

# PRESS RELEASE

## *European Theoretical Spectroscopy Facility publishes first Call for Proposals*

The European Theoretical Spectroscopy Facility (ETSF) is an exciting and innovative new initiative in European nanoscience, a permanent research infrastructure bringing wider and easier access for the public and private sectors to world-leading theoretical Physics research tools and expertise, and continuing an highly successful 15-year collaboration between Condensed Matter Theory (CMT) research groups in Europe.

The ETSF is now publishing its first Call for Proposals, opening on Monday, 12th March 2007 and closing at 23:59 on Wednesday, 11th April 2007, on its web site at <http://www.etsf.eu>. This site also provides comprehensive information about the Facility, including details of the scientific fields at the core of its expertise.

Proposals are welcomed from any person or group from the public or private sector who has a need to engage with this field in collaboration with the ETSF's expert researchers: just as expert scientists' services are necessary to use a synchrotron, ETSF services are essential successfully to use the specialised software needed for theoretical spectroscopy.

In pursuit of its major objective to widen access to knowledge and expertise in the field of electronic excitations, the ETSF is building a strong community of Users, beginning with these first projects. Users may come from all over the world, and include theorists who need spectroscopic methods complementary to their own work, experimental researchers needing to simulate and analyse experimentally-derived spectra, graduate and post-graduate students or companies' staff requiring training in the field of nano-spectroscopy, or companies with a need for the specialised resources that ETSF can provide to help to develop new products. They may work in fields such as atomic and molecular Physics, Materials Science, Chemistry, Biology including Biophysics and Biochemistry; or in the industrial sector's laboratories researching electronics, optical components, nanosynthesis or characterisation. The ETSF enables their connection with the most appropriate theory group to address their needs, offering a wide variety of ways of sharing knowledge, depending on the expertise and needs of the User: for example, support for use of specialised software, placement of a member of the User's organisation for training, undertaking of a fully-collaborative project or a service provision in which the User is the "customer".

Following this Call for Proposals, a small number of scientific projects will be selected in April 2007, with details on the selected projects then being discussed with ETSF members and work starting in the second half of 2007.

The ETSF contribution to the projects resulting from this first Call will be funded entirely by the EU Nanoquanta Network of Excellence grant, free of charge to the User. Projects for this first call should hence be feasible within one year, but, if a user can provide partial support, either financial or other resources, a project may be more substantial.

Selection will be based on scientific interest and feasibility and on the level of Nanoquanta resources required.

One ETSF User, Dr. Antonio Porro, Manager of the Centre for Nanomaterials Application (NANOC) of LABEIN-Tecnalia, Derio, Spain, says about the ETSF:

“The creation of the ETSF offers a unique possibility in advancing in the field of the numerical simulation of materials' properties. In NANOC, we identify the ETSF as a worldwide leading facility on theoretical spectroscopy, and collaboration with it will enable us to make substantial advances with our work: we will be able to offer more added value to our industrial customers, and our position as a technology centre will be strengthened. We therefore consider the ETSF as a key scientific partner for our future.”

# Notes for Editors

## ***Further information***

- For local enquiries, contact the press office from which you received this release.
- For more information about the ETSF, see <http://www.etsf.eu>.
- For more information about the Nanoquanta Network of Excellence, see <http://www.nanoquanta.eu/>.
- For information about the FP6 funding programme and the Network of Excellence 'instrument', see <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/whatisfp6.htm>.

## ***Core Partners in the ETSF***

1. University of York (Department of Physics).
2. Fritz-Haber-Institut, Berlin (Theory Department).
3. Freie Universität, Berlin (Department of Physics).
4. Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena (Institut für Festkörpertheorie und Theoretische Optik).
5. Université Catholique de Louvain (Unité de Physico-Chimie et de Physique des Matériaux).
6. Lunds Universitet (Department of Solid-State Theory).
7. Universit degli Studi di Milano (Department of Physics).
8. Laboratoire des Solides Irradiés<sup>1</sup> (Paris).
9. Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia (Department of Physics, University of Rome 'Tor Vergata').
10. Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (San Sebastián; Departamento de Física de Materiales, Facultad de Químicas).

**Nanoquanta Network Co-ordinator:** Professor Rex Godby, University of York.

**Deputy Co-ordinator:** Dr Lucia Reining, Laboratoire des Solides Irradiés.

**Nanoquanta Network Administrator:** Mr Tony Patman, University of York.

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<sup>1</sup> The Laboratoire des Solides Irradiés is a joint research laboratory of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique and the École Polytechnique.