BILAT USA Link2US Newsletter

OCTOBER 2011

Advancing European Union and United States Cooperation in Science & Technology

"BILAT-USA" AND "LINK2US"

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BILAT USA

BILAT-USA is addressing U.S. researchers providing information on the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), such as open calls targeting specifically cooperation with U.S. researchers, research organizations and companies.

The BILAT-USA Helpdesk provides U.S. researchers support via e-mail responding to questions related to EU-U.S. cooperation under FP7.

Link2US

Link2US is addressing the participation of European-based researchers in the major U.S. federal government funding programmes that are open to European researchers.

The Link2US Helpdesk provides assistance to European-based researchers on U.S. federal government funding programmes via telephone and e-mail.

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of the E-Newsletter highlights FP7 open calls by research themes targeting the U.S., efforts of BILAT-USA and Link2US in supporting EURO-BASIN in its trans-Atlantic cooperation, and the release of two Link2US event reports held at an FP7 information day and at the EARMA annual conference. As always, U.S. S&T and ERA News are highlighted, along with key trans-Atlantic news.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) NEWS

Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

The new name for the future EU funding programme for research and innovation, "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation" was announced in June 2011.

Beginning 2014, "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation" will be the new, integrated funding system that will cover all research and innovation funding opportunities currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).
Details

U.S. S&T NEWS

National Science Foundation (NSF) Europe Office now headed by Dr. Carmen Huber

Dr. Carmen Huber took her new function in September 2011. Dr. Huber has been with NSF for 16 years, previously serving as Program Director at the Division of Materials Research and was a NSF Embassy Fellow in Uzbekistan. She succeeds Dr. David Stonner, who is now deputy director of NSF's Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE). The Europe Office represents NSF in Europe and Eurasia and reports on matters of interest in all fields of research supported at the NSF. In addition, the Office Head serves as liaison between European research and education agencies and the NSF.
Details

Patent Reform Bill Now a Law

On 15 September 2011 the U.S. President signed into law the American Invents Act (H.R. 1249, introduced last March). This law is intended to reforms the nation's patent system from "first-to-invent" to "first-to-file", bringing the U.S. into line with the standard used in Europe and by most countries. The nation's system had not been revised in over 50 years.
Details

Scientific Integrity Policies for NSF, the Environmental Protection Agency and others

Responding to a December 2010 Office of Science and Technology Policy Memorandum, many U.S. entities are either finishing their Scientific Integrity Policies, have submitted drafts and working on received public comments, or have adopted new plans. Entities with plans still in the works are National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); the National Science Foundation; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, and Transportation.
Details

New National Institute of Health (NIH) Intramural Center for Regenerative Medicine created

Stem cell technologies will be the focus of the world class center of excellence administered by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS). Headed by Mahendra S. Rao the goal of the center is to serve as a stem cell resource for the scientific community, providing stem cells, as well as the supporting protocols and standard operating procedures used to derive, culture, and differentiate them in to different cell types.
Details

NSF pulls out from the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) and goes alone after 2013

With fear of more budget constraints, NSF decided to pull out of the program it co-lead with Japan (and involving 26 countries in total) and continue research on its own, in the hope to better support U.S. investigators and cut costs. NSF overall budget was 1% lower this year than in 2010, and the income received from the 2009 stimulus package is almost exhausted.
Details

TRANS-ATLANTIC NEWS

Neuroscience 2011, 12-16 November 2011, Washington, DC: International Funding Opportunities session

In the frame of the 41st Society for Neurosciences' annual meeting, a specific session dedicated to International funding opportunities will be held in the morning of 15 November 2011.

This panel provides insight for investigators outside of the United States who are searching for funding opportunities. Program officers from the German Research Foundation, European Research Council, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research will provide an overview of their programmes, discuss their organizations' funding processes, and best practices to consider when applying for research grants.
Details

Innovation Convention 2011, 5-6 December 2011, Brussels

On 5-6 December 2011, the European Commission is holding its first Innovation Convention following the adoption of the Innovation Union Flagship initiative in October 2010. The Convention will take place in Brussels. This major event will gather more than 1200 participants involved in the innovation chain, including high-level policy makers, leading CEOs, deans of universities and research centres, bankers, venture capitalists, top researchers and innovators.

The programme of the Innovation Convention will include master classes and round tables on innovation, an interactive panel debate with global innovation players and the award of the Women Innovators Prize. The exhibition of the Innovation Convention will showcase exciting research and innovation results.
Details

Four ideas to get the U.S. and EU working together on healthcare

When it comes to healthcare, there can be deep political differences, but consensus is usually reached regarding the need for healthcare innovation, such as new technologies to save life, new systems to control costs, and new ways of thinking to prevent illness from the start. A recent report on a bilateral meeting between EU and U.S. experts in healthcare technologies lists four ideas of innovation cooperation between the EU and the U.S.: caring for the ageing population, stimulating innovation, regulating new biological medicines, and studying the economics of e-health.
Details

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

BILAT-USA provides list of U.S. targeted FP7 Calls 2012

Filtered by research themes, BILAT-USA provides a list of FP7 Calls 2012 specifically targeting research cooperation between the EU and the U.S.
Details

BILAT-USA and Link2US support EURO-BASIN in its efforts to promote trans-Atlantic collaboration in Ocean Sciences

On 14 September 2011 EURO-BASIN invited BILAT-USA and Link2US to Brussels to its *Meeting on Fostering Trans-Atlantic Collaboration in Ocean Sciences*.

U.S. representatives from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) met with representatives from different Directorates of the European Commission. Both sides did express high interest in trans-Atlantic collaboration through providing mutual mechanisms and joining forces, especially with respect to the upcoming Horizon 2020.
Details

U.S. IN THE SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: SPOTLIGHT ON *EURATOM*

International cooperation in the area of research in fission and radiation protection is an important element of the Euratom Programme. High-level agreements between Euratom and certain Third Countries facilitate the cooperation, moreover participation of Third Countries in projects is possible on an ad hoc basis. Dedicated research topics should ensure greater international cooperation. In fusion research, international collaboration is supported by bilateral or multilateral fusion agreement. An important example is the ITER Project which provides a major step towards the creation of prototype reactors for fusion power stations. This project is implemented by an international organisation established by Euratom, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States.

From 2007 to 2009, the Euratom programme has reached a success rate of 63%: 8 U.S. organisations have been included in 8 proposals submitted (all mainlisted), and 5 Grant Agreements have been signed by U. S. organizations.

PROJECT OF THIS ISSUE

Planetary Robotics Vision Ground Processing (ProVisG)
Website: http://www.provisg.eu/

Coordinated by: JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Institute for Information and Communication Technologies (JR), Austria

Funded under: FP7-SPACE -2007-1,

Major Activities:
The EC FP7-SPACE Project PRoVisG brings together major EU and U.S. research institutions and stakeholders involved in space robotic vision and navigation to develop a unified approach to robotic vision ground processing. It is a Collaborative Project in the frame of FP7-SPACE -2007-1, having started in October 2008 with a duration of 45 Months until June 2012. State-of-art computer vision is collected inside and outside Europe to better exploit the image data gathered during past, ongoing and future robotic space missions to the Moon and the Planets. This will lead to a significant enhancement of their scientific, technologic and educational outcome.

Major Objectives:

- Integration of a Planetary Robotic Vision ground Processing chain (PRoViP) with representative components available at the proposing institutions, with minor adaptation and integration efforts.

- Integration of a Planetary Robotic Geographic Information System (PRoGIS) that provides access to comprehensive PRoViP vision data processing chains as well as visualization of the context, history, vision meta data and products of complete robotic planetary missions.

- Include funds to issue Announcements of Opportunity (AOs) to European vision groups to submit results from consortium-provided test data for specific algorithms. Key groups within the consortium will perform an evaluation of such submitted algorithms and produce as well as compare their own results on this set of test data.

- Organise workshops as well as sub-workshops in major computer vision conferences to present the results, their evaluation and the winners of the PRoVisG “prize”, and a summer school in 2010 and 2011.

- Hold a field test at a representative site (e.g. caldera of Tenerife) at the end of the project period, attached to a Summer School, in order to demonstrate the elaborated processing framework & GIS to the academic and public society.

- Address specific needs in terms of Sensors and sensor arrangements. The Swiss Beneficiary CSEM developed a new panoramic stereo sensor; its benefits will be verified in the course of the PRoVisG project, together with a 3D Time-of-Flight sensor.

Conclusions:
PRoVisG shows that a medium-scale co-operation of vision experts and planetary scientists is possible. The Project is in line with planning and impact expectations. Some drawbacks have been found due to missing standards in this relatively new area of computer vision application: Although the effort to integrate methods from different providers into a unique framework is larger than expected, the objectives of the Project will be achieved within the given time frame until June 2012. Latest achievement is the conducting of a Field Test at the Isle of Tenerife mid September 2011, where imaging and processing strategies were verified in synchronization with the PRoVisG Summer School in Berlin that took place during the same period.

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Partners are located in Europe and the USA:

- JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Institute for Information and Communication Technologies (JR), Austria
- Ceské vysoké ucení technické v Praze (CTU), Czech Republic
- Centre national d études spatiales (CNES), France
- Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Germany
- Technische Universität Berlin (TUB), Germany
- Centre Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique SA - Recherche et Developpement (CSEM), Switzerland
- Aberystwyth University (AU), United Kingdom
- SciSys UK Ltd. (SSL), United Kingdom
- Astrium Ltd. (ASU), United Kingdom
- University College London (UCL), United Kingdom
- University of Surrey (UNIS), United Kingdom
- University of Nottingham (UoN), United Kingdom
- The Ohio State University (OSU), United States
- University Bremen (UniHB), Germany

Support:
Leicester Space Research Centre, United Kingdom
Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) - California Institute of Technology, United States

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Opportunities for Health Research in Third Countries

The report for the event held on 9 June 2011, in Brussels, the second networking session, *Opportunities for doing Health Research in Third Countries*, is now available! Under the auspices of the *Open Information Day on FP7 Health Research*, the session was part of a joint event of eight ACCESS4EU projects. Representatives of the participating countries presented the funding possibilities open for European researchers. The report of the session can be read here.

Issues in EU Participation in U.S. Federal Science & Technology Research Funding Programmes

The Link2US organized a session during the 2011 annual conference of the European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) to better understand major U.S. research funding programmes open to European institutions and to help identify key issues and navigate obstacles related to these programmes for grant administrators and managers. To find out how the meeting went and what the discussions were about, read the report and access the presentations here.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Research Grant Programmes available to European-based Institutions (continued from July Newsletter)

NIH Small Grant Program (RO3)	
Description	The R03 grant mechanism supports small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.
Funding Area	Please see the funding website for the specific areas that are funded: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r03.htm
Duration	Supports a project period of up to two year. An R03 can not be renewed
Funding Conditions	R03s can be applied for in two separate ways, either investigator initiated or in response to a specific Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
Further Details	http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/funding_opportunity/show/id/5

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21)	
Description	The R21 grant mechanism is intended to encourage exploratory/developmental research by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of project development.
Funding Area	Please see the funding website for the specific areas that are funded: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r21.htm
Duration	A project period can last up to two years.
Funding Conditions	R21s can be applied for in two separate ways, either investigator initiated or in response to a specific Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
Further Details	http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/funding_opportunity/show/id/7

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Grants Phase II (R33)	
Description	The R33 award is to provide a second phase for the support for innovative exploratory and development research activities initiated under the R21 mechanism.
Funding Area	Please see the funding website for the specific areas that are funded: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r33&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity
Duration	Three years.
Funding Conditions	R33s can be applied for in response to a specific Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
Further Details	http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/funding_opportunity/show/id/8

NIH Clinical Trial Planning Grant Program (R34)	
Description	This program supports: the establishment of the research team; development of tools for data management and research oversight; definition of recruitment strategies; finalization of the protocol; preparation of an operations/procedures manual.
Funding Area	Please see the funding website for the specific areas that are funded: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r34.htm
Duration	One year.
Funding Conditions	R34s can be applied for in two separate ways, either investigator initiated or in response to a specific Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
Further Details	http://www.euussciencetechnology.eu/funding_opportunity/show/id/9

SPOTLIGHT

NOAA and JRC work further toward more collaboration

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) agreed with a letter of intent earlier this year to formally explore strengthening their cooperation in areas of common interest. On 15 September 2011, a NOAA/JRC coordination group, the consultative group, held a meeting at the EU Delegation in Washington, DC, to further identify areas of closer research collaboration. These areas that may see future collaboration between the two entities are: Earth observation data management, marine and coastal research and policy support, space weather prediction and mitigation, fisheries, climate services and monitoring, crisis management and disaster monitoring, common modelling and analysis for coastal hazards and extreme events. Both sides worked on a text that will serve as a basis for an Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and NOAA under the current EU-US Science &Technology Agreement. The cooperation will build on the longstanding relations between the two entities, which have been working together for over 20 years in the field of Earth observation, including topics such as ocean colour, hydrology, sensor calibration and validation, involvement in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, and in the Group of Earth Observation. The letter of intent was signed by Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, and Dominique Ristori, JRC Director-General, on 18 February 2011.

BILAT USA Link 2 US

Newsletter

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IMPRESSUM

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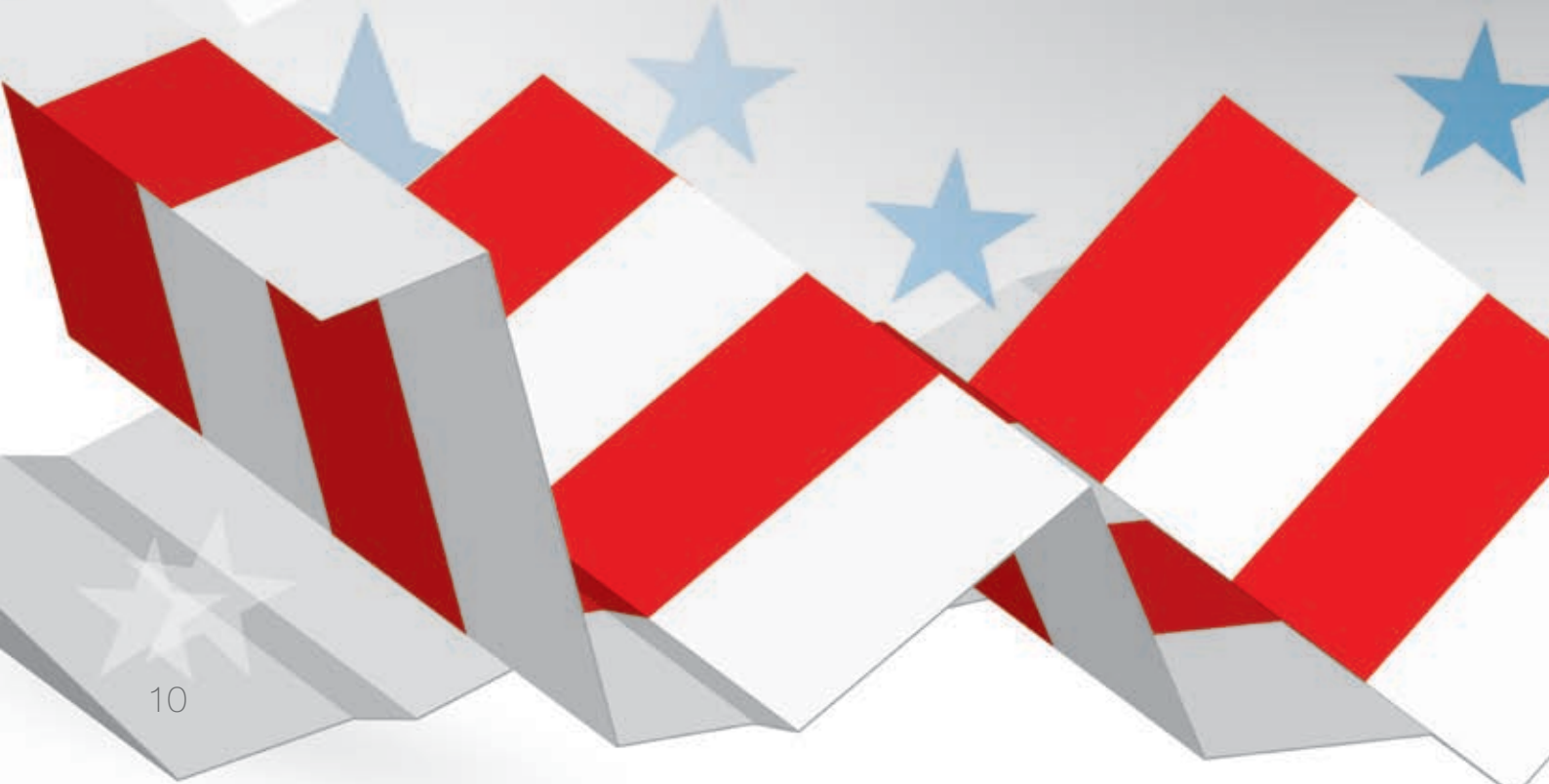
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