Q&A

MILESTONE-BASED PROGRAM NUCLEAR FUSION

This document is intended for clarification purposes only and may not cover all specific questions. If you require further details or have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at fusion@sprind.org at any time.

What level of detail is required for the roadmap?

The roadmap should provide a clear and sufficiently granular description of the path from the current state to a functioning demonstrator.

Provide a Gantt chart style overview with references to the detailed technical, financial and demonstrator sections with the interdependencies between the sections.

Define key milestones, critical parameters and go/no-go decision-gates.

Explain why critical parameters and targets have been chosen.

Use an "inverted-pyramid approach": more detail for milestones that are closer in time, less detail for those further out.

Decision trees and alternative pathways are welcome where appropriate.

We do not prescribe the parameters or milestone structure. You should identify the critical parameters for your own technology and explain your rationale. The roadmap is intended to be iterative. We will provide constructive feedback where useful and wanted.

SPRIND GMBH · LAGERHOFSTR. 4 · 04103 LEIPZIG · INFO@SPRIND.ORG · WWW.SPRIND.ORG
GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: BERIT DANNENBERG · RAFAEL LAGUNA DE LA VERA · VORSITZENDER DES AUFSICHTSRATS: DR.-ING. E. H. PETER LEIBINGER
AMTSGERICHT LEIPZIG HRB 36977 · UST-ID: DE328253854 · KTO: SPARKASSE KÖLN BONN · IBAN DE42 3705 0198 1935 1429 66 · BIC COLSDE33XXX

What is meant by “including external feedback on key design choices”?

The Call for Submission specifically asks for:

“Design and development concept for the demonstrator, including external feedback on key design choices.”

We do not prescribe a fixed set of technical or scientific milestones that the technology demonstrator must achieve. The relevant proof points will depend on your specific technological approach, the maturity of the individual components and subsystems, the remaining development risks, and your overall financing and commercialization strategy.

We would like to understand why you have selected the specific objectives and proof points for your demonstrator, how they fit into your broader roadmap towards a fusion power plant, and which key technical, system-level, industrial or commercial risks they are intended to retire.

A central element should be high-level feedback from relevant external stakeholders. This could include strategic or industrial partners, investors, customers, technical experts or other relevant actors. We are particularly interested in whether successful completion of the proposed demonstrator would provide sufficient evidence to justify deeper engagement, such as entering into a strategic partnership, committing resources, investing in the company, or supporting the next development stage.

We are not looking for a detailed external technical review of the demonstrator design. Rather, the objective is to provide high-level validation that the selected proof points are meaningful and sufficiently ambitious in the context of the overall roadmap.

Please provide some form of supporting documentation for this external feedback, such as a report, email, letter, or similar document that provides evidence and justification for the high-level validation.

Can a company based outside Germany partner with a German company for the program? Can it participate as a subcontractor? Is there an option to apply as part of a consortium?

Several companies can jointly submit a roadmap, including roadmaps that overlap in parts (e.g. a joint technology demonstrator), provided that responsibilities, IP allocation, financing and governance are clearly described.

Companies based outside Germany can also participate as part of the supply chain or as subcontractors of a German-based fusion company. SPRIND does not arrange these partnerships or consortia.

If a startup outside of Germany wants to set up a subsidiary in Germany to develop the project, would this be acceptable?

The Call for Submission requires that

“a substantial establishment and the value creation resulting from the funds of the Milestone Program should be located predominantly in Germany.”
It also requires that the company *“credibly pursues the objective of developing and realizing a fusion power plant in Germany.”*

A German subsidiary could therefore potentially meet these requirements, but the specific setup would need to fulfil the eligibility criteria at the time of admission.

What is the budget per project?

There is no predefined budget per project. Financing depends on the criteria outlined in the Call for Submission, including the proposed milestones and the available program funds.