

Status and plans on the FET Flagships

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FET Flagships: A new concept to boost Research and Innovation in Horizon 2020

FET Flagships are a new concept in the Horizon 2020 EU research and innovation programme. Flagships are a new scheme under the Future and Emerging Technologies part of the Excellent Science pillar of H2020. They are designed to tackle grand scientific and technological challenges requiring a common European effort. Flagships are conceived as science-driven, large-scale, multidisciplinary research initiatives targeting transformational impacts on science and technology, and bringing substantial benefits for European competitiveness and society.

Flagships will create a critical mass of research actors to boost EU research and innovation and to enable better coherence of national and EU actions. They aim to establish EU leadership and breakthroughs in key technology areas of high impact to the economy and society. Due to their ambitious goals and high degree of multi-disciplinarity they require cooperation across a range of disciplines, communities and programmes, as well as financial support of longer duration than the typical EU R&D project life-cycle of 2-4 years. They will be based on partnerships that enable effective coordination of efforts.

An initial very competitive process for the selection of ideas, followed by an extensive preparation phase for six candidate Flagships led to the refinement of their vision and goals and the elaboration of detailed strategic roadmaps for the six topics. In 2012 a Call was launched for fully-fledged Flagship proposals addressing the six finalist topics, which has led to the selection of two FET Flagships, to be launched in 2013. The two Flagships are now currently in contract negotiation and are expected to start working in autumn this year. Each Flagship is expected to be granted about 54 M€ EU funding for a "ramp-up" phase of the Flagships for the first 30 months. The overall vision is that these two Flagships will run for a 10 year period, during which the total budget will reach around 1Bn€.

The selected Flagship **GRAPHENE** aims to take graphene and related materials from a state of raw potential to a point where it can revolutionize multiple industries – from flexible, wearable and transparent electronics to high performance computing, spintronics and composite materials.

The other selected Flagship **THE HUMAN BRAIN PROJECT** is aiming at the understanding of the human brain, which will lead to fundamentally new computing technologies, transform the diagnosis and treatment of brain diseases, and providing profound insights into our humanity.

The presentation will highlight the role, the main characteristics and the research policy dimension pursued by the FET Flagship scheme, as well as the extended role of Future and Emerging Technologies in the context of the next EU's Framework Programme on Research and Innovation.