



11<sup>th</sup> January 2007

**AEA's Momenta consultancy secures major contract with The Big Lottery Fund to administer its £25 million Medical and Social Research Programme**

AEA's Momenta consultancy has been selected by The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) to administer the delivery of its £25 million Research Programme, supported by Third Sector First over the next seven years.

The Big Lottery Fund is the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004.

Under the new Research Programme, charities and voluntary sector organisations will be able to apply for grants for up to five years, commencing in Spring 2007, to fund high quality medical and social research projects across the United Kingdom.

Big Lottery Fund Chief Executive Stephen Dunmore said: "I welcome the appointment of Momenta and Third Sector First to run and support the programme. It will bring BIG a step nearer to funding sound, research-based knowledge that reflects the voluntary sector's priorities, will influence local and national policy and develop better services for people.

Andy Gilchrist, Business Development Director for Momenta and Project Director, said: "We are delighted to be working with BIG on the Research Programme and look forward to delivering a portfolio of exciting projects with Third Sector First and facilitate the use of research results to deliver improvements in people's lives."

Momenta helps the public sector turn policy into practice by offering a range of programme management services, including research management, knowledge transfer, best practice, fund management and behaviour change programmes. Its programmes reach businesses, public sector organisations, the third sector, stakeholders and the general public.

Enquiries:

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Big Lottery Fund

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Full details of Big Lottery Fund programme and grant awards are available on the website:

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

## **Notes to Editors:**

### **About AEA**

- AEA is a world-class environment and energy consultancy. The Company's world renowned experts provide support and programme management services to governments in the field of policy creation and implementation.
- The AEA group is organised into one core business segment, Environment. This includes Momenta, AEA Energy & Environment and NCEC.
- AEA's Momenta consultancy offers programme management for the public sector – for example in Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health, Industry and Transport. Momenta helps Government, Devolved Administrations and Agencies 'put policy into practice'.
- AEA Energy & Environment offers policy support, consultancy and programme management for the public sector and Agencies, working both in the UK and throughout the world. Related consultancy and services for the private sector.
- NCEC provides information and 24/7 help lines in the field of chemical safety for UK Government and for the chemical industry worldwide.

### **About the Big Lottery Fund**

- The Big Lottery Funds rolls out close to £2 million in lottery good cause money every 24 hours which together with other Lottery distributors means that across the UK most people are within a few miles of a Lottery-funded project.
- On 1 December 2006 the Big Lottery Fund was officially established by Parliament and at the same time assumed the residual responsibilities of the dissolved National Lottery Charities Board (Community Fund) the New Opportunities Fund, and the Millennium Commission. The Fund is building on the experience and best practice of the merged bodies to simplify funding in those areas where they overlap and to ensure Lottery funding provides the best possible value for money.
- The aim of the Research Programme is to fund high quality medical and social research in the areas of health and social well being.
- The Research Programme make grants directly to charities and voluntary sector organisations. Because many of these organisations are not able to carry out research by themselves, the Big Lottery Fund wants to promote partnerships between the voluntary sector and the research community.

### **About Third Sector First**

- Third Sector First is a collaboration of specialists in research and social policy, working primarily in the public and 'third' sectors. It is linked through past or current membership to several of the UK's leading university research centres and has conducted project evaluations in many subject areas, including health, social care, community safety, childcare and addictions.