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Planning

## **FOSTER Programme Industry PhD Support Scheme 2025**

UK Atomic Energy Authority

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-053368

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0592c0

Published 3 September 2025, 9:00am

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

T/GW99/25

### **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. 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.

### **Total value (estimated)**

- £480,001 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 18 November 2025 to 17 November 2027
- 2 years

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **CPV classifications**

- 73110000 - Research services

### **Contract locations**

- UK - United Kingdom
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## Engagement

### Engagement deadline

28 October 2025

### Engagement process description

[https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance\\_s.asp?PID=97703&B=](https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=97703&B=)

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## Submission

### Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

28 October 2025

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## Contracting authority

### UK Atomic Energy Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLJV-1169-JTDD

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United Kingdom

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Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government