

**L-surF** Large Scale Underground Research Facility on Safety and Security  
Structuring the European Research Area Sixth Framework Programme

## The EC Support to Design New Research Infrastructures

### The L-SURF Case

page 1 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

**L-surF** Large Scale Underground Research Facility on Safety and Security  
Sixth Framework Programme

What is L-surF? Why L-surF? EC Funds Scope of L-surF Legal entity Actual State

## What is L-surF?

- L-surF stands for
  - Large-Scale Underground Research Facility on Safety and Security
- Design study within the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Union
- Cooperation of 6 European leading Institutes on safety and security for underground facilities

page 2 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Why L-surF?

Severe accidents and terrorist attacks in underground infrastructures

page 3 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Why L-surF?

Various EC RTD programmes on safety in underground infrastructures within the 5th framework programme worked on these issues, such as

- FIT (Fires in Tunnels)
- DARTS (Durable and reliable Tunnel Structures)
- Virtualfires
- Uptun (Cost-effective, sustainable and innovative upgrading methods for fire safety in existing tunnels)
- etc

page 4 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Why L-surF?

EC 5th framework RTD programmes showed:

- highly fragmented and unstructured 'research industry' with very many local and national 'players'
- a lot of RTD work can't be carried out nationally
- European-wide coordination and harmonization of RTD-work, training and education is imperative
- large (real) scale tests and RTD work are imperative
- no according test and research facilities are available
- such a facility can be set up only on a European approach

page 5 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## EC Funded Design Study

But:  
How to overcome these identified shortcomings?

A thorough analyse of all relevant aspects was imperative.

Mean: Design study for a new infrastructure.

L-surF is a Design Study

- Duration: 3 years (Mar 2005 – Feb 2008)
- Budget: approximately 3.3 Mio €
- Specific Support Action (SSA)

page 6 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Scope of L-surF

L-surF responds to all aspects:

- **constructional lay-out** of a facility for large (real) scale tests
- **evaluation of research needs and RTD – activities**
- **definition of training, education and cooperation activities**
- **description of integration process** for national facilities thus restructuring and improving the relevant EU competence showing ways for using RTD funds more economically
- **manners to raise the funds** for setting up of the facility
- **a business plan** for a new legal entity
- **the establishment of this legal entity**
- **construction of a new European research facility (next phase)**

Visi 2005 2006 page 7 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Legal entity

If L-surF is successful, it certainly will

- **bring an entire new quality** into the RTD, training and education in the field of safety and security in Europe
- **reshape and harmonize the European Research Area**
- **play a major role in RTD, training and education in Europe** in the field of safety and security for enclosed spaces

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Large Scale Underground Research Facility on Safety and Security

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## Actual State

**Bottom-up approach**

- **was the right approach**
- **shows an increasing necessity** for the pan-European facility

**but it needs corresponding top-down activities**

- **7th framework programme of the EC for RTD**
- **EU Security Strategy: 'A Secure Europe for a better World'**
- **Security and Space as theme of 'Cooperation'**
- **Creation of new research infrastructures (based on ESFRI) as theme of 'Capacities'**

Visi 2005 2006 page 9 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures

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## Thank you for your attention !



Visi 2005 2006 page 10 Third European Conference on Research Infrastructures