



RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT

TO FOSTER NEW ZEALAND - COST INTERACTIONS

between the Royal Society of New Zealand, Wellington
and the COST Office, Brussels

§1

The Agreement

This agreement would establish the basis for the continuation of reciprocal cooperation, in the mutual interest, of New Zealand and European scientists in COST Actions. Under COST guidelines, New Zealand would be regarded as a country with a reciprocal arrangement.

Reimbursements for any mutually agreed participation in a COST Action would comprise:

- (i) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe for New Zealand scientists; and
- (ii) travel and subsistence expenses to and within New Zealand for European scientists participating and collaborating in the same COST Action

in line with the principles of the COST financial rules and procedures for Short Term Scientific Missions under this Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSMs) of COST.

All RSTSMs must be for five days minimum and three months maximum duration.

Funding of (i) above would be administered by a MORST-designated implementing agent, the Royal Society of New Zealand. Reimbursement for (ii) above would be made by the COST Office.

§2

Reciprocal Contributions

Under the terms of this agreement, COST's contribution would be up to € 30,000 per annum from 1 July 2009 until 1 July 2014, subject to the availability of reciprocal financing from New Zealand each year. New Zealand's contribution would be up to \$ 60,000 per annum, with additional support provided to the Royal Society of New Zealand to cover administrative overheads.

The Royal Society of New Zealand would be contracted to take primary responsibility for managing New Zealand involvement in COST, including making recommendations on particular applications, liaising directly with COST, supporting the Science Attaché in Brussels on COST negotiations, and managing travel arrangements for New Zealand scientists travelling to Europe under COST Actions.

§3

RSTSM Financial Assistance

The financial contribution provided by COST for a European scientist travelling to New Zealand, in 2009 values this would be a fixed grant not exceeding € 3,000 per visit, except through special justification. This would comprise travel expenses of up to €1,900 and a daily allowance of € 160 for accommodation and meals expenses, to a total not exceeding € 3,000.

For New Zealand researchers travelling to Europe, the total grant in 2009 values would not exceed \$ 5,000 per visit, covering a return airfare of up to \$ 2,500 and daily living allowances. Daily living allowances, covering accommodation and meals would be provided at the rate of \$ 250 per day or a maximum of \$ 2,500 per month, whichever is the smaller amount.

§4

Application procedure

Participants in COST Actions involving official participations from New Zealand are eligible to draw on these funds. Applications for funding would be made by the scientists seeking funding, or by their employers. Applications for funding will be processed as follows:

- for participants from the COST countries wishing to travel to New Zealand the application will be submitted to the COST Office and a statement of support from the Chair of the Action will be required along with a work plan and budget breakdown as per Section 11 of the COST Vademecum; and
- for participants from New Zealand wishing to travel to Europe for COST Action meetings the application will be submitted to the Royal Society of New Zealand according to the procedures outlined on its web page.

From time to time priority areas may be agreed by New Zealand and COST under the auspices of the New Zealand – European Union Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee or at such other time as the parties may agree.

Applications would be considered independently by the COST Office and the Royal Society of New Zealand, in accordance with each party's financial rules and procedures. Until such time as priority areas or other criteria such as giving priority to first time applicants are agreed applications will be treated in order of receipt. The COST Office and the Royal Society of New Zealand will each form their own views as to the applications' suitability for funding, and accordingly approve or otherwise, consulting with each other in this process only as each party deems necessary.

Once an exchange visit is approved:

- (i) The COST Office would grant an amount following § 3 to the European scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within New Zealand; and
- (ii) the Royal Society of New Zealand would grant an amount following § 3 to the New Zealand scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe.



§5
Entry into force

This agreement will enter into force 1 July 2009.

Brussels, 5 June 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Di McCarthy'.

Dr Di McCarthy
Chief Executive
for the Royal Society of New Zealand

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Grabert'.

Dr. Martin Grabert
Director
for the COST Office