



Malta Council for Science and Technology

# Research Opportunities for SMEs

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1. Brief overview of MCST
2. Research in Malta
3. Seventh Framework (FP7)
4. RTDI National Funding
5. Manufacturing Research Platform

# MCST - Malta Council for Science and Technology

# MCST

- Public body established by government in 1989 to provide policy advice in the area of Science and Technology
- Small organisation – 12 employees
- Offices in Bigghi, Kalkara

# MCST

- **Mandate: Science and Technology, Research and Innovation**
  - Development of policy
  - Promoting research and innovation
- **Responsibilities**
  1. Research and Innovation Strategy
  2. EU Policy initiatives
  3. National Contact Organisation for FP7
  4. Programme owners of R&I Programme

# National Strategy

## National Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation 2007 – 2010

- Developed on the basis of wide consultation
- Makes over 60 recommendations to promote research and innovation

# Research in Malta

# Research in Malta

NSO statistics for 2006: 0.62% of GDP

- 0.42% private
- 0.21% public & Higher Education

**€31 million**

# Research investment

- Public and Higher Education **€10 million** (central government, FP7, etc)
- Private Sector **€21 million** (mainly private funding, FP7, etc)

# Research in Malta

Target expenditure **0.75%** GDP by 2010 (**€43 million**)

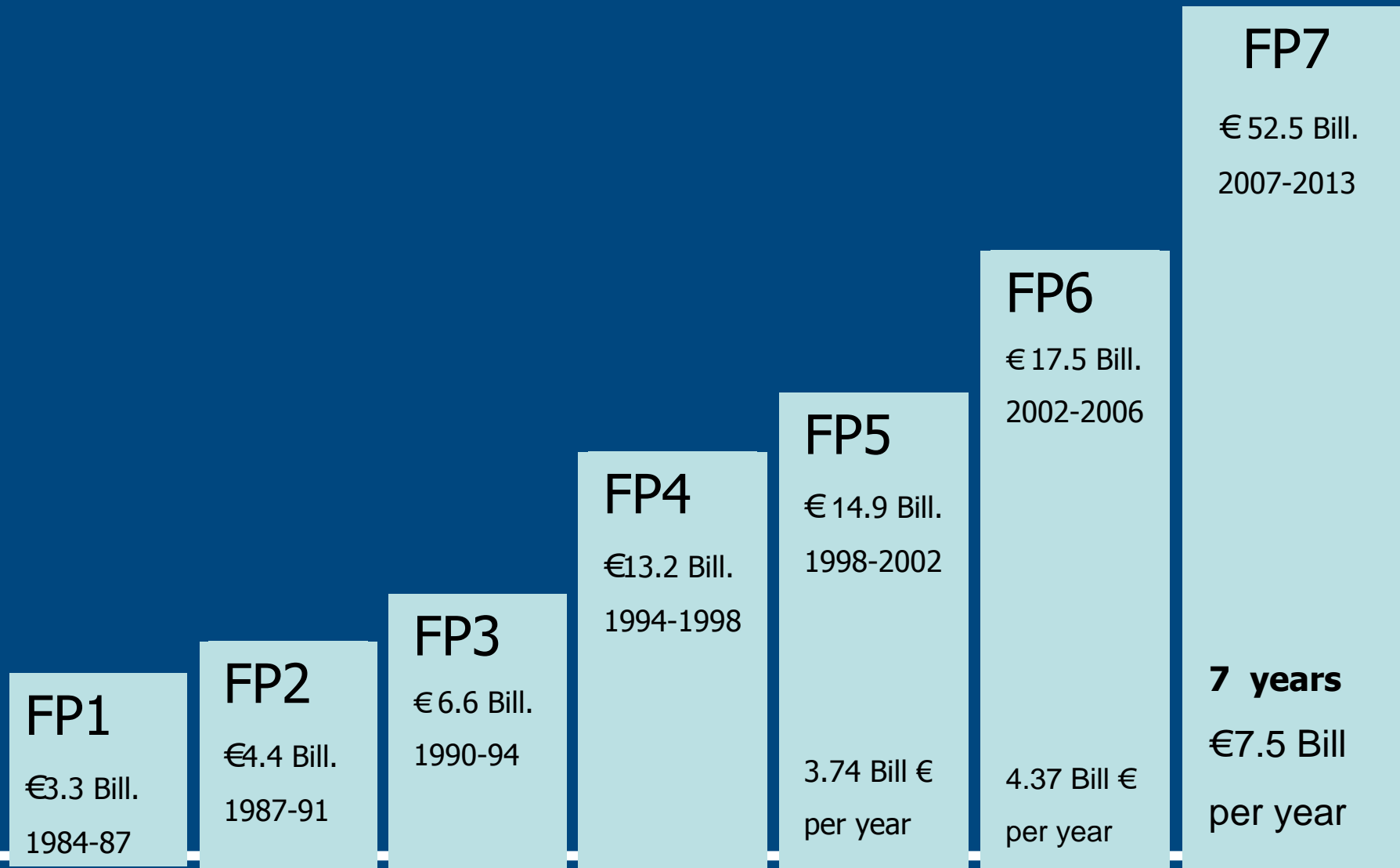
- Structural Funds – over €30 million allocated mainly for infrastructure and PhD bursaries
- Structural Funds – Malta Enterprise scheme for industry research
- Government funding - €700k for R&I Fund administered by MCST
- Increased participation in FP7
- Increased investment by industry



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# EU Seventh Framework Programme for Research

# FP Financial Allocation



# Opportunities for SMEs

- Industry participation is strongly encouraged
- Specific programme for SMEs under Capacities programme
- Each subprogramme includes specific measures addressing SMEs

# Malta's Performance

- **FP6 (4 years)**

- 125 Maltese partners (academia, industry, gov) across most fields
- Around €10 million in funding, of which over €3 million to industry

- **FP7 (2 years)**

- 60 projects with value of €5.3 million in funding
- Individual projects of up to €400,000



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# National R&I Funding Programme

# National R&I Funding Programme

- MCST initiative in 2004
- MCST lobbied at highest levels
- Government allocated Lm300,000
- MCST entrusted with design and administration of Programme

# Thematic Priorities

## Four Thematic Priorities:

1. Environment and Energy Resources
2. Information and Communications Technology
3. Value-added Manufacturing and Services
4. Health and BioTech

# Participation Rules

- Consortium
  - At least 2 participants, (a) an academic institution and (b) industry or public sector
- 2004: small projects, mainly academia
- 2006: large projects, industry participation
- 2008: large projects, requirement for collaboration led to high industry participation

# R&I Programmes Participation

<b>Programme</b>	<i>Total Proposals</i>	<i>Requested Funding</i>	<i>Available Budget</i>	<i>Total Projects Funded</i>
RTDI 2004	85	Lm3 million	Lm300K	15
R&I 2006	58	Lm3 million	Lm400K	7
R&I 2008	40	€5.4 million	Lm300K	7



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# Manufacturing Research Platform

# Manufacturing Research Platform

## Project Summary

- ERDF Proposal submitted in Feb 08
- 4-year project, Sep 08 – Aug 12
- Budget €700k
- Three key activities
  1. Manufacturing Platform
  2. Manufacturing Research Strategy
  3. Research Projects

# Research Projects

- Three research projects in areas of common interest to a number of organisations (€200k each)
- Three areas
  - Energy efficiency in manufacturing
  - ICT in manufacturing
  - Innovation in manufacturing
- Projects will be outsourced through open tender

# Research Projects

- Applied research projects
- To involve at least 5 industry partners
- To focus on existing manufacturing processes
- to identify, apply and test techniques for reducing energy consumption
- To quantify results

# Research Projects Timeframes

Milestone	Date
Issue tender	30 June 09
Tender closes	Sep 09
Tender awarded	Dec 09
Projects finalised	Dec 11

Thank you