

Barcelona, 15 July 2026

**To the Chief Executive Officers of Europe's fusion supply chain****Subject: Launch of the F4E Supply Chain Excellence Award**

Dear Chief Executive Officer, Dear Fusion for Energy Partners,

It is my great pleasure to announce the launch of the F4E Supply Chain Excellence Award — the first of its kind to recognise the value of European companies making the EU's contribution to fusion possible.

Today, you are more than 3,000 companies across 23 Member States forming the European fusion supply chain, to which F4E makes a financial investment of €400 million on average per year.

Together, by contributing to ITER, we have delivered first-of-a-kind components, solved engineering challenges, and built capabilities that did not previously exist in Europe.

At F4E's inaugural Supply Chain Days, four out of five contractors who participated reported greater visibility and credibility by working with F4E, more than half highlighted stronger talent attraction, and nearly half mentioned improved products and services. It is a remarkable industrial story that F4E invites you to celebrate.

The timing is deliberate. Europe advances its fusion ambition and now more than ever the strength, depth and resilience of our industrial base matters most.

The Award does not imply a financial reward. Instead, it celebrates the qualities of a truly outstanding partner across five categories: Excellence in Delivery, Innovation Pioneer, Sustainability Champion, SME Rising Star, and Collaborative Partnership. Any company in our supply chain may apply, against published criteria, with applications assessed by a panel that holds an independent external majority. There is no participation fee, and the process is transparent by design. It is open to main contractors and subcontractors, SMEs and technology partners alike — because excellence is found at every tier.

Recognising excellence is much more than setting benchmarks. It is about inspiring new entrants, building a world-class fusion supply chain that will be essential for the next phase, boosting the reputation of our industrial partners and providing greater confidence to our European ecosystem. Therefore, I warmly encourage you and your teams to take part. The Call for Applications opens on 15 July 2026; the recipients will be unveiled on 29 October, at the award ceremony during the 2026 Big Science Business Forum in Maastricht.

The Call for Applications is available on the F4E Industry and Fusion Laboratories Portal at <https://industryportal.f4e.europa.eu/categories/other-opportunities/>. You will find detailed information on the categories, criteria, forms and the submission process.

I look forward to seeing your company among the first to carry the F4E Supply Chain Excellence Award.

Together we deliver for fusion, we deliver for Europe!

Kind regards,

**Marc Lachaise**

Director, Fusion for Energy