

EMTECH

EMbedded Systems TEChnologies

KEYWORDS: Small and medium sized Enterprises (SMEs), embedded systems

Introduction

SSA financed under FP6 EMTECH aimed at improving development and take-up of technologies in the field of embedded systems, in particular by SMEs. EMTECH planned to increase the SMEs' understanding of their potential in the area of embedded systems by analysing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Objectives

EMTECH's major objective was to promote SME development and take-up of Embedded Systems technology. This implied to further the participation of SMEs in Embedded Systems Research and Development (R&D) projects at EU level by increasing our understanding of SME potential and capabilities and also by performing individual training of SMEs and offering information tailored to their needs. As sub-goals of this overall aim, EMTECH assessed SME capabilities and analysed opportunities and threats of current embedded systems trends for SMEs.

As a second major objective, EMTECH aimed at the activation of key persons and assemble critical mass of expertise. It achieved this by optimally exploiting existing activities and competencies, dynamically expanding the network and knowledge base as the project proceeds and cluster SMEs and supporting community building.

EMTECH further aimed at a quick and broad result dissemination to increase awareness about SMEs and their opportunities in embedded

systems R&D. In particular SMEs short listed by the Embedded Systems Unit have been encouraged to initiate FP6 STREP proposals (INTEREST)

thanks to high-quality training workshops for SME managers and intermediaries.

As a member of the ARTEMIS Steering Group the EMTECH coordinator (HTFED) represented the Embedded Systems SME community within ARTEMIS. To ensure the involvement of relevant SMEs within the different ARTEMIS Working Groups a SME Involvement Working Group chaired by HTFED has been implemented. The main outcome is the initiation by HTFED of the ARTEMIS SME Pact. The SME Pact is a voluntary commitment by large companies, public procurement agencies or large RTD programmes to enhance their working relationship with the best research-intensive SMEs.

In this context pan-European SME events have been organized in conjunction with ARTEMIS with the aim of fostering partnerships between SMEs or SMEs and large companies.

The main event of this kind took place on June 29, 2005, one day before the ARTEMIS Paris conference. It was hosted by Comité Richelieu, a private non profit association of high tech companies, French founding members of the Federation, together with OSEO, the new French SME agency. 110 SMEs participated from a total of 17 European countries as well as 21 large companies and representatives from research institutes, association, and the European Commission.

Results

Training and Dissemination workshops aimed at disseminating opportunities, increasing awareness, and performing individual training. It followed a model workshop template adapted locally. EMTECH partners have organised or supported 20

workshops of four types: information workshops on IST5 calls for proposal, workshops in collaboration with ARTEMIS, trans-national workshops involving Embedded Systems SMEs and SMEs willing to benefit from the take-up of Embedded Systems technologies, and EC consultation on SME participation in the "7th Framework Programme".

Opportunities and threats of ES trends for SMEs has been analysed, based on compile national SWOT analysis, and then validated by an independent Expert Panel. The SME survey report gathers the results of an online questionnaire assessing factors affecting the capabilities of 100 SMEs to engage in collaborative RTD.

Dissemination of EMTECH results have been intense through participation of 21 conferences related to embedded systems. The outcomes of the EMTECH have been represented and SMEs networked.

Follow up

Strong cooperation with other EU programmes has been activated during the project: ARTEMIS, COSINE, EPISTEP.

By endorsing the EMTECH proposal of an "ARTEMIS SME Pact", the Platform keeps on being on the very forefront in terms of SME involvement. The process launched by the EMTECH project will be pursued after the end of the contract, even though the funding model is not completely decided.

Collaboration with EPISTEP during the EMTECH project was the occasion to explore how EPISTEP could build on the achievements of EMTECH post September 2006 by working more closely with the HTFED.

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CONTRACT NUMBER

IST - 004376

FULL NAME

EMbedded Systems TEChnologies Information, Dissemination & Innovation Take-up

TYPE OF PROJECT

Specific Support Action

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

European Federation of high tech SMEs (Belgium)
Steinbeis Europa Zentrum (Germany)
French Association of Automotive Suppliers (FIEV, France)
Eutema Technologie Management (Austria)
Focused Development Alliance (United Kingdom)
Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Czech Republic)
EPIANA (Sweden)

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PROJECT WEBSITE

www.emtech-sme.org

BUDGET TOTAL COST & FUNDING

500 KEuro (100% funding)

TIMETABLE

Starting date: 1. September 2004
Duration: 24 months

This project is part of the portfolio of the

**Embedded Systems Unit – C3
Directorate General Information Society**

For more information please check:

http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_c/ems/