IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Developing the Fusion Workforce

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
and virtual participation via Cisco Webex

27 – 30 April 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2503635

Information Sheet

Introduction

This meeting aims to support and strengthen international cooperation on fusion research and development with the goal of building scientific and technical knowledge in this field for the construction of fusion power plants. Several projects are building pilot fusion energy systems to demonstrate the feasibility of fusion for commercial energy production and many private companies expect to have commercially operating plants in the coming decades. Achieving commercial roll out of fusion energy will demand a significant expansion of the fusion workforce, along with new types of roles to support the deployment and operation of fusion power plants.

This IAEA meeting is for member states with developed fusion programmes and those keen to be more involved in fusion energy, to share their knowledge and experience of workforce development. For commercial fusion to be deployed worldwide, a globally skilled workforce is essential. While not every member state will have its own private fusion companies, successful plant deployment in any country will depend on the availability of trained workers who can understand and operate the technology.

Objectives

The purpose of this meeting is for experts with experience in fusion workforce development, to share their experiences with other member states. This meeting provides an opportunity for experts to share the key gaps in their fusion workforce which have been identified and to share how their organisation or member state is addressing these challenges. A Consultancy Meeting held in December 2025 aimed to establish the baseline of fusion workforce development strategies across different organisations and member states. This Technical Meeting will build on the key topics identified in the consultancy meeting.

Key topics of interest are:

- National/Organisational fusion strategies and regulatory frameworks and their ability to support fusion development. This includes sharing insights from member states with established fusion strategies, which can help identify skills gaps as a foundation for developing a fusion workforce strategy.

- Fusion Education. How are education systems being leveraged to encourage students to actively engage with fusion energy and consider a career within fusion? From advanced academic pathways, such as PhD programmes, to technical apprenticeships to produce skilled technicians, how is each member state/organisation preparing and training the future workforce? Free online resources which can be accessed by all member states to provide training on the basics of fusion energy. Professional networks or mentoring programmes available which can guide talent into the fusion sector.

- Why is development of a fusion workforce specifically important for a member state or an organisation? What are the short-term benefits of developing a skilled workforce and how might that benefit a member state beyond the fusion sector? Of the fusion organisations and member states with a clear workforce strategy, what are the short-term and long-term benefits to that member state, why has that organisation/state prioritised developing a fusion workforce strategy?

- Utilising previous experience with fusion adjacent sectors. Member states with limited or no fusion experience but with some previous experience with an aspect of fusion, or an adjacent sector, such as nuclear fission. What opportunities are available to these member states for growth of their fusion workforce?

- Sectors which have a large number of skills that are required in the fusion sector, for example, nuclear, engineering, AI, aerospace etc. A discussion as to how those with experience in an adjacent sector could transition into the fusion sector, which schemes, or training are available to support a transition.

- Promote international collaboration to share best practices in workforce development - for instance, establishing international schools where member states with advanced fusion programs provide training for participants from states with limited or no fusion experience.

- Effective private-public partnerships which focus on building skills required for key gaps. Differences experienced by the public and private fusion sectors and how the two can support one another for the commercial deployment of fusion energy.

- Support the development of a diverse fusion workforce, ensuring inclusivity across protected characteristics and encouraging participation from a wide range of academic backgrounds beyond science and engineering.

- Establishment of fusion jobs taxonomy, analysing the types of jobs which can be taken from adjacent sectors and the new skills which are required specifically for fusion.

The output from this Technical Meeting, is a skills and job taxonomy which aims to map where in the world these skills can currently be learnt, and where there are gaps that need to be addressed. This will be released as a publication, and progress from the Technical Meeting will be added to the IAEA FUSE CONNECT platform in 2026, with the aim to facilitate awareness of fusion energy and workforce development to member states.

Target Audience

The meeting is aimed at those involved or interested in the research and development of fusion technology, including government or international organisations (policymakers, analysts, regulators, and R&D agencies), private fusion companies and industry stakeholders (vendors, engineering companies, plant operators and technology developers).

Working Language

English.

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs are:

- Sharing knowledge of strategies between member states to encourage discussion as to where member states can learn from other fusion organisations or member states with more experience in the fusion sector.
- Identifying areas where international collaboration could benefit the global fusion workforce, to enable a commercial deployment of fusion energy in the near term.
- Identification of key resources that can be shared between member states for the benefit of developing a skilled fusion workforce.
- Discussion of how the IAEA can support member states in building the global fusion workforce, including providing insight from IAEA Knowledge Management Division as to how IAEA is supporting workforce development across the nuclear fission sector. Which resources can the IAEA host on the FUSE CONNECT platform which can support member states with their fusion workforce strategies.
- IAEA publication on a skills and jobs taxonomy for fusion.
- Additional IAEA outputs which may benefit member states in developing their fusion workforce e.g. fusion energy schools, online resources, international collaboration etc.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **2 February 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org):
   - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
   - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register here.

2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
   - Complete or update their personal details under 'Complete Profile' and upload the relevant supporting documents;
   - Search for the relevant event under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
   - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating Authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
   - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
   - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
   - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **2 February 2026.**

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the Data Processing Notice concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Participants who wish to give presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than 2 pages (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 500 words. It should be sent electronically to the event INDICO page: Technical Meeting on Developing a Fusion Workforce (27-30 April 2026), no later than **2 February 2026**. Submissions must contain the author's name, email address, country, organization and topic. Authors are encouraged to flag their proposals as an oral or poster presentation. However, the Programme Committee will evaluate all submissions and decide on the final presentation format.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **9 March 2026**.

An electronic copy of the proceedings, consisting of abstracts, presentation slides and posters will be made available to all participants on the Indico page above.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **2 February 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Key Deadlines and Dates

02 February 2026	Deadline for submission of abstracts through IAEA-INDICO for regular contributions
02 February 2026	Deadline for submission of Participation Form (Form A), Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and Grant Application Form (Form C) (if applicable) through the official channels
09 March 2026	Notification of acceptance of abstracts and of assigned awards
27 April 2026	Event begins
30 April 2026	Event ends

Programme Committee

The committee will be confirmed in the Consultancy Meeting December 2025, the final programme committee will be displayed on the INDICO page from December 2025.

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.