



CfP-TRED-AWP25-TRED-01

2025 Annual Work Plan

Call for Participation in the EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants



EUROfusion is honoured to name its researcher grant scheme after **Dr. Bernard Bigot, Director-General of the ITER Organisation** in 2015-2022. Dr. Bigot has been instrumental in shaping the ITER project, the world's largest and first experimental fusion reactor built jointly by seven international partners (Europe, USA, Russia, India, South Korea, China and Japan) under construction in Southern France. Dr. Bigot was an inspirational leader promoting the one-project-one-team spirit and project culture across the ITER Organisation and collaborating partners. His achievements extend well beyond his lifetime and will support further advancement of the ITER project in the coming years.

1. Specific objectives of the action

The Consortium Work Plan 2021-2025 for the implementation of the [European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy](#) in the Horizon Europe framework programme foresees support for Education and Training of a new generation of scientist and engineers. The EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grants programme supports excellence and career development of researchers who are already in the programme and aims to attract high quality potential candidates from outside the programme.

The Researcher Grants will be attributed at post-doctoral level. They 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 EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grant Programme is directed to researchers of all nationalities, during the first years of their careers, namely:

- Researchers and engineers 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 EUROfusion 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 2025.

The candidate shall work on a scientific or technical subject relevant to the EUROfusion Work Plan for the implementation of the European Research Roadmap to the Realisation of Fusion Energy.

Details are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

3. Evaluation

Eligible proposals are reviewed on the basis of excellence.

4. Timetable of Implementation

Deadline for proposals: 6 May 2024 – 23:59 CET

Expected Date of Awarding of the grants (General Assembly): 9-10 October 2024

Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 January 2025

Latest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 July 2025

5. Financial support

The financial support for the researchers/engineers 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. conferences fees (max two conferences) and training courses fees, purchase of hardware and/or consumables necessary for a successful implementation of the project);
3. Travel costs of the researcher/engineer (travel to conferences and training courses, missions for meetings, working sessions, experiments 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 10k€ Consortium Contribution for training and other costs and up to a maximum of 20k€ Consortium Contribution for travels and mission costs for the full period of the grant. One mission of 5 days to Garching shall be included in the mission plan for participation in the EUROfusion Grant induction week. 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 **6 May 2024 – 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: *2025 EUROfusion Bernard Bigot Researcher Grant*.