



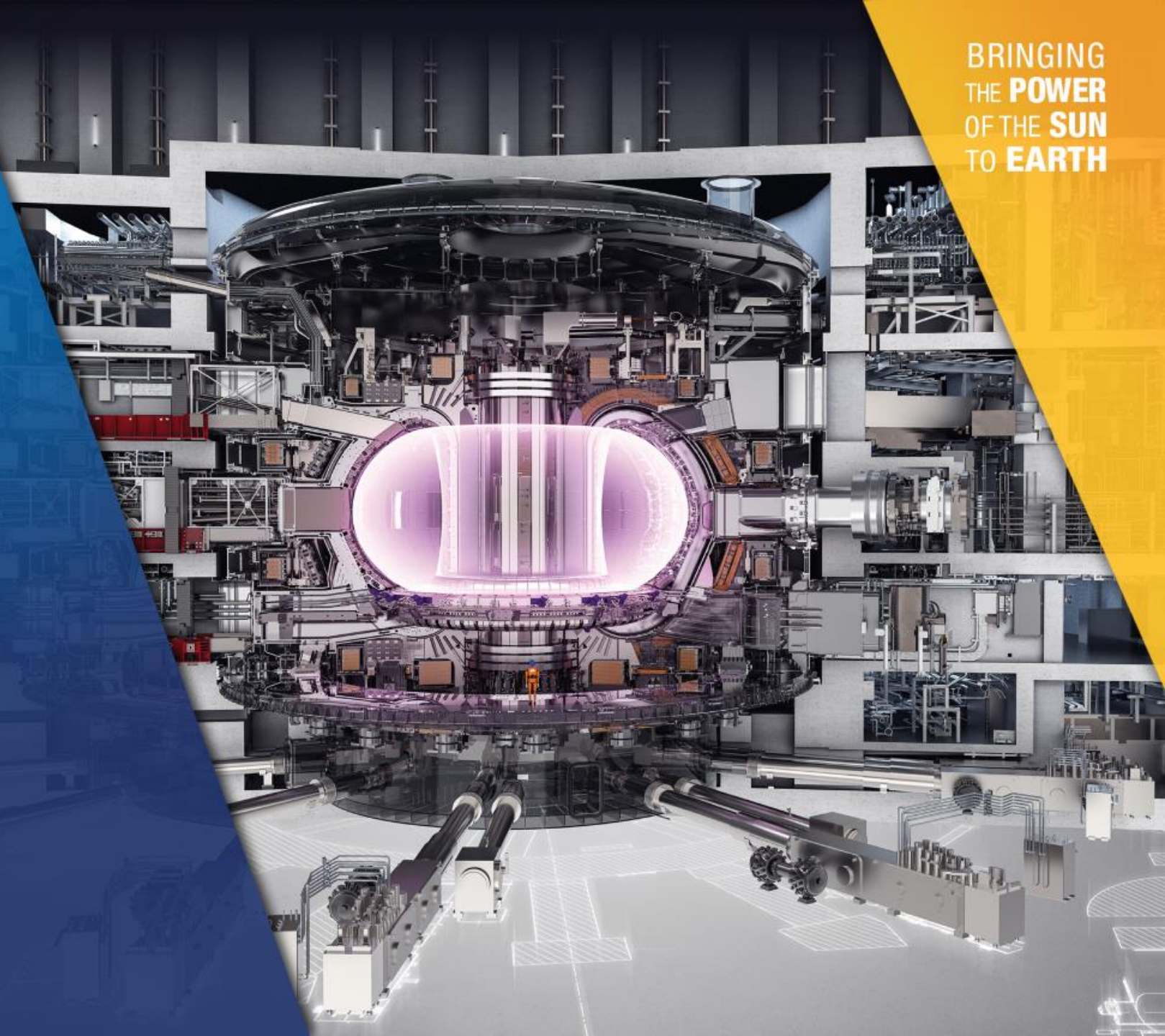
**FUSION
FOR
ENERGY**

Legal Pathways to Work with F4E: Contracts, Grants & Innovation Tools

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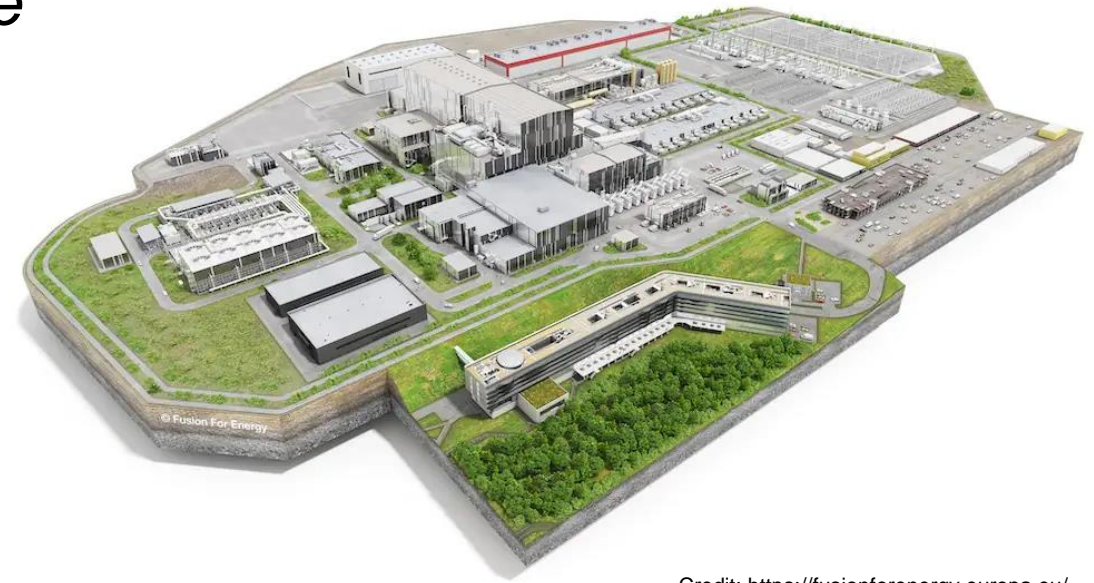
14 April 2026

BRINGING
THE **POWER**
OF THE **SUN**
TO **EARTH**



- ❑ **Public procurement contracts at F4E**
- ❑ **Technology Development Programme (TDP) - pre-commercial procurement for innovation**
- ❑ **Expert contracts, grants and co-financing instruments available at F4E**
- ❑ **Legal frameworks for collaboration with universities and research institutes**

- ❑ F4E awards contracts to contribute to fusion projects (ITER)
- ❑ Procurement follows EU public procurement rules
 - ☞ *Call → Bid → Evaluation → Contract Award*
 - fair competition, transparency, best value*
- ❑ Types of contracts awarded by F4E:
 - 🏢 Services
 - (studies, engineering support, consultancy)
 - ⚙️❑ Manufacturing / Supplies
 - ❑ Works



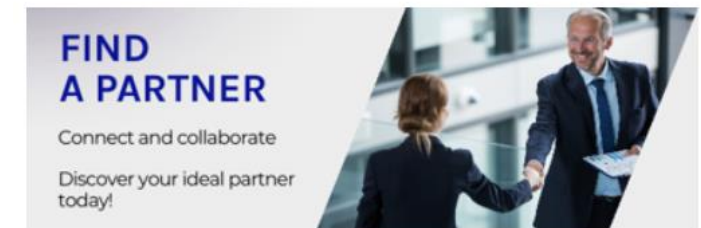
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SMEs opportunities:

- Contractor / Consortium partner
- Subcontractor

Benefits of contracting with F4E:

- Technology and know-how development
- Fair contracts, timely payments
- Visibility and networking



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- ❑ Pre-commercial procurement of R&D services
- ❑ Contract divided in stages
 - First stage is always mandatory
 - The following stages are optional
- ❑ Contract conditions preferable for contractors
 - simplified contract
 - pre-financing
 - payment for best efforts
 - IP ownership retained

Stage I:
Concept & feasibility

Stage II:
Design & prototyping

Stage III:
Testing

2024

2 actions

- Developing a wearable **device that detects tritium** in the air
- **Study how to join tungsten with a special copper alloy** using a gradual transition

3 contractors per each action

Currently implemented

2025

6 actions

- Developing and testing **advanced technologies** for fusion environments, especially dealing with:
 - **High power electricity**
 - **Radiation resistance**
 - **Advanced materials**
 - **Safety systems**

Under evaluation

Max. 2 contractors per each action

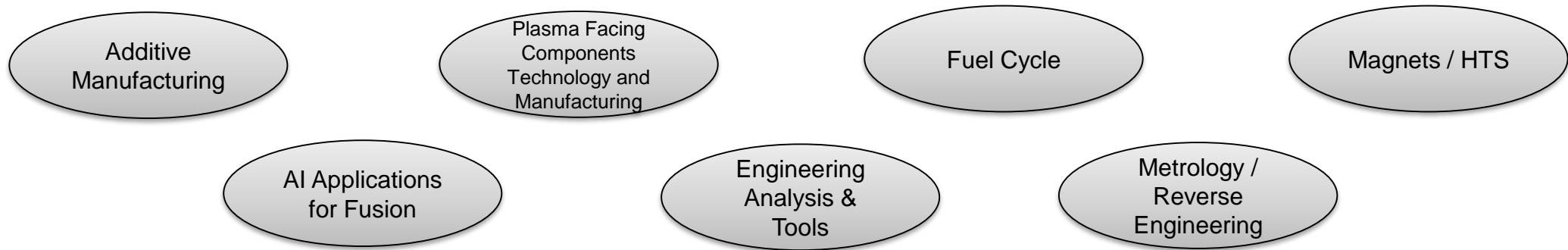
2026

No funds allocated currently

Possible future calls under discussion

TECHNOLOGY AREA	DATES	VENUES
Advanced Fusion Materials	In-person: 5-6 May 2026	ESS, Lund
Electron Cyclotron Systems	Online + In-person: 18-22 May 2026	Barcelona

Past TDP Workshops + Reports



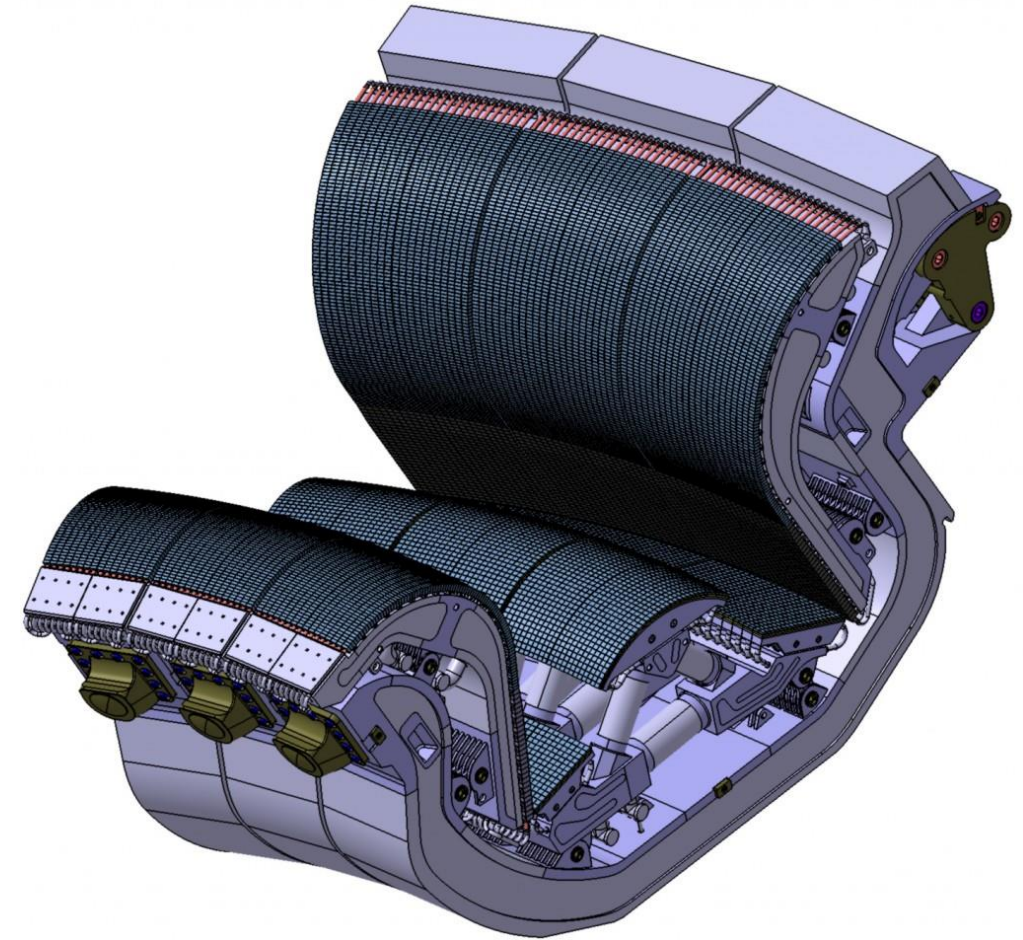
- ❑ Financial contribution to an action proposed by the beneficiary – donation – not purchase of results
- ❑ Key distinction: procurement = F4E defines and owns results; grant = beneficiary designs action and keeps results
- ❑ Normally awarded via competitive calls for proposals
- ❑ Co-financing & no-profit principles apply
- ❑ Cost must be eligible and justified



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SME relevant features?

- Grants with simplified funding rules (lump sums, unit costs, flat rates) – reduction in administrative burden
- Proportional controls, reporting and audits – size and risk level of a grant
- Other co-financing instruments** – coming soon...



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Experts (External Experts with Contract)

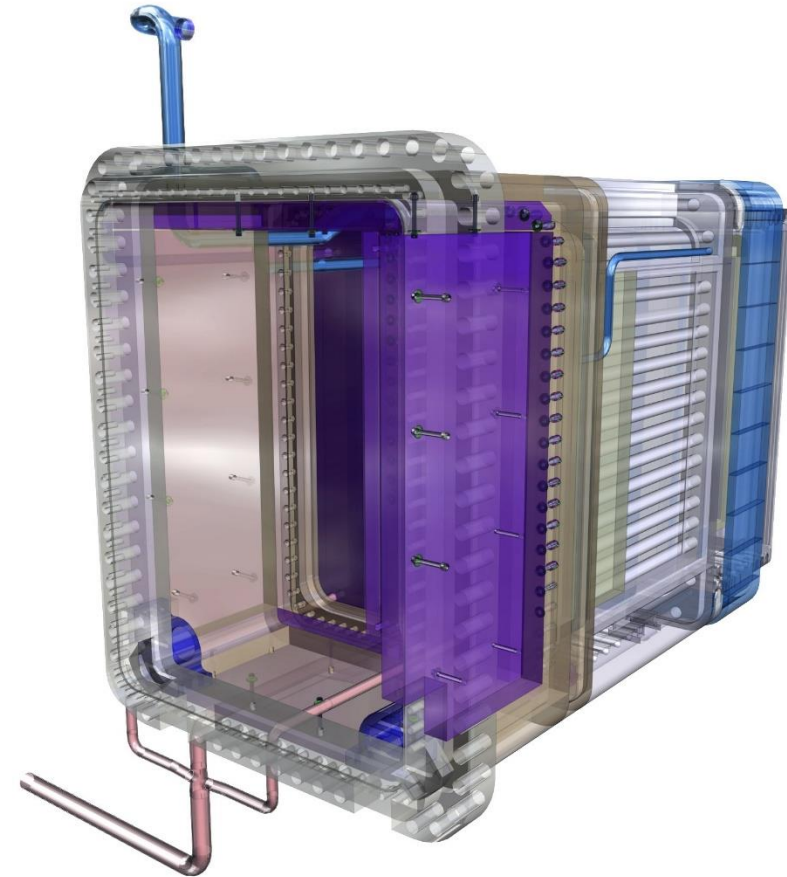
- ❑ Highly specialised technical support - natural persons only, not F4E staff
- ❑ Selected via Call for Expression of Interest; short list valid up to 5 years
- ❑ Chosen on objective criteria, with rotation and no conflict of interest
- ❑ Time-limited: max 100 days/year
- ❑ Fixed daily fee + travel/subsistence



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- ❑ Used for joint research and technical cooperation: joint R&D, staff exchange, and access to facilities
- ❑ Distinct from procurement and grants:
 - not for purchasing supplies/services
 - no exchange of funds between the parties
- ❑ Must serve F4E's mandate (ITER Project, Broader Approach, DONES)

- ❑ Delivery tool: cooperation agreements or arrangements
- ❑ Larger, more comprehensive collaborations – often of “framework” nature implemented via implementing agreements
- ❑ F4E collaboration with EUROfusion: key Memorandum of Understanding to enable access to a wider network of laboratories



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Bringing
the power
of the sun
to earth