

REQUESTS FOR USE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SPECIAL FUND: A. SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

1. In line with the IARC Medium-Term Strategy (2010–2014), which highlighted the paramount importance of performing interdisciplinary research, efforts have been made in the last two years to reinforce the interaction between laboratory-based and epidemiology research.
2. Constant upgrade, update and increase of the number of scientific instruments are essential to support this strategy. In 2009 the Agency was able to invest in a fluorescent microscope, Luminex apparatus and a flow cytometer using savings from the Director's regular budget allocation, due to changes in research priorities. In addition, investments from the Governing Council Special Fund were obtained in 2010 to establish key platforms at IARC, i.e. next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) instrument, gas chromatograph and HPLC/MS/MS.
3. Due to these initiatives it has been possible to establish several central laboratory facilities that have contributed to the development of a large number of novel IARC research programmes on biomarkers, genetics, mechanisms of carcinogenesis and infections.
4. Despite these investments, ongoing support is required to maintain and improve the IARC laboratory facilities. Several basic and essential items, e.g. real-time PCR machines, are now obsolete and need to be replaced. In addition, the purchase of other items, such as robots for DNA aliquoting, is essential to increase the capacity of the existing IARC platforms, e.g. Laboratory Services and Biobank. Finally, the purchase of some smaller items, such as a multi-well plate reader, in combination with key larger items of equipment is necessary in order to make full use of the capabilities of the latter.
5. The items included in this request are intended to be used primarily as shared resources, rather than specific to the activities of one or two research groups, thus benefiting the work of laboratory groups across the Agency. The request for the purchase of the scientific equipment listed below was supported by the Scientific Council in January 2011 (see document SC/47/14 for more information):
 - a) DNA aliquoting robotic apparatus and multi-well plate reader
 - b) Solid phase extraction robot
 - c) Real-Time PCR detection system
 - d) High performance sonicator

6. It should be noted that the original request, as cleared by the Scientific Council, was for €240 000. Due to some savings made in the Director's regular budget it has been planned to purchase a DNA-quantification system in April 2011. Therefore the Governing Council is requested to approve the use of €230 000 from the Governing Council Special Fund instead of €240 000, as mentioned in document SC/47/14, for the purchase of the items listed below.

Requested budget

Equipments	Approx. Price (€)	Quantity	Total (€)
DNA aliquoting robotic apparatus	34 000	2	68 000
Multi-well plate reader	20 000	1	20 000
Solid phase extraction robot	40 000	1	40 000
Real-Time PCR detection system	27 000	2	54 000
High performance sonicator	48 000	1	48 000
Total (€)			230 000