

EU's "Sixth Framework Programme"

Comprehensive participating in EU's research programmes is one of the cornerstones of the Nordic research and development. In spite of different types of connections to the union, the Nordic countries are very active members of the European research community.

The Sixth Framework Programme is scheduled to run until 2006. It is, as the name indicates, the sixth in a row of framework programmes as a basis for the research and development within the EU's member state and countries connected to the EU's research programmes, though in different ways. The first framework programme was carried out in the period 1984-1987 and had an economical framework at 3.25 billion Euros. The sixth programme for the period 2002-06 has an economical framework of 17.5 billion Euros. Despite the large use of economical resources, the programme only covers 4-5 percent of the means set aside for research in the EU's member states, but still, the programme is an essential part of the work to bring Europe in the forefront in terms of the technological development.

The programme is divided into seven subjects where the subject aeronautic and space technique is a new subject and is of special interest for the space research community. The budget for this subject is 1075 million Euros and will mainly complete the work of the ESA executing jobs within the fields of:

- Techniques and services for effective use of the future Galileo satellite navigation system
- Global Monitoring Environment and Security (GMES), where the research is pointed towards technique and services connected to remote sensing.
- Integration of satellite based telecommunication

National contact points (NPC)

The National Contact Points that has been used in previous framework programmes is also used for the sixth programme. The contact point for most of the subjects is the national research council, but for the space part of the aeronautic and space subject the responsibility can be directed by the national space agencies, like the Norwegian Space

Centre and the Swedish National Space Board.

The first application round caught the attention of Norwegian institutes and industrial companies, a representative for the Norwegian Space Centre told us. Most of the contracts for the first round are ready to be signed today, and the contracts are distributed at all three fields that the programme comprises. There are several reasons for the interest in participation in such programmes. Financially, it could be of great importance, however, more importantly are other benefits like the creation of networks, competence and taking part in the international standardisation.



Developing of techniques and services for the Galileo satellite navigation system brings space activities into EU's framework programmes.

Figure: ESA

What is R&D?

Research and development (R&D) are creative activities being carried out systematically to attain increasing knowledge – including knowledge about the humans, culture and society – and also comprises the usage of this knowledge to find new applications. As a general rule all activities under the cover of R&D include an element of news.

- R&D can be divided in the following types of activities:
- Basis Research is experimental or theoretical activities primarily being carried out to get new knowledge about underlying bases for phenomena and facts - without the aim of special application or use.
- Application Research is also an activity of original character being carried out to find new knowledge, but primarily pointed towards definite practical goals and applications.
- Developing works is systematic activities employing existing knowledge from research and practical experience and pointed towards:
- Produce new or essentially improved materials, products or arrangements, or
- To introduce new or essentially improved processes, systems or services.