

2015 Annual Work Plan

Call for Participation

EUROfusion Researcher Fellowships

1. Specific objectives of the action

In the FP7 fusion research programme EFDA implemented the Fusion Researcher Fellowship Programme. Following the recommendation made by the Ad-Hoc Group “Survey of Human Resources in the European Fusion Programme”, endorsed by the CCE-FU on 21 March 2007, the action aimed at “provid(ing) encouragement for excellence and career development by awarding grants similar to the Marie Curie type fellowships”.

In the period 2007-2013 six Fellowships Programme were launched by EFDA and 57 grants were awarded.

The 2014-2018 Work Plan for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap in Horizon 2020 foresees support for Education and Training of a new generation of scientist and engineers. The Fellowships 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 Fellowships 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 the duration of up to 2 years.

2. Eligibility

As for the earlier EFDA Fellowship Programme and the 2014 EUROfusion Researcher Fellowship Programme, the Eligibility criteria have been elaborated according to the Ad-hoc-Group (AHG) Recommendations endorsed at CCE-FU, namely that “*the competition should be as broad as possible, therefore all recently attributed post-docs ... should be allowed to compete for this funding, although the proposals should be channelled through the Heads of Associations.*”

Thus, the action is directed exclusively at 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;

- Engineers/technicians in possession of a master degree in Engineering (or any equivalent university degree in Engineering) with a professional experience of at least 3 years up to 5 years after the master degree.

The candidate must be employed by a European fusion laboratory. In case the researcher/engineer has not yet started her/his contract at the time of the application for the grant, the host Laboratory 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 by 30 June 2015

The candidate shall work on a scientific or technical subject relevant to the Work Plan for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap in 2014-2018.

Details are provided in the Guide for applicants.

3. Applicable evaluation criteria

“In view of ensuring the excellence of the selected fellowships and thereby creating a recognised “brand””, the Eligibility criteria have been elaborated according to the AHG Recommendations endorsed at CCE-FU, namely that “the fellowship should be awarded according to the sole exceptional quality of the candidate and his/her proposal.”

At its 50th meeting on 22-23 March 2012 the EFDA SC recommended to introduce as additional selection criteria the mobility of the researchers.

Details are provided in the Guide for applicants.

4. Timetable of Implementation

Deadline for proposals: 9 September 2013

Awarding of the grants: General Assembly meeting 17-18 November 2014

Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 January 2015

5. Financial support

All financial provisions are subject to the approval of the grant proposal by the European Commission and to the signature of the Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement.

Reimbursement of the eligible costs related to the 2015 ERF Programme shall be in accordance with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement and the Funding Rules as adopted by the EUROfusion Consortium.

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

The contribution will support the following costs:

- Salary cost (including fees, superannuation and social charges) up to € 117.000 for 2 years;
- Training expenses related to the successful execution of the research project (e.g. purchase of hardware, consumables, participation in conferences and training courses, fees for scientific journals, memberships in scientific associations etc.) up to € 19.200 for 2 years;
- Missions and mobility costs of the researcher up to 6 months (taken over the full duration of the fellowship – this can be broken up in a number of shorter missions);
- Indirect costs 25% flat rate

The duration of the fellowship supported by this action will be up to 2 years.

The eligible expenditures are those which are paid during the period covered by the Task Agreement to be placed further to the selection process.