



Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

International Energy Agency Technology Collaboration Programmes

Task/Annex Participation – Call for Applications

Key Dates	
Call Open:	December 22 nd 2022
Deadline for Application Submission:	February 6 th 2023 at 5pm (GMT)

It is the responsibility of each applicant to this call to ensure that they have read and fully understand all documentation associated with this call before making a submission.

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1. Call Introduction

SEAI is central to bringing about a low carbon economy through measures and activities focussed on the transition to a smarter and more sustainable energy future. To achieve this mission, SEAI will continue to build an environment for positive change through our research and innovation, analysis, modelling and support for policy-making. SEAI will catalyse direct action through our design and delivery of grant and incentive programmes and through our capacity-building processes with citizens, communities and private and public sector organisations.

SEAI is pleased to announce this call for applications to appoint Ireland-based entities to Tasks/Annexes of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Technology Collaboration Programmes.

2. IEA & Technology Collaboration Programmes

International Energy Agency

The IEA is at the heart of global dialogue on energy, providing authoritative analysis, data, policy recommendations, and real-world solutions to help countries provide secure and sustainable energy for all.

The IEA was created in 1974 to help co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil. While oil security remains a key aspect of the work, the IEA has evolved and expanded significantly since its foundation.

Taking an all-fuels, all-technology approach, the IEA advocates policies that enhance the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy. It examines the full spectrum of issues including renewables, oil, gas and coal supply and demand, energy efficiency, clean energy technologies, electricity systems and markets, access to energy, demand-side management, and much more.

IEA analysis is built upon a foundation of activities and focus areas including data and statistics, training, innovation and international cooperation.

IEA Technology Collaboration Programmes (TCPs)

The Technology Collaboration Programme supports the work of independent, international groups of experts that enable governments and industries from around the world to lead programmes and projects on a wide range of energy technologies and related issues. The experts in these collaborations work to advance the research, development and commercialisation of energy technologies. The scope and strategy of each collaboration is in keeping with the IEA Shared Goals of energy security, environmental protection and economic growth, as well as engagement worldwide.

The breadth of the analytical expertise in the Technology Collaboration Programme is a unique asset to the global transition to a cleaner energy future. These collaborations involve over 6000 experts worldwide who represent nearly 300 public and private organisations located in 55 countries, including many from IEA Association countries such as China, India and Brazil.

Each TCP is self-financed by participant countries, either through financial and/or in-kind contributions. The participants themselves decide whether cost-sharing, task-sharing or a combination of both is most appropriate.

Benefits of Participation in TCPs

There are numerous advantages to participating in the ongoing activities of TCPs for the Irish energy/low-carbon technology sector which include:

- Information sharing and networking with leading international R&D performing organisations;
- Participation in the acceleration of development and deployment of important energy technologies, processes & systems which are of global strategic importance;
- Forming new partnerships and strengthening R&D capability for future transnational collaborative working (e.g., Horizon Europe consortia, etc.);
- Reduced cost and duplication of research activities through coordination of international collaboration;
- Learning from and contributing to best practice;
- Linking research, industry and policy on a global scale;
- Representing Ireland internationally at the forefront of activity in your area;
- Being at the forefront of international technical standards development;
- Involvement in development of technologies and the exposure of Irish companies/universities/research institutions/public & semi-state bodies to those who develop these technologies, to international expertise and opportunities;
- Ensuring that Irish researchers are conversant with, and contribute to developing, international best practice.

The outputs, findings and evidence from all activities associated with TCPs are freely available to member countries and SEAI can influence the work programme of the Tasks/Annexes towards national policy goals. All Tasks/Annexes produce annual and end of term reports every three years which describe the achievements, outputs and findings of the Tasks/Annexes.

3. IEA TCP Governance and Structure

TCP Governance: Each TCP is organised under the auspices of an Implementing Agreement which is most commonly used to describe the legal text of a TCP. The legal text includes key provisions regarding the purpose, management and implementation of the TCP. The activities of each TCP are overseen by an Executive Committee (ExCo) comprised of representatives designated by each participant. The ExCo takes decisions on the management, participation and implementation aspects of the TCP. Some TCPs entrust the management functions of the TCP, or of a particular activity, to an Operating Agent (OA). At the conclusion of a predetermined duration (typically three to five years), each TCP must submit an end-of-term report and propose a new multi-annual research strategy for approval by the IEA Secretariat.

Ireland's participation in TCPs: SEAI in its role as Ireland's national energy authority acts as Ireland's national signatory for IEA TCP Implementing Agreements. The scope and strategy of

TCPs to which Ireland is a signatory align with national strategic objectives related to renewable energy, climate change and coordination of energy-related research as defined by SEAI.

IEA Standing Groups & TCP Executive Committees: SEAI and the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications represent Ireland on IEA Standing Groups and Committees (e.g., the IEA Governing Board; IEA Committee on Energy Research & Technology; IEA Standing Group on Long-Term Cooperation; IEA Standing Group on Emergency Questions; IEA Standing Group on Global Energy Dialogue; and the IEA Committee on Budget & Expenditure) and Working Parties which, *inter alia*, oversee the IEA's strategy, work programme and priorities. SEAI staff also represent Ireland on relevant IEA TCP Executive Committees.

IEA TCP Tasks/Annexes: TCPs normally execute their research initiatives through collaborations known as Tasks or Annexes, each of which involves leading international researchers from industry, academia, research institutions and public bodies in member countries. The purpose of IEA research Tasks/Annexes is to provide a forum for world leading researchers and businesses to coordinate R&D activities in their area of interest on a global scale and to collaborate in the development and pursuit of projects. IEA research Tasks/Annexes typically have a 3-year term and can be extended for one or more terms. Some Tasks/Annexes execute core activities of the TCP and are continuously extended. The current SEAI call seeks to appoint entities based in Ireland to a range of selected IEA TCP Tasks/Annexes.

4. Who Can Apply to this Call

This call is open to public and private sector organisations based in the Republic of Ireland (including Irish subsidiaries of overseas companies). Applications will be accepted from Private Enterprises, Universities, Institutes of Technology and State Funded Research Organisations, Public Sector Bodies and Semi-State Bodies who are based in the Republic of Ireland. Proposals from individuals applying in their own right will not be accepted.

Applications can include up to two applicant organisations (Applicants 1 and 2) and up to two nominated participants (Participants 1 and 2). The nominated Participants are the individuals who will take part in Task/Annex meetings if the application is successful.

Details of the Participants' organisations (i.e. Applicants) and nominated Participant(s) are required in the Application Form. Where relevant, SEAI encourages applications including two Participants to ensure availability for meeting attendance. The Applicants can be the same organisation; however, SEAI encourages Participants to consider submitting an application jointly with other entities in order to encourage cross-entity information sharing and such that the benefits of participating in Tasks/Annexes are broadly shared on a national scale. Where deemed beneficial, SEAI may request that separately submitted applications form a partnership to participate in Tasks/Annexes.

The list of Participants appointed following previous SEAI IEA TCP Appointment Calls is available via the following [webpage](#) (please refer to the TCP links in the Section titled 'Ireland's involvement in the IEA TCPs').

5. Levels of Funding Available

Each TCP is self-financed by member countries, either through financial and/or in-kind contributions.

SEAI may cover the following costs (where applicable) to enable Irish participants to take part in IEA TCP Task/Annex meetings:

- (i) annual 'country membership' TCP fees
- (ii) annual Task/Annex membership fees
- (iii) if required, approved travel expenses associated with enabling appointed nominated participant(s) to participate in Task/Annex activities (e.g., economy class air rail and bus travel, accommodation/subsistence costs, etc. as per SEAI's policy)

It is important to note that SEAI does not pay salary costs/daily rates to Task/Annex participants. Ideally, applicants for Task/Annex participation should have prior ongoing research activity, related to the subject area of the Task/Annex. It is expected that Applicants should be sufficiently committed to participate in the relevant Task/Annex in the context of their strategic interests to cover the salary/time costs associated with participation in Tasks/Annexes. Details of how to claim travel expenses will be provided by SEAI to successful nominated Participants; expenses will be paid directly to the Participants' organisations and not to the nominated Participants.

6. Tasks/Annexes Included in this Call

In order for researchers from Ireland to participate in a particular Task/Annex, SEAI is required to evaluate the relevance of the TCP to national priorities and SEAI's capacity to staff the relevant TCP Executive Committee and ultimately is required to sign up to the Implementing Agreement which governs the relevant TCP.

This call provides the opportunity for applicants to submit proposals to be appointed to the Tasks/Annexes listed in Table 1a and Table 1b. Table 1a represents the TCPs to which the Republic of Ireland is currently appointed as a member. Table 1b represents TCPs to which the Republic of Ireland is applying for membership. **Appointment of Participants to Tasks/Annexes within Table 1b is predicated on the formal appointment of the Republic of Ireland to the respective TCPs (District Heating and Cooling (DHC TCP), Heat Pumping Technologies (HPT TPC) and Hydrogen TCP) by the IEA.**

Applicants can apply to participate in research Tasks/Annexes not listed in the table below; SEAI will then consider the merits of individual applications. Applications received for TCPs SEAI is not a member of yet will be treated as expressions of interest. The number of Tasks/Annexes that can be supported (and the number of Participants appointed), is budget-dependent, thus not all of the below Tasks/Annexes may receive funding through the present call. The maximum number of Participants appointed to represent Ireland in a Task is at the discretion of SEAI and is dependent upon a number of factors, including budget availability, Task/Annex needs, and quality of applications received.

Successful Participants will be appointed to participate in the associated Task/Annex for up to three years or until the end of its current Task/Annex term, whichever is the earliest.

Table 1a. Tasks/Annexes open for application (membership to TCPs in place)

IEA TCP	Tasks/Annexes
Bioenergy	Task 36 - Material and Energy valorisation of waste in a Circular Economy
	Task 39 – Biofuels to decarbonise transport
International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN)	Annex 7 Smart Grid Transitions
	Annex 9 Flexibility Markets
USERS	Social Licence to Automate 2.0
	Public Engagement and Energy Infrastructure Task*
	Global Observatory Peer to Peer
Wind	Task 28 Social Science of Wind Energy Acceptance
	Task 34 WREN - Working Together to Resolve Environmental Effects of Wind Energy
	Task 37 Systems Engineering
	Task 44 Wind Farm Flow Control
	Task 47 Aerodynamics
	Task 52 Large-Scale Deployment of Wind Lidar
	Task 54 Cold Climate Wind Power

*See document [here](#) for task description and objectives

Table 1b. Tasks/Annexes open for application (membership application to TCPs in process)**

IEA TCP	Tasks/Annexes
District Heating and Cooling	Annex TS5- Integration of Renewable Energy Sources into existing District Heating and Cooling Systems.
Heat Pumping Technologies	Annex 58: High-Temperature Heat Pumps
	Annex 60 – Retrofit heat pump systems in large non-domestic buildings
Hydrogen	Task 40 – Energy Storage and Conversion based on Hydrogen
	Task 41 – analysis and Modelling of Hydrogen Technologies
	Task 42 – Underground Hydrogen Storage
	Task 43: Safety and RCS of Large Scale Hydrogen Energy Applications

**As per Section 6 of this document, appointment to Tasks/Annexes within the TCPs listed in Table 1b is dependent on the finalisation of the formal procedures between the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the International Energy Agency.

7. Responsibilities and Deliverables

Participants who, on foot of this call for applications, are appointed and supported by SEAI to participate in IEA TCP research Tasks/Annexes, will be required to commit to the following responsibilities and deliverables:

- To propose a work programme contributing to achieving the Task/Annex objectives with the agreement of the Task/Annex Leader (also known as the Operating Agent);
- To deliver the agreed work programme providing agreed deliverables to the Task/Annex Leader and additionally compile national information in the subject matter area of the Task/Annex, as and when required;
- To provide, to the Task/Annex Leader, estimates of the direct and related research work (person-months) of the national research effort contributing to the Task/Annex programme;
- To attend and participate in Task/Annex meetings, either online or in person, organised by the Task/Annex Leader. There are typically two main meetings per year but more meetings may be organised by the Task/Annex Leader.
- When unable to attend Task/Annex meetings, to nominate an equivalent alternate for approval by SEAI;
- Following each meeting, to provide high-level summary information to SEAI on progress within the Task/Annex (a reporting template will be provided by SEAI);
- On a yearly basis, provide a report summarising the achievements of the Task/Annex, provide associated recommendations which are relevant to the Irish energy system and an outlook for the upcoming year (a reporting template will be provided by SEAI);
- To assist in disseminating Task/Annex information to interested groups in Ireland;
- To help co-ordinate Task/Annex meetings which are hosted in Ireland.

8. Submitting your Application

In order to submit an application to this call, applicants should submit the following documentation to SEAI:

- (i) **Completed Application Form** (using template provided by SEAI). The application form template requests the following details:
 - a. Which TCP & Task/Annex is being applied for;
 - b. Details of the Participants' organisations;
 - c. Names and contact details of the nominated Participants;
 - d. A description of alignment of the Task/Annex with Ireland's national energy and climate priorities and goals. Where relevant you may also refer to broader national priorities;
 - e. A description of the relevance of the Task/Annex to the strategy of the Applicants and alignment of the Task/Annex with the Participants' research areas;
 - f. A description of the experience of relevant national/international collaboration/representation brought by the Participants;
 - g. A description of how the Participants will, as Ireland's representatives, a) contribute to the work of this Task/Annex and b) disseminate information gained to the relevant

national audience in Ireland (Who will the information be disseminated to? How? What information?);

- h. Details of which costs Applicants are requesting that SEAI covers;
- (ii) **CVs for the nominated Participants** (max. 2 pages per CV). CVs should demonstrate that nominated Participants have track records commensurate with that which would be expected for representation of Ireland in international fora.

Applicants are required to submit one application form each per Task/Annex. Application Forms including multiple Tasks/Annexes will be deemed ineligible.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Only fully complete applications will be considered for evaluation. The evaluation criteria under which applications will be assessed, and the proportion of marks awarded to each criterion is provided below:

- Alignment of the Task/Annex with Ireland's national energy & climate priorities and goals (30%)
- Relevance to the Participants organisations' strategy and to the area of research of the proposed Participants (30%)
- Relevant experience of the proposed Participants (30%)
- Quality and adequacy of contribution and dissemination plans (10%)

10. Timeline

Any queries relating to this call should be submitted by email to energyresearch@seai.ie

The deadline for receipt of queries is January 23rd 2023. Queries received after this date may not receive a response.

Applications should be submitted by email to energyresearch@seai.ie on February 6th 2023 at the latest. Any application submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Please use the following subject line when emailing your application: '2022 SEAI IEA TCP Appointment Call – TCP Name – Task/Annex Number'.

Please note that it is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that all necessary documentation associated with an application has been submitted to SEAI.

SEAI seeks to promote substantial participation by Ireland in IEA TCPs and, as such, may launch subsequent calls for participation in IEA TCP Tasks/Annexes.