp of the organisation: