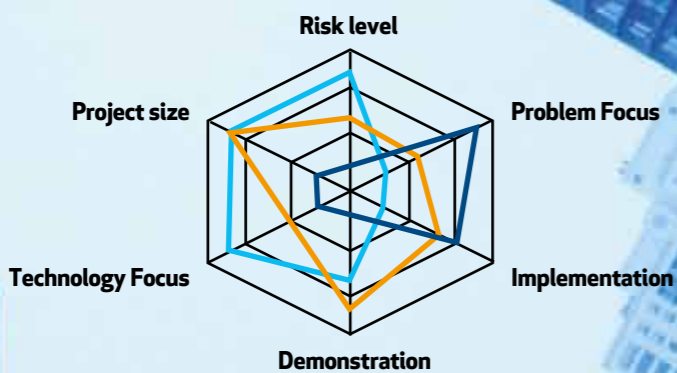


# FEHRL AND INFRAVATION 2014: NEW ERA-NET PLUS

Now is the time when innovation for road infrastructure is an absolute imperative, to reduce costs without compromising on quality. To deliver this objective on a trans-national basis, FEHRL members Rijkswaterstaat and the Danish Road Directorate (DRD), supported by FEHRL, have been working hard to set up an exciting new initiative for developing innovative infrastructure concepts called Infracation 2014. This ERA-NET PLUS action is expected to be supported through the EC's Framework Programme 7 (FP7) 2013 Work Programme. This call will address the needs of Member States for joint research on road infrastructure and will enable national and regional bodies to take on tasks collectively that otherwise could not be taken forward, bringing together the efforts of Member States, the European Commission (EC) and industry. In a first ever, the USA/FHWA will participate too, through its Cooperative Agreement with FEHRL.



CEDR projects	Infracation	EC FP projects
Low Risk	Controlled risk	High risk
Problem Focussed	Challenge Focussed	Technology Focussed
Immediately Implementable	demonstrate implementable	Prototype
National Road Authority owns results	Industry owns and shares results	Industry owns results

The Infracation call will be issued in early 2014. The funding of research projects will be based on a common pot, enabling the best expertise to be used, regardless of nationality and thereby minimising programme management and allowing the maximum use of resources for pan-national research cooperation.

### FOCUS FOR INFRAVATION 2014

The topic of the Infracation 2014 call will be 'Advanced Systems, Materials and Techniques' for road infrastructure. For design, inspection and monitoring, advanced systems could include breakthrough sensing and analysis technologies, including 'manu-services'. The call will include the development of advanced and novel materials based on nano-technology, biomimicry, etc. In the case of techniques for construction and maintenance, aspects such as advanced robotics could be developed.

The call is for the development of advanced market-ready products and services for road operations, either on the European, national, regional or urban network. Before the 2014 call, Member States will issue an invitation for a scoping study to sharpen the technical focus and priorities.

### UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION OF INFRAVATION

Infracation perfectly complements, and completes, the suite of existing international programmes. The EC programmes typically focus on higher risk – often industry focused – research. The research partners share the ownership of the results and are then respon-

sible for developing their own exploitation. This is a difference with, for example, the CEDR trans-national calls (previously ERA-NET ROAD) that procure research results for today's road authority problems and expect results and hence its owners then own the results. Each programme achieves its intended objectives. Infracation sits between the two (see diagram on page 12). Research providers maintain their ownership of the results (e.g. patents) but work more closely under the direction of authorities to ensure that the results are suitable. The pan-European characteristics of Infracation provide further encouragement for the private sector to innovate because they understand that there are ready and willing customers for their products and services.

### TARGETS AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

Infracation is a challenge driven programme. Whilst it aims to support the development of advanced systems, materials and techniques, it remains an applied research programme and all projects will be expected to deliver tangible, demonstrable benefits. The focus is on projects with the objective to develop and demonstrate Advanced systems, materials and techniques for green, cost-effective, reliable next generation road infrastructure.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Infracation will adopt a coordinated approach to knowledge transfer to ensure that all projects provide consistently high-quality information to relevant stakeholders. All projects will be required to contribute to a regular Infracation newsletter and provide material and participation for national workshops. These workshops will be arranged in several countries and will possibly involve translation for local practitioners. The workshops will focus on the proven benefits of the solutions developed.

Research providers will be encouraged to protect their developments through, for example, patents. Nevertheless the funding agencies will receive a licence for the use of the results of the projects for their own purposes.

### FEHRL'S ROLE WITHIN INFRAVATION

FEHRL is currently responsible for drafting the project proposal text for the ERA-NET PLUS Infracation on behalf of the Member States representatives who are led by Rijkswaterstaat. This proposal, to be finalised by early next year, will set out Infracation's 2014 call for proposals on advanced systems, materials and techniques for

### FHWA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FINALISED

At the end of September 2012, FEHRL's Cooperative Agreement with Associate Member FHWA was concluded, which provides a formal structure for proactive trans-Atlantic research cooperation. Infracation and MIRIAM (miriam-co2.net) will be first examples.

road infrastructure. The proposal will comprise of a Consortium of representative organisations of Member States, including FEHRL.

FEHRL will also liaise with the EC, ERA-NET TRANSPORT, Member State representatives and other key stakeholders to develop a funding and governance model for the proposed project. This model will be based on the application of the real common pot model for funding, and will include consultation with other appropriate bodies (including potential suppliers) to determine the practicality/acceptability of the model. The model will take into account EU FP7, conditions as well as those anticipated for the following Horizon 2020.

FEHRL is participating in and hosting proposal preparation meetings in Brussels, and has set up a website on Infracation as a tool for partners as well as for profile raising. For more information, contact Steve Phillips, FEHRL Secretary General at [steve.phillips@fehrl.org](mailto:steve.phillips@fehrl.org) or see [www.fehrl.org/infracation](http://www.fehrl.org/infracation).