

**Annual Work Plan 2024**  
**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 (EEG) 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 EUROfusion Programme Management Unit (PMU) have identified engineering areas with an expected shortage of skills based on input from the Project Leaders/Task Force Leaders and EUROfusion Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities. Candidates of excellence are sought in these areas to recruit and train a new generation of highly skilled fusion engineers.

The selected EEG candidates will be supported through a 2-year Engineering Training Programme consisting of workshops providing a wide range of technical and transferable soft skills.

The EUROfusion Engineering Grants will be awarded 20 grants at post-master and/or post-doctoral level for a maximum duration of 2 years in the period 01.01.2024-31.12.2026.

## 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:

- Engineers in possession of a Master Degree in Engineering (or any equivalent university degree in Engineering) with a professional experience in engineering of less than 6 years (that may include a PhD programme) after the master degree w.r.t. the deadline for proposal submission of the present call.

The candidate shall be recruited and employed by a EUROfusion member or its Affiliated Entity. The Consortium member will have to 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 2024.

Candidates who have been already employed by a Consortium member or its Affiliated Entity for less than 2 years (not counting PhD studies) are also eligible for this programme, provided they meet the requirements specified above. The proposal jointly prepared by the candidate, his/her mentor and the EUROfusion Beneficiary or Affiliated Entity offering employment, shall be submitted by the Beneficiary's General Assembly member. During the preparation of the proposal if beneficial, the candidate can consult EUROfusion work package leader, task force leaders or members of the EUROfusion Programme Management Unit.

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

## 3. Evaluation

Eligible candidates are evaluated on the basis of excellence with a proposal within the competency areas identified by the EUROfusion Programme Management Unit. The evaluation criteria are indicated in the "Guide for Applicants" (Annex 2).

## 4. Timetable of Implementation

| Action                                          | Date                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Deadline for proposals</b>                   | <b>5 June 2023 (23:59 CET)</b>                |
| Panel review, selection                         | July 2023                                     |
| Interviews with shortlisted candidates (remote) | Expected in the weeks of 18-29 September 2023 |
| Awarding of the grants (General Assembly)       | 10-11 October 2023                            |
| Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement    | 1 January 2024                                |
| Latest starting date of the Task Agreement      | 1 July 2024                                   |

## 5. 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. conferences fees (max. two conference) and training courses fees, purchase of hardware and/or consumables necessary for a successful implementation of the project) ;
3. Travel costs of the engineer (travel to conferences and training courses, missions for meetings, working sessions and visits to other laboratories);
4. Indirect costs 25% flat rate (not applied to Unit Costs for Secondments)

The level of financial support for the costs for Training and Travels (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 10 k€ Consortium Contribution for training and other costs and up to a maximum of 20 k€ Consortium Contribution for mission costs for the full period of the grant. Individual missions are limited to less than 3 months.

**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.***

Details on fundings rates and budget ceilings are in the Financial Summary template annexed to this call.

## 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 **5 June 2023 – 23:59 CET**.

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 documentation, the financial information shall be entered directly through the online proposal form in IMS: *2024 EUROfusion Engineering Grant*.