What are the Benefits to Expect from ERA-Net Road?

Presentation to ECTP

21 November 2006
Introduction

What I am going to talk about:

• A brief description of the vision for the ERA-Net Road programme
• An update on results achieved to date
• Technology areas of interest
• The benefits we can expect from ERA-Net Road
ERA-NET Scheme - Vision

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national or regional level in the Member States and Associated States through:

• the networking of research activities conducted at national or regional level, and

• the mutual opening of national and regional research programmes.
ERA-NET Road

• A three year programme to focus on initiation and coordination of research relating to the management and operation of the strategic road network.

• Start date 1st June 2005

• Complements ERA-NET Transport which addresses the full spectrum of transport and transport technology research, particularly policy related issues
ERA-NET Road: The Vision
...What Success Looks Like...

By 2008 ERA-Net Road will have:

• achieved agreement on trans-national programmes
  …..which are…..
• strategically planned,
• trans-nationally funded,
• leading to the mutual opening of national research programmes
Partners:

- UK
- The Netherlands
- Finland
- Sweden
- Germany
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Austria
- Poland
- Slovenia
Sub-objectives of ERA-NET Road

Within the participating National Road Administrations it will:

• Encourage a systematic exchange of information

• Identify and analyse complementary research themes

• Implement any joint opportunities on current programmes

• Develop multinational project delivery and programme management procedures

• Develop and implement common trans-national strategies

• Disseminate the progress and achievements of ERA-NET Road
Results to date (1):
Mechanisms for collaboration

- 4 collaboration models developed
- Issues relating to procurement, finance and intellectual property examined
- Data on existing programmes and collaborations collected and analysed
Results to date (2): Fast Track Pilots

- **Pilot 1**
  - Project: Lifecycle analysis of open-graded asphalt pavements
  - Germany, Austria, Switzerland
  - Three contracts have been awarded

- **Pilot 2**
  - Project: Lifecycle of silent roads
  - Call in Nov 06 to all ten ENR partners
  - Contract award in April 07
  - 6 months duration, led by the Netherlands
WP 6 - Next Steps: Workshops to Define Technology Areas for New Trans-national Programmes

- Safe and Secure Traffic
  - Vienna (January 16 and 17, 2007)
- Asset Management (incl. Value Appraisal)
  - Warszaw (February 6 and 7, 2007)
- Sustainable Road Infrastructure
  - Cologne (February 13 and 14, 2007)
- Operating a High Quality Transport System
  - Stockholm (February 27 and 28, 2007)
What are the Benefits to Expect from ERA-Net Road?

4 viewpoints to consider:

- The European Commission
- The Roads Administrations
- Research Project Managers
- The Research Industry
Benefits: The European Commission

- Retaining Europe at the leading edge of roads research
- Enhanced delivery of research to address challenges in the roads sector
Benefits: The Road Administrations

• Opportunity to identify and share best practice in developing and implementing research strategies
• Development of national research programmes informed by international experience
• Opportunity for larger projects with greater likelihood of definitive results
• Sharing of research results
• Collaborative projects can achieve better value
• Reduced duplication - compensates for diminishing research resources
• Reduced costs of research administration and procurement activity
Benefits: Research Project Managers

- Larger, more challenging projects
- Greater availability of resources for research
- Opportunity to share international best practice in research
- Development of collaboration skills
- Gaining an international perspective
- Working alongside international experts
- Insight into other approaches and cultures
Benefits: Research & Innovation

• Greater opportunity to win research contracts awarded in other countries
• Larger, more significant research projects
• Longer term projects
• Better understanding of the strategic context for research projects
• More consistent allocation of research budgets
• Collaborating clients adopt best practice research management
• Opportunities to form research consortia
• Clients achieve better value, raising the profile of research activity – virtuous circle
Successes to Date

- Good understanding of current programmes
- Collaboration mechanism for projects established-four possible collaboration models identified
- First pilot initiated (3 partners)
- Second pilot which is due for award in April 07
- Work has commenced on the final work package (WP 6) to initiate trans-national programming
- Further joint calls anticipated
- Joint team meeting with ENT at TRA 2006
- All deliverables supplied to the Commission on programme
- Further potential partners seeking to joining – steering group actively addressing how to enable this
End of Presentation by the Coordinator for the ERA-NET Road Programme

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