How to get involved?

In order to help industry, SMEs and research organisations established in the EU and Switzerland, but also the rest of the world, to get involved, F4E has established two contract mechanisms: grants and procurements.

Grants

Grants are direct financial contributions in order to fund R&D actions in support of F4E tasks. Co-financing and non-profit rules are mandatory in accordance with F4E financial regulation.

Procurements

Procurements are commercial contracts aiming at securing F4E with services, goods and works. Procurement contracts are awarded according to EU public tender procedures which will take one of the following forms: open procedure, restricted procedure, negotiated procedure or competitive dialogue.

Both grants and procurements must comply with the principles of EU public procurement: transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination.

The scope of our activities

One of the main tasks of F4E is to work together with European industry, SMEs and research organisations to develop and provide a wide range of high technology components for ITER such as magnets and the vacuum vessel, power supplies and the cryostat, heating and diagnostics including their respective engineering, maintenance and support services.

In order to honour its commitment, F4E has developed three main industrial policy objectives:

- to deliver the European contribution to ITER and the Broader Approach within the agreed budget and schedule;
- to broaden Europe's industrial base for fusion technology and ensure its strong and competitive participation in the future fusion market;
- to foster European innovation and competitiveness to further develop the EU Innovation Union and its impact at international level.

For more information

F4E Contracts: http://fusionenergy.europa.eu/procurementsgrants
F4E IP policy: http://fusionenergy.europa.eu/procurementsgrants/IPR.aspx
F4E Industry and Associations Portal: https://industryportal.f4e.europa.eu
To receive Procurement notifications: call-notifications@f4e.europa.eu

Address:
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What is ITER?

ITER will be the world’s largest experimental fusion facility and is designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power as an energy source. It is the biggest international collaboration in the field of energy, bringing together half of the world’s population and 80% of the global GDP.

Out of the seven ITER parties, Europe is the host of the project and will contribute up to about 50% of the construction costs while all other parties will each contribute up to about 10%.

ITER will stimulate cutting edge knowledge that will feed into different technologies and deliver clear economic benefits to industry, SMEs and research organisations. Europe’s involvement offers a clear opportunity to its economic operators to grow and expand their activity in two markets. The success of this international project relies on their active involvement.

Distribution of ITER parties contribution

India
RF
USA
China
S. Korea
Japan

Distribution of ITER parties contribution
Why the new F4E guidelines make it easier to get involved?

The new F4E guidelines improve the participation of industry and SMEs. They offer more incentives and make it easier to deliver their services and expertise because F4E will:

1. Provide financial compensation for the preparation of tenders in a competitive dialogue procedure and for calls for tender cancelled by F4E.
2. Share financial risks with contractors by reducing liabilities and guarantees.
3. Align obligations and liabilities of contractors to standard industrial practices. For example: liabilities will correspond maximum to the total value of the contract price or in some cases even below.
4. Decrease the financial burden of industry by eliminating performance and advance payment guarantees in low value contracts. There will be no pre-financing guarantees for contracts less than 1 million EUR and no performance guarantees for contracts less than 10 million EUR.
5. Waive nuclear liabilities for damages to third parties or for damages occurring on the ITER site.
6. Pay, if appropriate, an additional cost incurred by the contractor as a consequence of the change in the applicable legislation.
7. Offer indemnity to contractors in case of suspension of the contract over a minimum defined period.
8. Reimburse additional costs incurred by the contractor in case of delays in supply of free-issue items and envisage payment of liquidated damages.
9. Offer contractors exclusive rights to generated Intellectual Property in fields outside fusion and non-exclusive rights in the field of fusion.
10. Create standardised tender documentation, model contracts and selection criteria for contracts below 10 million EUR.
11. Implement specific measures in favour of SMEs, such as dedicated Information Days to connect SMEs with larger industrial suppliers and promote tender opportunities for packages with a size and risk suitable to their direct participation.
12. Reduce administrative burden for contracts and introduce e-procurement through the F4E "Industry and Associations Portal".

Working with Industry and SMEs

The F4E “Industry and Associations Portal” is your main point of entry for all F4E procurement-related activities, offering you an overview of the “F4E Calls”, giving you the latest updates through the “Announcements” section and making available different networking tools by clicking on the “Partnership” to identify other interested parties.

A network of Industrial Liaison Officers (ILOs) from different European countries works together with F4E to raise awareness regarding funding schemes and ways to get involved in the ITER project. A series of Information Days and seminars are planned to report on the roadmap of the different procurement packages and facilitate partnerships between different companies.

F4E Industry & Associations Portal: https://industryportal.f4e.europa.eu