Research Fund for Coal and Steel

Joining Sub-Platform General Assembly
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Research Fund for Coal and Steel

RFCS Programme born from the ECSC

- **1952: ECSC Treaty of Paris (validity 50 years) - Expired in July 2002**
- **Levy from coal and steel production**
- **Assets left : ~ 1.6 billion €**

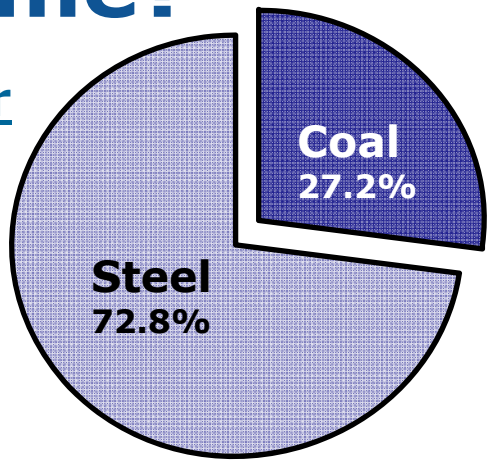




- **2001: Treaty of Nice**
- **Transfer of the ECSC assets (originally paid by industry) to the EC and utilise the interests generated by these assets (now ~ 2,0 billion €) to co-finance research in coal & steel**
- **To create the RFCS: 1 February 2003**

WHAT is the RFCS Programme?

- **A research fund with a budget of ~ 50 M€ / year**
- **Not taxpayer money**
- **Promoting industrial Coal & Steel research**



RFCS funding allocation

Open call for proposals for

- **Research projects (60% funding)**

  Investigative/experimental work to acquire further knowledge

- **Pilot & Demonstration projects (50% funding)**

  Installation development to examine the potential for putting theoretical or laboratory results into practice / Industrial-scale installation for exploitation of the technology at minimum risk

- **Accompanying measures (60 - 100% funding)**

  Promotion of the use of knowledge gained in projects of the Research Programme

with yearly deadline mid September (this year: 15/9/2014)

Outside the FP/H2020 … yet closely co-ordinated & complementary

RFCS Overview: Facts & Figures

- **Approx. 350 Grant Agreements running at any one time**
- **563 M€ funding in Coal and Steel research since 2003 ≈ 940 M€ total spending**
- **Mixture of industry, academia and research centres**
- **Technical, innovative projects, well defined objectives**
- **Can be complimentary to other funding (e.g. national funding)**
- **Monitoring Report & Assessment Report prepared following on-site visits and detailed assessment throughout 2012 → available on the website**

Who can participate?



Simple rules

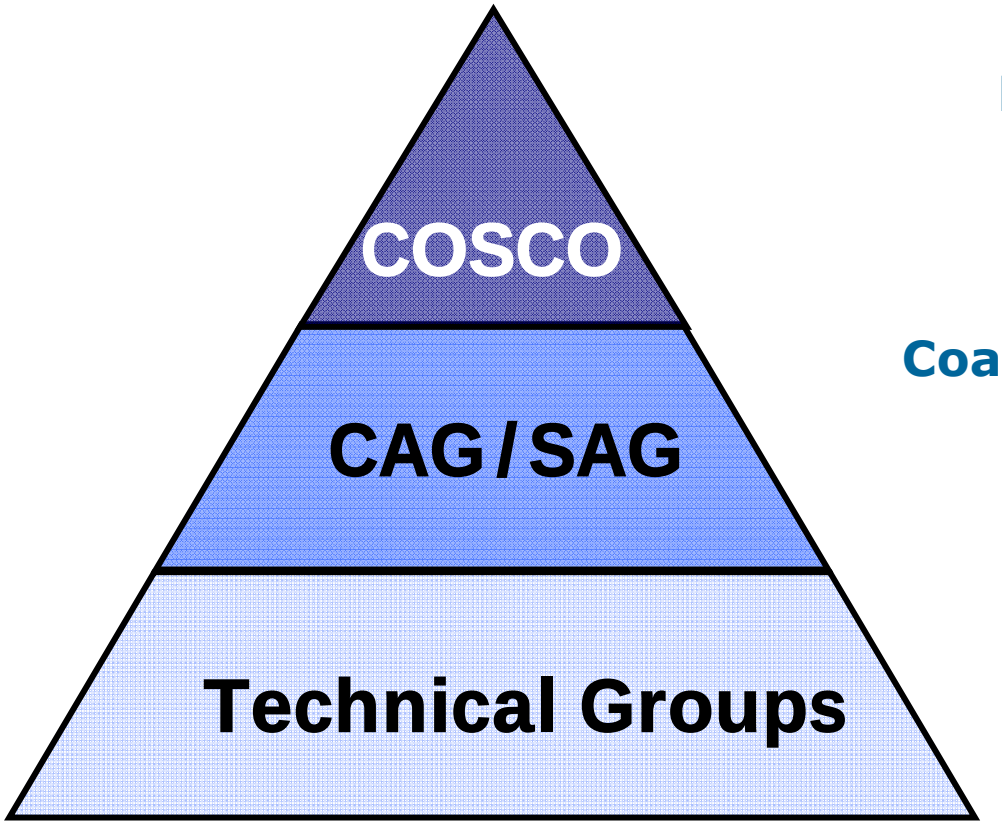
- Any legal entity established in the EU28 Member States
- Partners outside EU28 are entitled to participate but without receiving financial contribution

Typical projects

- Focused on industrial participation
- Dedicated and manageable consortium (5/8 partners)
- Average funding 1 – 2 M€ per project
- Duration typically 3 – 4 years

RFCS Programme management

The Commission



Programme Committee
Representatives of the Member States [1)]

Coal / Steel Advisory Group
Recommended representatives [2)]

12 Technical Groups
Senior Experts for project monitoring & review [2)]

1) Appointed by the Member States
2) Appointed by the EC

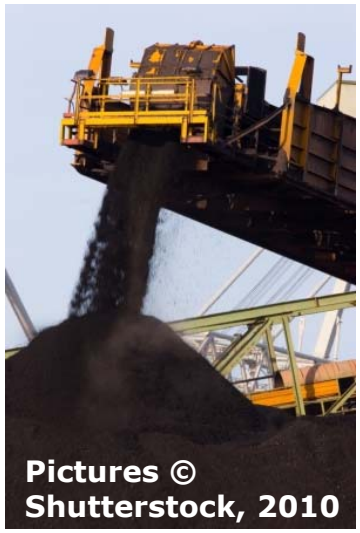
Project Timeline

- ✓ Prefinancing 40 %
- ✓ Review by Technical Groups
- ✓ Intermediate payment 40 %
- ✓ Review by Technical Groups
- ✓ Final payment 20 %



COAL: Programme Research Objectives

Management of external dependence on energy supply



Improving the competitive position of Community Coal

Health and Safety in Mines

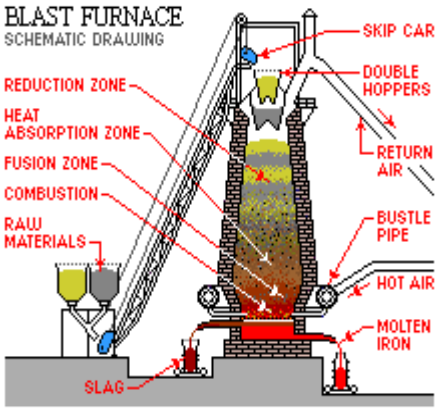


Efficient protection of the environment & improvement of the use of coal as clean energy source



Coal means: Hardcoal - Lignite - Coke - Briquettes - Oil Shales

STEEL: Programme Research Objectives



Conservation of resources and improvement of working conditions



Research on the utilisation of steel



New and improved steelmaking and finishing techniques

Joining Topics in the RFCS Programme

In the scope of the Technical Groups:

- **TGS 7 -** Steel products and applications for automobiles, packaging home appliances
- **TGS 8 -** Steel products and applications for building, construction and industry

Embedded in the annual priorities *(directing the long-term strategy of RFCS, based on recommendations from technology platforms):*

- **S6** Development of steel solutions for transport, sustainable construction (focusing on energy efficiency and carbon neutralisation) or energy applications (including renewables) with improved life cycle assessment (LCA) results
- **S7** Safety of steel infrastructures (e.g. tubes, pipes, pipelines, vessels, fittings, structural elements) for cost-efficient fluid storage and transportation in the energy sector

European Commission

A Few Examples of Past Projects

RFSR-CT-2003-00049 SYNFAB
Improving the competitiveness of the European Steel fabrication industry using synchronised tandem wire welding technology

RFSR-CT-2004-00033 SOLVSTIR
Solving steel welding problems by the use of friction stir

RFSR-CT-2009-00016 REFORM
Residual formability of preformed and subsequently welded advanced high strength steels

RFSR-CT-2005-00040 INDUCWELD
Induction assisted welding technologies in steel utilisation

RFSR-CT-2010-00032 FATWELDHSS
Improving the fatigue life of high strength steel welded structures by post weld treatments and specific filler material

RFSR-CT-2012-00024 HYBRO
Safe laser hybrid welding of structural steel by robust systems

RFSR-CT-2012-00034 JOINOX
Guidelines for use of welded stainless steel in corrosive environments

European Commission

A Few Examples of Past Projects

RFSR-CT-2007-00035 JOINTEC
Innovative and competitive new joining technology for steel pipes using adhesive bonding

RFSR-CT-2012-00035 BIOGASS
Innovative and competitive solutions using SS and adhesive bonding in biogas production

RFSR-CT-2007-00051 InFaSo
New market chances for steel structures by innovative fastening solutions

RFSR-CT-2011-00021 AUTOFATCOR
Combined corrosion and fatigue strength of joined materials for body-in-white and structural automotive applications design

RFSR-CT-2009-00021 COMPFIRE
Design of composite joints for improved fire robustness

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Synopses of past & ongoing RFCS projects available online http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/synopsis_en.html

Web Links / RFCS Info

- **RFCS website**: http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/
- **Information Package**
  http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/infopack_en.html
- **Latest published technical reports**:
  http://bookshop.europa.eu/
  http://cordis.europa.eu/library/
- **Synopsis of ongoing RFCS projects**:
  http://cordis.europa.eu/coal-steel-rtd/synopsis_en.html
- **Register as Technical Expert:**
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html



Thank you for your attention

Questions?