



Call for expression of interest

Invitation for EU Private Sector Fusion Initiatives to Collaborate with F4E

Opening date for expressions of interest: 16th September 2024

Who we are

Fusion for Energy (F4E) is the European Union's organisation¹ for the development of fusion energy with more than 450 staff, engineers, physicists, and specialized staff with headquarters in Barcelona and offices in Cadarache (France) and Garching (Germany). Our vision is

- Support the successful construction and operation of the ITER, Broader Approach (including JT-60SA), Test Blanket Modules, DONES and other fusion projects
- Develop the fusion talent and knowledge base for the future development of commercially viable fusion power plants in Europe
- Pave the way for a transition from the research to the industrial sector, and the creation of a competitive European industrial fusion sector

We work closely with the EU industry and research organisations on cutting-edge components for ITER and other fusion projects. Since our creation in 2007, we have placed more than 1300 contracts for a value of around €7 billion, involving 645 industrial companies, 75 laboratories and more than 2100 subcontractors.

Objective

In line with our mission, F4E is committed to **supporting the growth and success of the EU fusion private sector and fostering innovative collaborations that will drive the future of fusion energy**. This is why we are pleased to invite expressions of interest from private sector fusion initiatives to collaborate with F4E.

If there is a mutual interest to cooperate, an agreement will be signed to allow collaboration in fields to be defined jointly such as, not limited to: exchange of knowledge, information and experience, expertise in fusion technologies, fusion supply chain, corporate governance, scientific analysis etc.

Note that no transfer of funds from F4E is foreseen under the terms of this call.

Eligibility Criteria

Interested private sector fusion initiatives must:

1. **Be established with the purpose of developing a fusion device or technologies specific to fusion** (or have a business unit dedicated to this goal).
2. **Indicate the areas of interest for collaboration**ⁱⁱ which may be fusion-related technical areas, or non-technical (e.g. supply chain, legal, etc).
3. **Have their centre of interest or main operations in an F4E Member State (currently the 27 EU Member States).**

Submission Requirements

Applicants responding to this call should provide:

1. **Mission Outline:** Describe your organisation’s mission, the concepts or technologies being pursued and the approach (e.g., breakthrough reliance or established technologies) and state of progress.
2. **Capabilities and Resources:** Provide information on funding, ownership, management team, employees, external collaborators, and any peer-reviewed publications or patents.
3. **Growth Plans:** Outline plans for the growth of your organisation in the next 1-2 years and longer-term sustainability of the initiative.
4. **Collaboration Interests:** Indicate areas for collaboration² including not only what F4E could provide to you organisation but also what your organisation can bring to F4E and its projects.

Application Process

You can express the interest by sending to the following email the material requested above under “Submission Requirements” together with evidence confirming that your organisation meets the “Eligibility Criteria”:

private-sector-initiatives@f4e.europa.eu

The call for expressions of interest will remain open for five years, starting from 15 September 2024 and submissions will be reviewed periodically by F4E.

Collaboration Process

After receiving your application and confirming receipt, we will follow the following steps:

1. **Assessment:** F4E will assess the soundness, technical objectives, of the initiative and the proposals. The evaluation will consider short-term information exchange potential, medium-term joint project opportunities, and long-term contributions to European fusion industry competitiveness.

2. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** When there is mutual interest for cooperation, the applicants will be invited to conclude a simple agreement with F4E in the form of a MoU, allowing for in-depth dialogue.
3. **Specific Agreements:** Arrangements for the execution of joint projects, if decided in mutual interest, may be formalized through specific agreements, outlining commitments, intellectual property management, and resource allocation. Specific Agreements will be concluded on a bilateral basis.

During the assessment, it is likely that F4E will ask for direct interactions with the applicant to clarify any information which includes face-to-face or video, with non-disclosure arrangements as necessary.

Note that F4E reserves the right not to proceed with the signature of MoU or specific agreements where it considers that the level of mutual interest is insufficient, or that F4E does not have the required resources.

¹ Council Decision of 27 March 2007 establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (2007/198/Euratom) with three tasks (a) provide the Euratom contribution to ITER, (b) provide the Euratom contribution to the Broader Approach activities with Japan and (c) prepare a programme of activities in preparation for the construction of DEMO and related facilities including IFMIF

² You may wish to identify a topic using the following “External Experts Areas of Expertise”
<https://fusionforenergy.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Attachment-no.1-Areas-of-expertise-CEI-2023.pdf>