

GO-REACH

A USER SUPPORT SYSTEM TO APPROACH REACH

**EC FP6 funded Project Proposal
Abstract Draft**

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Project proposal to the EC 6th Framework Programme RTD - IST

Priority Area 2.5.8: ICT for Networked Business

Application to the Call for proposals FP6-IST-5
(publication 21.5.2005- close 21.9.2005).

Type of project: IP (STREP)

Working draft by the Regione Lombardia project coordination team
for restricted circulation to the project consortium, ECRN partners

1. Abstract

Rationale

The new legislation REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of CHemicals) is being developed by the European Commission, with the objective to respect sustainable development by ensuring both a high level of protection of human health and the environment and the competitiveness of the chemicals industry, within the framework of the Single Market. The specific objectives of REACH are:

- protection of human health and the environment;
- maintenance and enhancement of the competitiveness of the EU chemical industry;
- prevent fragmentation of the internal market;
- increased transparency;
- integration with international efforts;
- promotion of non-animal testing;
- conformity with EU international obligations under the WTO.

An European Chemical Agency will be created and will provide the Member States and the Institutions of the Community with the best possible scientific and technical advice on questions relating to chemicals.

The new Regulation will entry into force in 2007 and all the actors of the supply chain will be responsible to respect new obligations and now duties.

The SMEs will be mainly impacted from the Regulation in terms of lack of information, expertise, and costs. They will need to receive a simplified and structured supports for their work, to be able to communicate each other and with the local public Authorities, to be supported through user friendly system for the application of their duties.

This system should assist understand, case-test, comply and master the new REACH regulation and related implications to be adopted on the real business operation in the variety of sectors.

This preliminary draft is intended for progressive building of the content and the consortium, by aggregating all the contributions to consolidate the project proposal in the context defined. Specific input will be received with the results of RIP projects, the SPORT project and connected studies on REACH.

Objective

Main objective of GO-REACH is the development and delivery of a tool set system for effective implementation of REACH on the market, addressed for testing and for regular use by the different end user profiles within:

- the chemical related industry chains (from raw material, to intermediates and final products)
- in each business sector which is directly-indirectly impacted by REACH across and beyond the EU
- mainly the SMEs and the local public organizations

The initiative is being fostered under the network of the chemical regions in Europe (ECRN), in order to have effective user tools introduced and used to face sustainable and competitive advantage of REACH in the regional and trans-regional systems.

The regional administrations have significant role and opportunity to involve the many stakeholders, sectorial interest groups, industries and SMEs directly and indirectly impacted by the REACH.

Indeed this synergy will be progressively consolidated on a joint basis, in terms of both work content (RIP projects), of timing (2005-07) and joint cooperation.

The project responds to the priority area of the FP6-IST for Networked Business:

- (a) Enhancing IST knowledge-modelling-integrative technologies to be developed into a innovative supporting tool for effective end user assistance in a new crucial context of REACH, to become a reference tool
- (b) Enabling significant European added value solution in a multi-sectorial networked business ecosystem, committed by the European Network of the Chemical Regions.

Overall architecture

In defining objective, architecture and functionalities, input and relationships will be considered with respect to: JRC Action 1313 (RIP 1-5), NRW Simulation on Reach (2003), DICIDA-UK Reach Briefing (3.2004), CEFIC, ECETOC, Federchimica and other developments.

The system architecture should be closely correlated to the specifications and the content resulting from the EU Commission projects and related developments in terms of legislation, guidelines, IT tools.

The results of the RIP projects will be taken into consideration as EC certified and updated source for the system. This will have a benefit of effectiveness, both strengthening the validity of the EC sources avoiding duplications/non certification, and putting them on immediate real users' test and work.

The GO-REACH project will be focused on the SMEs requirements in view of the application of the future legislation on chemicals (REACH system). These main requirements will drive in the development of some user friendly IT tools needed to inform, to train the SMEs during their obligation towards the legislation. In addition the SMEs will receive adequate information and training to help them also in the communication and exchange of information with other partners (Local Authorities, Laboratories and Research Institutes). Moreover the exchange of information between the SMEs will be stimulated and fostered through the use of web based system and integrated whenever new data/information will be available.

The GO-REACH will firstly start with an inventory list of substances (name of substances, quantities, use) done by the companies. Through this list a web based system will help the SMEs in respecting the obligations coming from the legislation. To be complaint to these duties the SMEs will be supported by inventory list of laboratories and national experts, bibliography sources, chemical substances database, risk evaluation IT tools, and any other artefact which would be useful. GO-REACH is conceived to include three main components within the delivery system:

Knowledge base The REACH knowledge is correlated to the understanding of the whole process (who does what), to the specific obligations with regards to the substances and quantities produced/imported, to the results coming from the RIP projects.

All the inventory list created (laboratories, national experts, bibliography sources, chemical substances database, risk evaluation IT tools) will be also made part of this knowledge base. This is also interfaced with the central chemical database (IUCLID5) and the IT environment resulting from the RIP2, and interfacing additional relevant official sources.

Platform This ICT platform is the core component of the system, designed and tuned to provide effective-flexible-friendly end user application services on-site. An integration of more CA technologies will be implemented (modelling, workflow and knowledge management) in addition to typical on-line management functions (access, selection, run, bench-case, tracing, updating etc.).

Application services will be tuned to 2 categories: SMEs, Public authorities/Agencies, and to more industry chain profiles: raw material/intermediates/final product, importer/manufacturer/distributor//etc.

The exchange of data/ information will respect the obligations and guidelines given by the results of the RIP projects and in particular to those regarding the SMEs and the local public Authorities.

The platform would help the SMEs to share (voluntary and secure way) some information such as : risk assessment and management, exposure scenarios and safety data sheets.

Support The life-cycle of the system requires a specific support from the design, to test, start up, education and maintenance, to be performed in effective sustainable way.

This will take advantage from the RIP guidelines and educational material available, and from few tutorial functionalities included in the on-line services of the platform.

Specific benefit to foster accelerating this dissemination will be assured by the activity of the ECRN network, through the regular regional and European working group sessions, in addition to the connected interest groups.

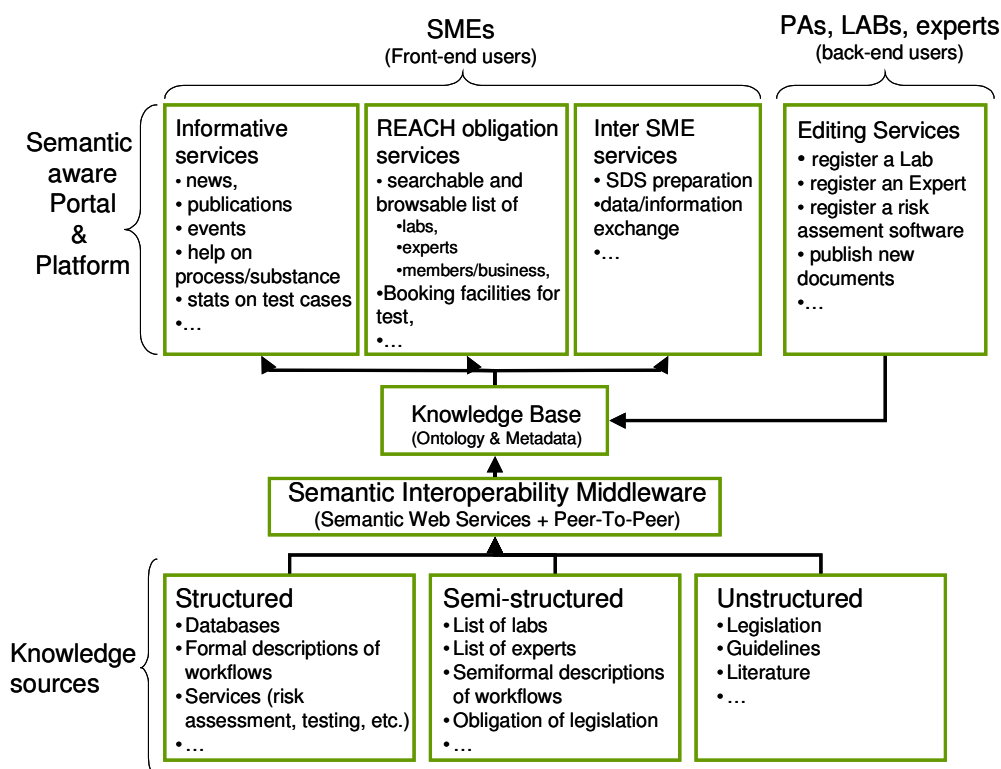
The GO-REACH system architecture is based on OSS and will take advantage from some innovative ICT technologies suited to strengthening the added value of the computer aided effectiveness. This will enable maximize the development and progressive extension of the semantic aware portal & platform, which include services and their usability both for the front-end users (networked business SMEs) and for the back-end users (Labs, Public Agencies, experts).

In particular, a specific middleware will be developed-integrated-tested to be in charge for the semantic interoperability between the different knowledge sources and the knowledge base of GO-REACH.

Confidentiality, security and data protection are key functionalities to be implemented within the system, according to the

GO-REACH is conceived to be, from the beginning, a common European design and implementation system. The foundation of the version 1 release will be modulated with a multi-profile (by language, by basic services, by extended services, by sector, etc.).

This will enable the system to respond to the expectations, needs and developments of the wide spectrum of networked business European communities, which are being represented by the ECRN regions participating into the project.



GO-REACH project profile:

The project is proposed to be composed of the work packages listed in the preliminary Work Plan.

The first option instrument aimed at this stage is an IP project, with expected project duration of (24-30) months.

The main project target is considered the introduction of the GO-REACH Release 1 to the users on January 2007, when the REACH regulation should be introduced on the EU market.

2. Project Work plan

The preliminary plan is based on the work content for the project execution, which should be discussed, assessed and consolidated among the participants. Some tasks have common execution, some have local execution in each participating region (Reg) within the European Network of the Chemical Regions ECRN. The project is intended to be linked and possibly interconnected to other applications on REACH, such as elements and results from the SPORT project and similar.

WP 0: Project Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strategic guidance of the project objective and activities- Co-ordination of the Scientific Committee- Co-ordination of the partners, project's workplan and management <p>Duration: months Effort: person</p>
WP 1: REACH Testing resources profiling Definition, survey and aggregation of all the local entities which are impacted by REACH, particularly to constitute and maintain a shared database of the labs resources by category of test procedures. Tasks' activity will optimize the availability of all the information, experience and connections from the business interest groups, namely the regional/national federations of the chemical associations and CEFIC, the public and private research centres and labs. 1.1 Definition of the value chain class of actors, the relevant data sources and database structure 1.2 Survey-data collection of the value chain local actors (Reg) 1.3 Database build up, report and periodic update 1.4 Integration-connection with the available data sources (Reg) 1.5 Definition of the (certified) test labs for REACH (Reg) 1.6 Monitoring of the workable conditions according to the evolution-consolidation of the REACH regulation Duration: months Effort: Persons
WP 2: End user requirements, functional specifications According to the business requirements to introduce and comply to REACH (by local/regional/industry sector/SMEs/local agencies etc.), basic functional specifications are set up for the services to be delivered by the new system to the networked business, addressing actors in the participating regions in the EU. Functionality and services should result complementary and connected with the REACH regulation and operational procedure. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2.1 Definition of the working space of the requirements and the expected system functionality- 2.2 Survey of user requirements on the selected business targets (Reg)- 2.3 Aggregation from 2.1 into basic+ extended functional specifications- 2.4 Definition of the services (addressed to networked businesses, and to local agencies) for the release 1- 2.5 Preliminary definition of the additional services after the release 1. Duration: months Effort: persons

<p>WP 3: System platform and portal design and implementation</p> <p>Design and progressive build up of the system portal with the first set of services to be tested and delivered with the release 1. Open system environment and specific computed assisted models -chemical REACH related- contribute to establish a innovative unique supportive instrument to networked business, through a progressive set of end user services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3.1 System architecture and open source library&tools set up - 3.2 Building up the basic components - 3.3 Set up of the specific databases (test labs, enterprises, test cases, experts) - 3.4 Implementation of the portal for the release 1 services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - basic: homepage, description, news, publications, events, memberships domain ... - services: list of Labs, list of members/business, list of experts, search&booking test cases, help on process/substance, stats on test cases - data/information exchange among SMEs - 3.5 Design and implementation of 'help on process' model and service - 3.6 Design and implementation of 'help on substance' model and service - 3.7 Scientific assessment of the models, the portal and the services - 3.8 Localization of the services (language, national regulations) (Reg) <p>Duration: months Effort: persons</p>
<p>WP 4: Knowledge Base</p> <p>To establish a base of REACH's knowledge, which is connected to the relevant sources of data, mainly to the <i>process</i> descriptions and workflows from the EC/RIP1, and to the chemical <i>substances</i> database (IUCLID5). Interface and update with the IT environment of EC/RIP2 is implemented, with a reserved access domain within the platform to critical source data to be assured. Tasks development is expected to be done maintaining liaison and cooperation with EC/JRC Ispra to assure comprehensiveness, official data source and update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4.1 Definition interfaces and data to interconnect EC/RIP2 IT environment - 4.2 Definition interfaces and process data compliant and liaised with EC/RIP1 - 4.3 Definition interfaces and substances data to interconnect IUCLID5 - 4.4 Connection with the new activity-enhancements from the research centres - 4.5 Design-acquisition of new models for in vitro and computer simulated test procedures <p>Duration: months Effort: persons</p>
<p>WP 5: Testing and monitoring</p> <p>The portal and services are field tested (Reg) preliminarily on a selected end user panel, with feed-back to enhance and consolidate the services and functionality. Presentation and training of the system should benefit from the activity and periodic partnership workshops within the ECRN regions. Objective is the system assessment for the release 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.1 Presentation-training to the end user panels (Reg) - 5.2 Testing period, feed-back and enhancements - 5.3 Consolidation and assessment release 1 <p>Duration: months Effort:persons</p>
<p>WP 6: Education and support</p> <p>Dissemination of the system to all the networked businesses addressed in the participating member states and regions, with presentation, training and support. Objective is to tune the introduction of the system at January 2007, then to evolve in the time according to further enhancement stages.</p> <p>Pivotal role is played by the chemical-business federations/organizations. Support based on</p>

audit on chemical substances used by an SMEs as well as by a networked business.

- 6.1 Self-tutorial module and on-line service
- 6.2 Local workshops (Reg) by business sectors, European session
- 6.3 Helpdesk assistance and evolution of the services.

Duration: months

Effort: Persons

WP7: Exploitation and dissemination of the results

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Duration: months

Effort: persons

Estimated Duration: months

Estimated Total Cost: Euro

EU funding up to 50%

3. Project Consortium

The GO-REACH project intends to aggregate a balanced participation of relevant representatives from the key sectors concerned in Europe:

- Competence centres (academia, agencies, industries) from the ECRN member regions
- Regional administrations of ECRN
- ICT industry, Chemical Federations and service providers

A Scientific Committee to be established, also maintaining liaison with EC services (JRC Ispra, Reach Unit).

Note: the contribution in the work plan (WPs activity) is being proposed for each participant (**) then consolidated during the first consortium meeting.

GO-REACH List of the Participants

Acronym/ Organization	Country	Role	Contribution in the WPs (**)
P1- Regione Lombardia 			
P2- 			
P3-			

P4-			
P5-			
P6-			
P7-			
P8			
P9-			
P10			

CO= Co-ordinator
CR= Contractor
SC= Sub-contractor

4. Timetable

2005 updated milestones for the project proposal preparation:

10.2	Draft Work Plan to interested partners
17.2	Update at the ECRN PWG session in Bruxelles
11.3 (proposed)	First project consortium meeting
March- May	Development of the proposal (content and contributions)
June	Finalization of the proposal according to the EC specifications
September	Proposal submission to EC

5. GO-REACH Reference Contact

The project co-ordination team from the Lombardy Region in Milano includes two complementary reference contacts:

Scientific coordination

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Manifestation of Interest

to participate in the project

GO-REACH

Within the activities being promoted in the context of the European Network of the Chemical Regions ECRN, the research & development project titled GO-REACH is being prepared, for application to the FP6-IST4 call (close date 21.9.2005).

The project is promoted by the Regione Lombardia led co-ordination team, aiming to establish a European supportive tool to help networked business SMEs and public-private organizations to easily adopt and comply with the new REACH regulations.

A project draft description is herein attached, as working document.

Therefore, we manifest the interest of our Region and the related organization/s which are herein being contacted to be part of the preparation process of the GO-REACH project proposal, aiming at consolidating the possible participation in the project.

Regional Reference

Contact name

Position

Organization

Region

Address

E.mail

Tel.

Technical/Scientific Reference

Contact name

Position

Organization

Address

E.mail

Tel.

Note of interest

Date:

- Interest to participate as sponsoring and user group
- Interest to participate with scientific contribution in the project
- Interest to participate with ICT contribution in the project
- Particular interest in the work packages:
- Notes:

To be returned to the project co-ordination team:

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