



## CfP-AWP23-TRED-02

### 2023 Annual Work Plan – Call for Participation

# **2023-2024 EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants**



EUROfusion is thankful to honour Bernard Bigot with renaming the researcher grant scheme into the “*EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants*”. Dr Bernard Bigot, Director-General of the ITER Organization, passed away in May 2022 at the age of 72. Dr Bigot has led ITER since 2015 and has been instrumental in shaping the ITER project, the world’s largest experimental fusion facility, under construction in South of France. Dr Bigot was an inspirational leader who transformed the ITER Organization, promoting the “project culture” across the teams of the ITER Organization and those of the ITER members working on the project in the “one project-one team” spirit. Dr Bigot’s leadership brought a strong alignment of all involved in the ITER project that will extend well beyond his lifetime and support further advancement of the project in the coming years.

## 1. Specific objectives of the action

The Consortium Work Plan 2021-2025 for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap in *Horizon Europe* foresees support for Education and Training of a new generation of scientist and engineers. The EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants programme will encourage excellence and career development of researchers who are already in the programme or attract high quality potential candidates from outside the programme.

The Researcher Grants will be attributed at post-doctoral level or equivalent. They will cover the salaries of the selected candidates and part of the cost of their research activities and missions for a duration of up to 2 years. It is foreseen to award about 10 grants per year.

## 2. Eligibility

The Eligibility Criteria for the EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grant Programme are similar to those of the former EFDA Fusion Researcher Fellowship Programme. The action is directed to researchers of all nationalities, during the first years of their careers, namely:

- Researchers in possession of a doctoral degree (PhD) who have completed the PhD and defended their thesis in the two years preceding the deadline for proposal submission of the present call;

The candidate must be employed by a Consortium member or one of its Affiliated Entities. In case the researcher/engineer has not yet started her/his contract at the time of the application for the grant, the Consortium member will have to provide a declaration of intent to recruit the researcher/engineer under an employment contract or equivalent contract compatible with the national legislation. He/she must be recruited not later than 1 July 2023.

The candidate shall work on a scientific or technical subject relevant to the Work Plan for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap. An overview of the Roadmap Missions – with indication of areas of importance – is provided in Annex 3. Proponents are recommended to view this and are asked to provide a motivation explaining the roadmap relevance.

Further details are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

## 3. Evaluation and review of Roadmap alignment

Eligible proposals are reviewed on the basis of excellence.

In order to ensure the novelty and alignment to the Roadmap and work packages, candidates are asked to motivate this in the submission. This motivation and the abstract of the work, will be shared with Project Leaders, prior to the interview selection.

## 4. Timetable of Implementation

- **Deadline for proposals: 13 September 2022 – 23:59 CEST**
- Awarding of the grants (General Assembly\*): 22 November 2022
- Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 January 2023
- Latest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 July 2023

*\* 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 General Assembly meeting in December.*

## 5. Financial support

The financial support for the researchers takes the form of a grant covering the directly related costs only. The host organisation must cover any other costs connected to hosting the grantee in its premises and related to the implementation of the project.

The contribution will support the following costs:

1. Salary cost (including fees, superannuation and social charges);
2. Training and specific costs related to the successful execution of the research project (e.g. participation in conferences and training courses, purchase of hardware and/or consumables necessary for a successful implementation of the project);
3. Missions costs of the researcher;
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 20k€ (Consortium Contribution) for training and other costs and up to a maximum of four months of mobility for the full period of the grant.

The duration of the grant supported by this action will be up to 2 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.***

## 6. Submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted through the EUROfusion Information Management System (IMS) <https://ims.euro-fusion.org/fp9/>, by the General Assembly member not later than **13 September 2022 – 23:59 CEST**.

The proposal shall include the documentation as indicated in Section 4 of the Guide for Applicants. The documentation shall be uploaded to the online proposal form in IMS. In addition to the financial summary to be included in the proposal, the financial information shall be entered directly through the online proposal form in IMS: *2023 EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants*.