

Annual Work Plan 2023**2023-2025 EUROfusion Engineering Grants****Annex 1 – Call for Participation****1. Specific objectives of the action**

The 2021-2025 Work Plan for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap in *Horizon Europe* foresees support for Education and Training of a new generation of scientists and engineers. The EUROfusion Engineering Grants programme (EEG) aims to encourage excellence and career development of young engineers who are already in the programme or attract high quality potential candidates from outside the programme.

The Project Leaders/Task Force Leaders in collaboration with the Programme Management Unit (PMU) have identified areas inside the Work Packages where there is an expected shortage of skills and, hence, a need to recruit and train a new generation of properly skilled engineers.

One element of the EEG programme is that PMU facilitates a Joint Training Programme to develop common competences, increase visibility and networking. This training programme includes workshops, group trainings and this will be a mandatory element for every grantee.

A list of positions is indicated in Annex 4 of this call. This is a total of 15 available projects. Applications will be assessed per project and the projects do not compete. It is the intention to award 15 grants.

Proposals are expected to provide a vision on the implementation of the timeline and the achievement of the objectives stated. The awarded candidates and their mentor will, together with the relevant Project Leader (or EUROfusion delegate), specify the work programme based on interview outcome.

The EUROfusion Engineering Grants will be awarded at post-master and/or post-doctoral level for a maximum duration of 3 years in the period 01.01.2023-31.12.2025.

2. Eligibility

The action is focussed to engineers of all nationalities, aspiring to strengthen the European fusion community, during the first years of their careers, namely:

Candidates need to have recently completed a Master or PhD in Engineering (in both cases the date of graduation should be no earlier than 3 years preceding the deadline of the call), early career, and with relevant engineering experience.

The following points apply:

- a) If the education/training background is different, the CV should explicitly demonstrate a relevant competence of engineering on academic level. In this case, the experience gained should be clearly outlined. The PMU will decide whether the candidate can be admitted for the interview.
- b) Any relevant professional (industry) experience in engineering may lengthen the period after graduation during which the candidate remains eligible. The CV should clearly indicate the environment and activities through which the engineering experience has been gained. Also, references should be provided. Relevant professional experience can lengthen the eligibility period by maximum another 3 years.

The candidate shall be recruited and employed by a EUROfusion member or one of its Affiliated Entities stated in the Grant Agreement. The Consortium member/Affiliated Entity shall provide a declaration of intent to recruit the engineer under an employment contract or equivalent contract compatible with the national legislation. She/he shall be recruited at the latest by 1 July 2023.

Candidates who have been already employed by a Consortium member or its Affiliated Entity for less than 2 years are also eligible to participate in the programme, provided they meet the requirements as specified above. The period of completing the doctoral thesis is in this case not counted as employment.

A joint proposal shall be submitted by the candidate and her/his mentor in the respective Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity. **For information or any advice on the formulation of the proposal the candidate and her/his mentor are strongly recommended to contact the Project Leaders/Task Force Leaders/EUROfusion Responsible (contact details are provided with the Job Description in Annex 4).**

Proposals shall be submitted via IMS, through the form: *2023 EUROfusion Engineering Grants*.

Details on the procedure for submission of proposals, evaluation criteria and evaluation process are indicated in the “Guide for Applicants” (Annex 2).

3. Timetable of Implementation

- Deadline for proposals: **13 September 2022 (23:59 CEST)**
- Panel evaluation, interview selection (and invitation): **October 2022**
- Interviews of shortlisted candidates (online): **betw. 1-12 November 2022**
- General Assembly endorsement* (of grants): **22 November 2022**
** Like in 2021 the General Assembly will be asked to mandate the EUROfusion Bureau to endorse the selection of the candidates, such that they can be informed about the outcome shortly after the Bureau, rather than to wait until the meeting of the General Assembly in December.*
- Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement: **1 January 2023**
- Latest starting date of the Task Agreement: **1 July 2023**

Note: the Joint Training Programme is foreseen to start in Spring 2023, so the candidate shall be available to participate, independent of the start of the employment contract, which may be until 1 July 2023.

4. Financial support

The financial support for the EEG takes the form of a grant covering the directly related costs only. The contribution will support the following costs:

1. Salary cost (including fees, superannuation and social charges);
2. Training and specific costs related to the activities carried out by the engineer and to her/his career development (e.g., participation in conferences and training courses, purchase of hardware and/or consumables necessary for a successful implementation of the project);
3. Mission costs of the engineer;
4. Indirect costs 25% flat rate (not applied to Unit Costs for Secondments)

The level of financial support for the costs for Training and Missions (points 2 and 3 above) will be agreed following evaluation of the proposal by the selection panel. The support could be up to a maximum of 15 k€ Consortium Contribution for training and other costs and up to a maximum of 22 k€ Consortium Contribution for mobility for the full period of the grant.

The duration of the grant supported by this action will be up to 3 years.

The eligible costs are those incurred during the period covered by the Task Agreement to be drafted after a successful selection process.

Costs claimed for reimbursement must comply with the applicable conditions of the Grant Agreement and need to be in line with the Internal Funding Rules of the EUROfusion Consortium.