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Planning

FOSTER Programme Industry PhD Support Scheme 2025

UK Atomic Energy Authority

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-053134

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05921a

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

UK Atomic Energy Authority

Culham Science Centre

Oxfordshire

OX14 3DB

Contact

Jonny Adams

Email

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Telephone

+12 35528822

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

N/A

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority>

Buyer's address

<https://uk.eu-supply.com/ctm/Company/CompanyInformation/Index/72814>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=97676&B=UKAEA

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Fusion Research

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

FOSTER Programme Industry PhD Support Scheme 2025

Reference number

T/GW99/25

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73110000 - Research services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Fusion Opportunities in Skills, Training, Education and Research (FOSTER) programme is an ambitious national fusion skills programme delivered by UKAEA on behalf of the UK fusion sector. FOSTER's mission is to train over 2000 people by 2030, ready to take roles within the fusion industry.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £480,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73110000 - Research services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Culham Campus

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Fusion Opportunities in Skills, Training, Education and Research (FOSTER) programme is an ambitious national fusion skills programme delivered by UKAEA on behalf of the UK fusion sector. FOSTER's mission is to train over 2000 people by 2030, ready to take roles within the fusion industry. The intention is to work with universities, businesses, and international partners to increase the number of apprentice and graduate, postgraduate and doctoral, and post-doctoral opportunities within the fusion skills ecosystem in the UK. One mechanism being used to support an increase in PhD numbers is through the FOSTER Programme's Industry PhD Support Scheme Awards. These Awards will contribute a fixed sum towards the cost of a fusion related PhD in a UK university that commences by 31st December 2026. There are two tiers of award values available under this initiative: 2 awards of £65,000 are designated specifically for small businesses (less than 50 full-time employees), while the remaining awards are valued at £40,000 and are open to all eligible applicants. The application form must detail the full cost of the project and show how the remaining balance of funding will be provided. PhD topics should be beneficial to the wider UK fusion sector i.e. not only relevant to one specific fusion device. PhD projects that are already underway, as collaborations between a university and an industry partner, but experiencing existential financial difficulties may also be proposed for consideration.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

17 November 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes