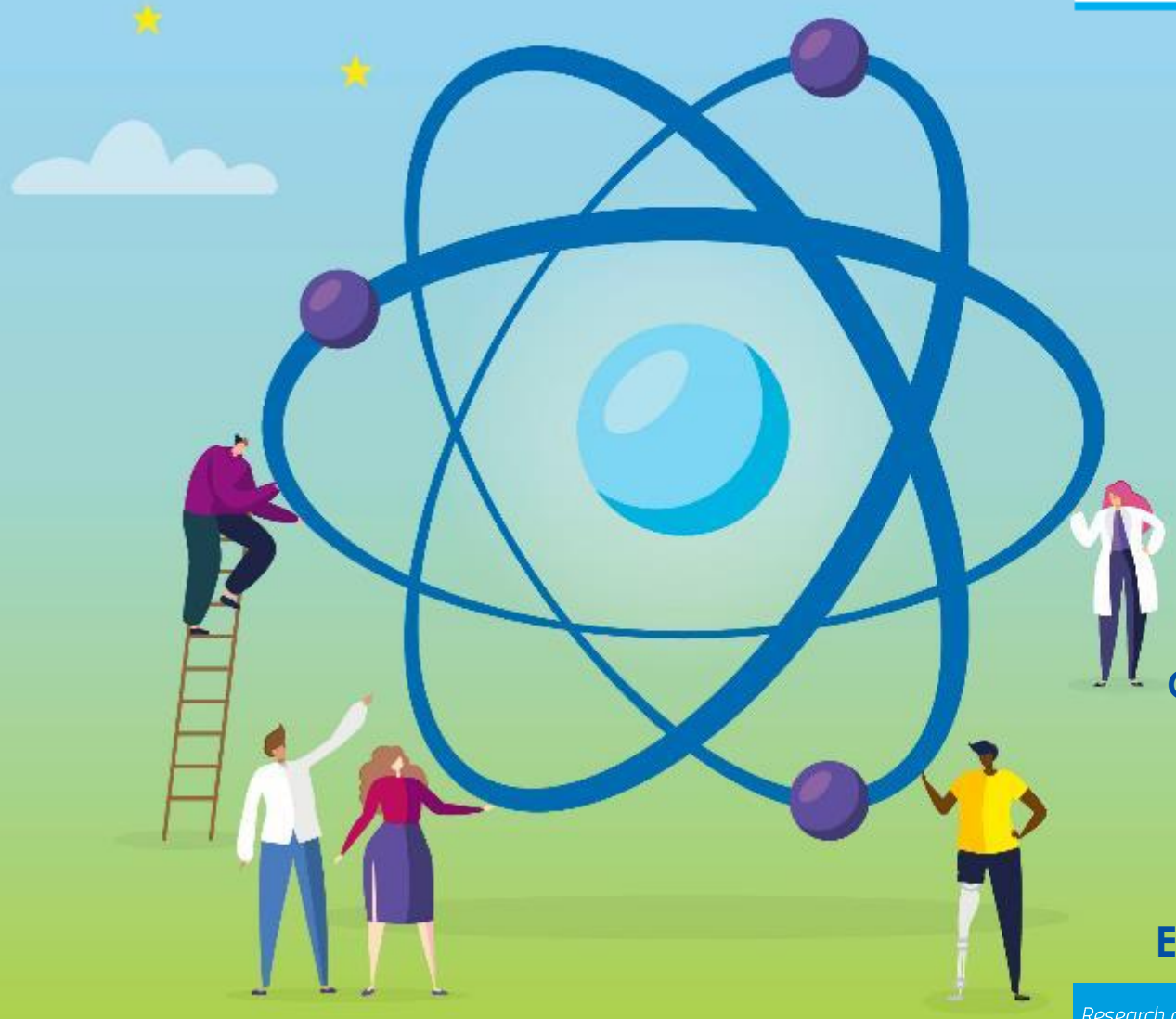


#Euratom

First Fusion PPP call under the Euratom WP 2026-27

OPEN WEBINAR: EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR FUSION ENERGY: CALL 2026

12 October 2026

Fusion Sector, Euratom Research Unit
European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

Research and Innovation

Objectives of the presentation

- **Reminding the context:**
  - Euratom Research & Training Programme
  - European co-programmed Partnership for fusion energy (Fusion PPP)
- **Presenting the first Fusion PPP call:**
  - General process for calls for proposals
  - Contents of the call
- **Starting package:**
  - What applicants should start with
  - Lump sum projects in a nutshell
  - Evaluation of proposals
  - Useful resources

Euratom Research & Training Programme

- Relevant facts and figures:
  - **Euratom** Research & Training is a funding programme (complementary to Horizon Europe) for **nuclear research and innovation**
  - Uses the **same** instruments and rules for participation as **Horizon Europe**
  - **Five-year cycles**, with an extension for another **two years** (alignment with the EU's seven-year budget cycle)
  - The programme includes **direct actions**, i.e. research activities undertaken by the Commission's Joint Research Centre, and **indirect actions**, i.e. research activities undertaken by **multi-partner consortia**
  - These consortia / projects are selected on the basis of **calls for proposals** – these calls can be found in **Euratom's 'work programmes' (WP)**
- Where we stand:
  - The current WP is the **2026-2027** one. It has €222 million for indirect actions in **fusion** research and development.

Fusion PPP

- What the Fusion PPP is:
  - An instrument that brings the **EC and private and/or public partners** together to address key innovation challenges in the fusion field
  - A **co-programmed** partnership:
    - The EU contributes by funding dedicated calls for projects under Euratom
    - The partners provide matching in-kind contributions
    - A MoU (EC / partners) and a joint Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) underpin the partnership's orientations and implementation
- Where we stand:
  - The Fusion PPP was launched in July 2026: signature of a MoU between the FUSION NOW association and the EC
  - The SRIA is final and available (will be periodically revised)
  - The first PPP call opened mid-September 2026

General process for calls for proposals

- **Rationale:**
  - Competitive selection of proposals for projects
  - Open & equal competition – but with eligibility and admissibility conditions
  - Applicable requirements for projects' objectives and contents are specified in a call for proposals / projects
  - Proposals all follow the same formatting rules (same as Horizon)
- **Process:**
  1. Once the call is published (EU funding and tender portal), applicants may start gathering consortia and preparing their proposals
  2. Proposals are submitted before the call deadline through the portal
  3. Proposals are evaluated (independent experts supervised by the EC) and ranked. Available funding is allocated to the best ranked proposals.
  4. For selected proposals, grant agreements are prepared and signed.

First Fusion PPP call for proposals (1)

- **Key information**
  - Title / reference : Key enabling technologies for fusion power plants (European Partnership on Fusion Energy) / **HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-01-01**
  - Type of action: **Innovation Action** (higher TRLs, typically 6-8)
  - **EUR 32 million** EU funding for 3 projects
  - Funding rate: 60% of the eligible costs, except for non-profit legal entities (up to 100% of the total eligible costs) – **lump sum** call
  - Timeline: opening 15 September 2026 / deadline 04 March 2027 (selected projects' grant agreements should be signed Q4 2027)
  - General eligibility and admissibility conditions (annex A and B of the Euratom WP2026-27) apply with the exception that participation is **limited** to legal entities established in Member States and in countries associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Ukraine and Switzerland).
  - All information can be found on the call's Funding and Tender portal page.

First Fusion PPP call for proposals (2)

- **Main focus of the call**
  - The call focuses on 3 different 'key technology areas:
    - plasma heating and current drive;
    - high-temperature superconducting magnets;
    - diagnostics and control
  - With the funding available, it is expected that one project per key area will be funded
  - Proposed projects are expected to **mature and demonstrate (TRL 6-8) innovative technologies** in **one** of the key areas – expectations more detailed under 'expected outcome' and 'scope' sections of the call
  - Proposals should explain how the proposed action **aligns with the Fusion PPP SRIA's priorities** and proposed projects should include **activities to contribute to the Fusion PPP** (e.g., communication and dissemination activities, liaison with the Partnership's Board)

First Fusion PPP call for proposals (3)

- **Expected outcome – what proposed projects should achieve**
  - Developing and **advancing the technology readiness** of innovative individual components and/or integrated systems that perform the key functions of fusion power plants (FPPs), in line with the key area targeted;
  - **Testing** the innovative components and/or systems developed in close-to-real-life conditions, **demonstrating** the ability to deliver fusion-grade components and/or systems;
  - Providing a credible **business case**, clarifying the potential and perspectives for commercialisation of the components and/or systems developed, and showing the benefits for the competitiveness and growth of EU companies from the fusion field.

First Fusion PPP call for proposals (4)

- **Scope – for each individual technology area:**
  - **heating and current drive**: delivering and demonstrating high-performance, compact, efficient and cost-effective heating and current-drive technologies for FPPs (e.g. gyrotrons and neutral-beam injectors) that can operate reliably in a harsh reactor environment (e.g. high neutron flux and heat loads);
  - **high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnets**: delivering and demonstrating HTS magnet technologies that enable stronger, smaller and more efficient magnetic confinement, with high resistance to mechanical stress and degradation under neutron irradiation and also opening the way for large-scale and cost-effective manufacturing.
  - **diagnostics and control**: delivering and demonstrating (hardware and software) components and systems that enable enhanced monitoring and management of FPPs operation (e.g., for magnetic confinement, mitigation of edge-localised modes and runaway electrons), relying, for example, on AI-driven control systems, advanced modelling and simulation, and innovative sensors

First Fusion PPP call for proposals (5)

- **Scope – for all technology areas, proposal should:**
  - clarify the technology gaps / bottlenecks addressed with due consideration of the state of the art
  - present the envisioned technology advances, clarifying how performance of the components and/or systems developed would be improved and measured
  - detail the approaches for testing, demonstration, and for assessing TRL increase
  - enable close cooperation between public research and private companies (start-ups, SMEs and industry)
  - demonstrate the business potential of the proposed innovation
  - (where relevant) address safety constraints for the proposed innovation
  - (where relevant) articulation with other relevant EU initiatives (e.g. EUROfusion and F4E)

What applicants should start with

- **Read carefully the call text and the WP annexes!**
  - The call has 4 pages and the WP annexes (A to G) less than 30 pages
  - The annexes include very useful information (e.g., general admissibility & eligibility conditions or description of award criteria)
  - Many questions can be answered simply by reading the annexes (e.g., minimum number of partners in a consortium, or page limits for proposals)
- **Consult additional documents on the call's portal page – in particular:**
  - Application form templates: standard application form for Innovation Actions, and detailed budget table for lump sums projects
  - The standard application form template includes a standard structure and a lot of useful guidance: explanations on what should be found under the different sections, guiding questions, etc.

Lump sum projects in a nutshell

- **Base principle:** one lump sum share is fixed in the grant agreement for each work package:

  Work package completed ⟶ **payment**

- Proposals are similar as standard ones, except that a lump sum proposal must contain a **detailed budget table** (breakdown per WP and beneficiary)

	WP1	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8	Total
Beneficiary A	250.000			50.000	300.000	250.000		300.000	1.150.000
Beneficiary B		250.000	350.000	50.000			100.000	150.000	900.000
Beneficiary C	100.000	100.000		50.000		280.000			530.000
Beneficiary D		120.000		50.000			100.000	150.000	420.000
Total	350.000	470.000	350.000	200.000	300.000	530.000	200.000	600.000	**3.000.000**

Shares of the lump sum per beneficiary

Share of the lump sum per WP

Lump sum
=
Maximum grant amount

Evaluation of proposals

- The award criteria and the procedure for evaluation of proposals are both described in the WP annexes (annexes D and F)
- In short:
  - Three award criteria: excellence, impact, quality and efficiency of implementation
  - Excellence: clarity and pertinence of project's objectives, soundness of the methodology, extent to which the work goes beyond the state-of-the-art
  - Impact: credibility for outcomes and impacts achievement, quality of measures for communication, dissemination and exploitation
  - Implementation: quality and effectiveness of the workplan and allocation of efforts, risk assessment, capacity and role of participants / consortium as a whole
  - Each proposal gets a score out of 5 on each criterion

Useful resources

Specific to the call and Euratom:

- Euratom WP 2026-2027
- First Fusion PPP call page on the Funding and tender portal
- Fusion PPP's Strategic and Research Innovation Agenda

Generic for proposal preparation and submission:

- Standard application form template and detailed budget table
- Funding and tender portal's guidance (document and online)
- Detailed guidance on lump sum funding
- EU funding & tender portal FAQs
- EU funding & tender portal helpdesk & support

To conclude

- Most (if not all) questions can be answered by consulting publicly available documents and guidance (previous slide)

- If there are remaining questions or issues:
  - For general questions on European Research, EU's research funding instruments, enquiries on the validation process for organisations not having a Participant Identification Code (PIC): contact the Research Enquiry Service
  - For IT issues (funding and tender portal): contact the IT Helpdesk
  - For specific questions on the Fusion PPP call: contact us (RTD-FUSION@ec.europa.eu)

Thank you for your attention

Euratom Research and Training Programme - European Commission (europa.eu)

https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/iter_en#about-the-programme

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