

To: The Members of the General Assembly

Phone: +49 89 3299-4242/4201

Fax: +49 89 3299-4299

Gianfranco.Federici@euro-fusion.org

Our ref.: GF/JF-25-94

Date: 9 September 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Call for Experimental Proposals and Research Topics Coordinators for the Tokamak Exploitation Work Package for 2026 and 2027

The Tokamak Exploitation Work Package (WPTE) is pleased to announce a new Call for Experimental Proposals aimed at advancing the objectives of Mission 1: Plasma Regimes of Operation and Mission 2: Heat Exhaust System. This initiative supports the preparation for ITER operations and contributes to guiding the DEMO design. In addition, the Call includes opportunities for the appointment of Research Topic Coordinators.

In 2026 and 2027, WPTE will have experimental time on four devices: ASDEX-Upgrade, MAST-U, TCV and WEST. Please note that this call is **only for experimental proposals** on these four devices. Participation time to the 2026 experimental campaign and the related analysis and modelling activities shall be provided through a separate WPTE Call for Participation, expected to be launched in late October 2025.

I invite you to submit experimental proposals as well as **Research Topic Coordinator (RTC)** applications for the WPTE programme in 2026 and 2027. The deadline for the submission of the proposals and for the candidacy as RTC is **Friday 10th of October 2025**.

In continuity with 2025, the integrated structure of the WPTE programme into 9 **Research Topics** (RT) is maintained, with revised and updated Scientific Objectives where applicable reflecting progress in each topic. WPTE strongly supports the submission of well-structured proposals where the focus is on carrying out integrated experiments on multiple devices to address the scientific objectives defined for the RT (see Annex 1). Proponents should consider the past achievements and results already obtained as well as the specific features of the contributing devices (see Annex 2.) When elaborating a new experimental proposal, proponents are encouraged to refer to recent machine upgrades.

Proposals supporting R&D issues in link with the new ITER baseline (see corresponding reference documents on the WPTE wiki page of this Call) are strongly encouraged. Proposals that will aim to make use of the 4 EU devices in this call (ASDEX-Upgrade, MAST-U, TCV and WEST) to address the preparation for the scientific exploitation of JT-60SA are also welcome. Document highlighting JT-60SA Scientific priorities for the scientific operation in 2026-2027 are provided in the WPTE wiki-page as a reference.

For Research Topics Coordinators applications, candidates shall apply using the appropriate form (Annex 4), following the guidelines given in Annex 3. Forms should be sent to Zeinab Doagouei (Zeinab.Doagouei@ipp.mpg.de).

The interested scientists are provided with the following documents:

- Annex 1: A list of WPTE Research Topics for 2026 & 2027 and their scientific objectives.
- Annex 2: An overview of the capabilities of each device and upgrades foreseen for 2026 and 2027, together with an overview of the machine schedules in 2026 and 2027
- Annex 3: Terms of References for the role of the Research Topic Coordinators
- Annex 4: Form to apply for the role of Research Topic Coordinators

In addition, proponents are provided with a number of useful background documents on the WP TE wiki page.

Please note the following guidelines:

- WP TE encourages the proponents to **discuss within and across Research Topics** in advance of the deadline to avoid duplication and to use the machine time available in the best possible way through combined and coherent proposals.
- The proposals should consider the **machine operational boundaries** and the **diagnostic capabilities** (Annex 2) together with the machine schedules (Annex 2).
- Proposals for **multi-machine experiments** making the best use of specific capabilities of WPTE devices are encouraged when applicable.
- Proposals supporting the **new ITER baseline** should explicitly mention the R&D issues addressed by the proposal, using the ITER reference documents provided on the WPTE wiki page as a basis.
- Experimental proposals derived from **activities proposed within the new call for TSVV** aiming at undertaking benchmarking or validation exercises against experimental data are encouraged.

Experimental proposals should be submitted via the wiki template available at:
https://wiki.euro-fusion.org/wiki/WPTE_wikipages:_Call_for_proposals_2026

You will find guidelines to fill out the proposal template at the top of the wiki page. In order to access this wiki, an IMS account is needed. If you do not have one, please send a request using the link:
<https://ims.euro-fusion.org/CreateUsers/index>.

The discussion and further elaboration of the Research Topics will take place in a dedicated **WPTE General Programme Meeting which is currently foreseen in November 2025 in Lausanne (4-6/11/2025)**. During this meeting the experimental proposals will be presented and evaluated by the WPTE Task Force Leaders together with the RT Coordinators.

Should you have any questions regarding the present call, please contact the WPTE Task Force Leaders (te-tfls@euro-fusion.org), see WPTE wiki page:

https://wiki.euro-fusion.org/wiki/WPTE_wikipages:_Tokamak_Exploitation_Work_Package.

I look forward to receiving proposals from the colleagues of your institutes by **October 10th, 2025** and I thank you for your continuous support to the EUROfusion programme.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Gianfranco Federici
EUROfusion Programme Manager

Encs.

Annex 1: A list of Research Topics and Scientific Objectives for the 2026 campaign

Annex 2: An overview of the capabilities of WP TE devices for 2026-2027 and overview of machine schedules for 2026-2027

Annex 3: Term of References for the role of Research Topic Coordinator in WPTE

Annex 4: A template for applying to the position of Research Topic Coordinator