

The Plan for European Co-operating States (PECS)

Towards an enlarged ESA Partnership

Bernard ZUFFEREY, *PECS Office, ESA-ESTEC*

bernard.zufferey@esa.int

PECS Background

- October 1999, ESA and HSO organised a two-day workshop in Budapest.
- Scope : to analyse existing relations between ESA and its partners in Central and Eastern Europe, namely H, CZ, PL and RO.
- Finding : step between present co-operation agreement and full membership is far too big to be bridged easily by CEE countries.
- Wish : ESA is requested to propose an intermediate step that would better suit the needs of CEE countries.

PECS Terms of reference

- The “Plan for European Co-operating States”(PECS) has been decided by ESA Council on 21/22 March 2001
- “European Co-operating States”(ECS) is a new status granted to European States that want to accede to ESA Convention
- This new status is conditional to the participation to PECS
- Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania have been declared admissible for a participation to PECS
- Participation in PECS is exclusive of any other programmes

Overall objective of PECS

- The overall objective is to associate the ECS participants with ESA programmes and activities in order to prepare them in the most efficient manner for possible future accession to the ESA Convention

Specific objectives of PECS

- Develop co-operation between ECS scientific and applications user communities and ESA Member States
- Create and strengthen the respective industrial expertise and capacity in order to allow a fair and equitable industrial participation in future Agency programmes after accession to ESA Convention
- Provide indirect access to existing ESA programmes and activities
- Foster the understanding of ESA's organisation and functioning (including the use of EURO), of European space products, standards and procedures
- Ensure coherence between the space activities of ECS participants and ESA Member States (no duplication of activities)

Areas covered by PECS

- Space science (astronomy, astrophysics, solar system exploration, solar-terrestrial physics)
- Earth observation (environmental monitoring, meteorology, aeronomy, geodesy)
- Telecommunication and navigation (service demonstrations)
- Life and physical sciences (space biology and medicine, material processing)
- Ground segment engineering and utilisation

Type of activities covered by PECS

- Scientific projects and/or experiments
- Data exploitation
- Space technology
- Support to SME's

Administrative structure of PECS

- Small office attached to PRODEX (historical reasons)
- A dedicated PECS Committee is set up to monitor the execution of the Plan
- This Committee is composed of representatives of ECS countries and observers of ESA Member States
- A detailed list of activities is defined in a rolling five-year plan
- Minimum financial contribution is expected (5M€ over 5 years)
- Total carry forward procedure for unspent budget
- ESA industrial policy principles apply (non-distortion of competition, complementarity with existing ESA activities)

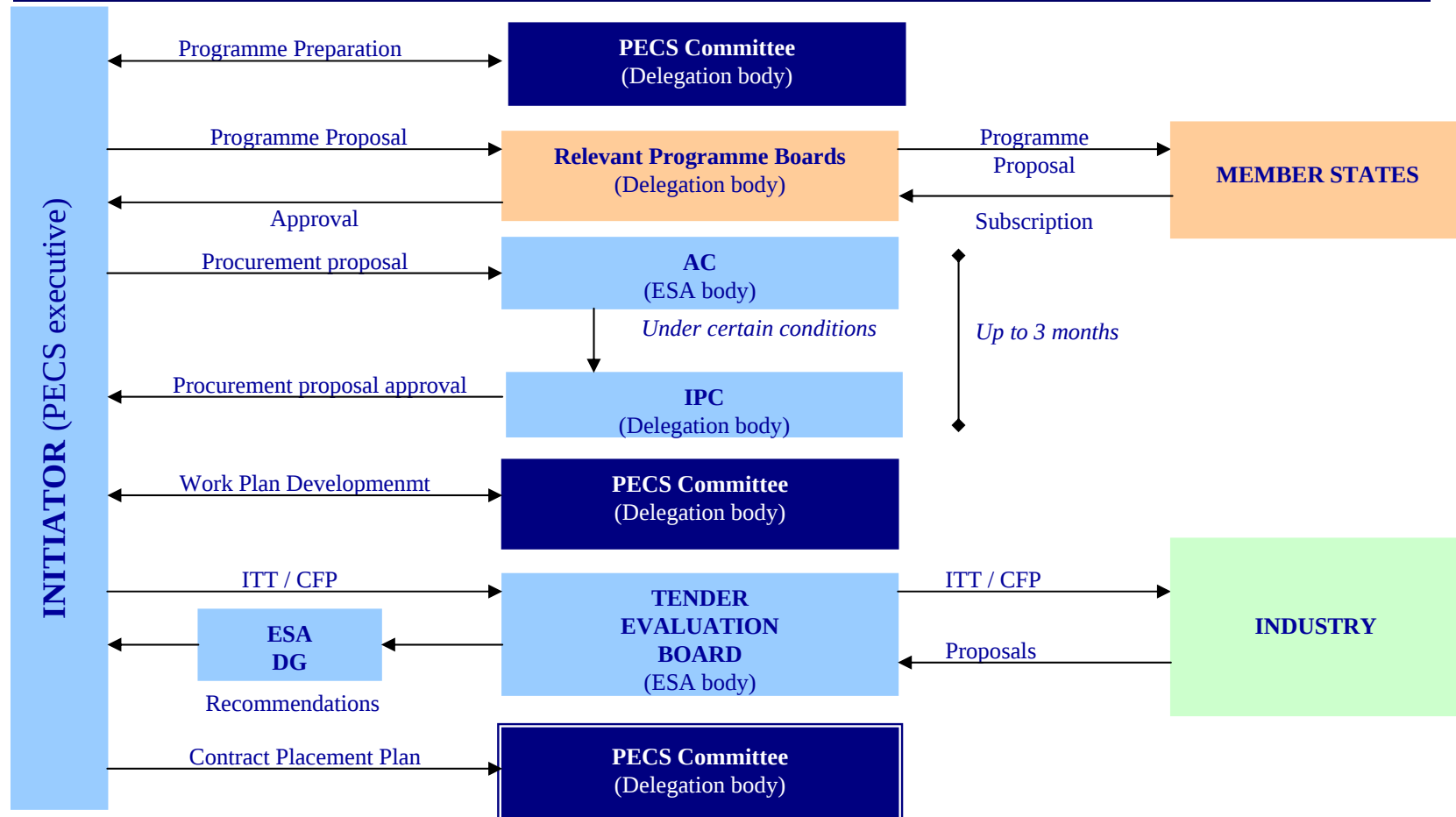
Next steps in setting up PECS

- Prepare the administrative structure governing PECS (implementing rules, PECS Committee, etc.)
- Consultation on possible activities with each individual ECS candidate
- Prepare jointly a draft list of activities
- Inform relevant Programme Boards on PECS activities
- Approve the selected activities

PECS Participating State's Advantages

- Secures funding and provides continuity for national space related activities over a 5 year period
- Allows national industry to access EMITS and respond to ESA ITT's
- Guaranteed return of contribution percentage in the form of contracts
- Give access to ESA technological knowledge and support
- Stimulates industrial activities and cooperation at national and international levels
- Make the participant more familiar with ESA standards and procedures
- Prepares for full ESA membership in order to be able to compete at equal level with other Member States for industrial return

PECS Programme Mechanisms



PECS compared to FP 6 (slide 1)

- PECS Space related activities in general are open to PECS candidates, provided the relevant ESA Programme Board has accepted the proposed project.
- FP 6 Only thematic projects selected by EU in the fields of Galileo, GMES and Satellite telecommunications can be carried out, in strict compliance with FP 6 rules (see AEROSPACE 2002-19, pp 30 sqq.)

PECS compared to FP 6 (slide 2)

- Provided the proposed activities are approved by ESA, PECS can be seen as a “complementary” programme to FP 6, namely for two reasons :
 1. PECS can be the funding source for the remaining “national” part of a winning FP 6 project.
 2. PECS can support projects that have not been awarded FP 6 funds and that have a strategic importance for the PECS Participating State.