

## **New DPI Participation Opportunities for SMEs**

The Dutch Polymer Institute (DPI) is involved in pre-competitive research programmes in polymer science and technology. DPI is one of the Leading Technology Institutes (LTI), a public-private partnership of industry and academia, supported by government. DPI forms a comprehensive network of scientific experts from universities and industry, covering the full chain of knowledge. To date the industry participation mostly consists of large multinational companies.

To expand the DPI network, to utilize the innovative capacity of Small and Medium/sized Enterprises (SME) (1) and to facilitate technology transfer, DPI wants to stimulate participation of SMEs to its programmes. Realising that the current participation fees may not be affordable for an SME, two new participation possibilities with reduced fees have been developed: Basic participation and Group participation.

The Basic participation gives a single SME observer status, whilst the Group participation provides an SME the opportunity of a full participation shared with one or two other SMEs in a collaboration.

### **Basic participation**

Annual participation fee: 25% of the Full participation fee

Minimum duration: 2 years

Observing Programme Committee member

Participation to all DPI network and technology transfer activities

Appointment of observing contact persons for all TA projects

Third right of refusal of intellectual property rights resulting from the TA

### **Group participation**

Annual participation fee: 100% of the Full participation fee

Minimum duration: 4 years

Shared membership for a group of maximum three SMEs

Single vote in Programme Committee

First right of refusal of IP

Participation to all DPI network and technology transfer activities:

Appointment of industrial contact persons for all TA projects.

For more information upon the participation possibilities, please contact Shila de Vries.

(1) SME definition follows the definition of the EU (Recommendation 2003/361).