



## PRESS RELEASE

### European Theoretical Spectroscopy Facility publishes new Call for Proposals

Following the successful pilot Call of 2007<sup>1</sup>, the European Theoretical Spectroscopy Facility (ETSF) is now publishing its new Call for Proposals on its web site<sup>2</sup>. Experimentalists and theoreticians from academia and industry are now invited to submit a proposal. The call will close at 23:59 CET on Monday 31st March 2008.

The ETSF, a new European infrastructure for nanoscience, uses the experience of 15 years of collaboration between several research groups throughout Europe. Through the ETSF, each user, whether from academia or industry, obtains easier and wider access to world-leading theoretical physics research and training tools. Each accepted project is directed to the most suitable group of scientists among over 200 researchers currently working under the umbrella of this new knowledge centre.

To ease access to its services, in a similar manner to a synchrotron, the ETSF is structured in *beamlines*. Each beamline covers a field of interest of theoretical spectroscopy such as optics, quantum transport, time-resolved and photo-emission spectroscopies. Information on the web site allows users easily to identify the most appropriate beamline and contact the relevant beamline scientist for further information and discussion concerning their project ideas.

Prof. De Crescenzi, from the University of Rome ‘Tor Vergata’, is of the ETSF users. “Thanks to the pilot project we have started a close collaboration with ETSF scientists in order to explain our experimental observations in Ge-nanoislands and more importantly to understand the physical origins of the photocurrent generation. This is important for developing new and efficient materials suitable for photovoltaic devices”.

When submitting his proposal, Dr. J. Schaefer, an experimentalist from the University of Wuerzburg, who is undertaking a project with the ETSF on platinum chains on a Germanium surface, told *Nature*<sup>3</sup> that he had hoped that “the real world and their elusive phantom world [would] come to the same result”. The project resulted in a novel model of atomic nanowires on the Pt/Ge(001) surface, which could eventually explain all the spectroscopic findings.

The types of projects which may be eligible are diverse, including scientific collaboration, consultancy, software downloads, and participation in training events. The application forms, to-

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<sup>1</sup>Out of the 54 proposals submitted, 28 have been accepted, 12 being collaborative projects, of which 5 received funding, 12 training and 4 consultancy.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.etsf.eu>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.nature.com/news/2007/071205/pdf/450777a.pdf>

gether with comprehensive information on the ETSF and its expertise, can be found on-line at <http://www.etsf.eu>.

Submitted projects will be evaluated by an external scientific board on the basis of scientific relevance, soundness, and excellence. An internal panel will be in charge of evaluating the feasibility of the proposals. Some of the successful applications will be funded by the EC through the “ETSF-I3” project (January 2008 - December 2010), an ICT-based e-infrastructure.

## Further information

- For local enquiries please contact the press office from which you received this release.
- For more information about the ETSF, see <http://www.etsf.eu>.
- Call: <http://www.etsf.eu/index.php?page=callforproposals>
- Beamlines: <http://www.etsf.eu/index.php?page=beamlines>
- FP7: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\_en.html)

## The ETSF beamlines and beamline scientists

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**Vice-President for Scientific Development:** Professor Angel Rubio, Universidad del País Vasco, San Sebastian, Spain.

**Vice-President for Users and Technology:** Dr Lucia Reining, Laboratoire des Solides Irradiés<sup>4</sup>, Palaiseau, France.

**Director of the ETSF Meeting Centre:** Professor Rodolfo Del Sole, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy.

**Chair of the ETSF Steering Committee:** Professor Rex Godby, University of York, UK.

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<sup>4</sup>The Laboratoire des Solides Irradiés is a joint research laboratory of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique and Ecole Polytechnique