Joint Indo-Dutch R&D-program on New Medical Devices for Affordable Health
Pre announcement of a call for proposals

The Department of Science and Technology **(DST),** Government of India and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research **(NWO)** intend to open a joint call for proposals in February 2010. The subject of this call for joint research projects is R&D on New Medical Devices for Affordable Health. For medical devices the international definition of the WHO will be followed. An eligible proposal application should (1) meet the WHO-definition for medical devices, (2) explicitly leads to affordable health and (3) address at least one of the five topics defined below.

Funding can be requested for a joint research project between Indian and Dutch universities or public research institutes. Financial support for approved projects would cover exchange visits, one Ph.D.student or post-doc position (duration and fellowship amount as per terms and conditions of DST/ NWO respectively), minor equipment/ accessories, consumables/ raw materials and workshops, to enhance the exchange of ideas, experiences, knowledge and skills between the two research teams. In total, about 3 to 5 joint research projects may be supported depending on the funds availability on both sides. Further details may be seen in the call for proposals to be opened in the first week of February 2010 and closing on 29th April.2010.

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In preparation of the call, a joint DST-NWO expert workshop will be organized in Trivandrium (India) by the end of January 2010.

Topics to be covered :

1. Minimally invasive techniques ; The means and methods used to minimize damage of healthy tissue that occurs during invasive diagnostics and treatment. Endoscopy and the use of catheters for treatment or diagnostics are examples of minimal invasive techniques. Invasive techniques (open surgery), and non-invasive techniques (radiography, MRI, PET, SPECT) etc are not included in this topic. Innovative techniques specific for the support of a certain minimal invasive intervention (e.g. optical and tactile feedback) are included.

2. Medical optics and acoustics : Medical optics (including near ultraviolet and near infrared light).and acoustics (including audible as well as the ultrasonic field) cover methods used to acquire images as well as therapeutic treatment such as eye corrections using laser light and treating kidney stones with ultrasound. Also included are the instruments specifically for measuring the optical properties of the eye (ophthalmology) and acoustic properties of the ear.

3. Medical image processing : Processing of medical images such that the end-user is able to better assess the images or that even a quantitative analysis is possible. Visualization, CAD systems, multimodal and molecular imaging are examples.

4. High precision instrumentation : Development of instruments with higher sensitivity and/or a higher specificity and/or a higher accuracy to enable detection of

smaller signals, (sometimes to the level of a (bio)molecule or a subatomic particles) and reduction of noise or false-positive signals. High precision instrumentation covers equipment for detection or diagnosis, as well as instruments sending out signals, such as radiation equipment used for therapeutic purposes.

5. Safe extramural care : Health technology in the extramural care (e.g. public health services, GPs, home care, self care) to enable people to live longer at home (in stead of e.g. a home for the elderly). Safety and usability are important aspects of these instruments. User-friendly and safe tools are essential for a more effective and efficient extramural care.

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