

The activities of Big Science Business Forum 2024 *under the lens of Big Science*





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PUBBLICATION - BSBF2024 activities under the lens of Big Science

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BSBF2024 activities under the lens of Big Science

Paolo Acunzo

This report analyzes in detail the program structure and scientific activities carried out for the realization of the **BSBF2024 - Big Science Business Forum** (Trieste, October 1 - 4, 2024), highlighting its points of continuity and innovations compared to the previous two editions (Copenhagen 2018 and Granada 2022).

The structure of the program was prepared in 2022, when the Italian bid to host the 2024 edition of the BSBF in Trieste was submitted by the **Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia FVG**, in partnership with **ILO Network Italia** (composed of representatives of the main national research agencies such as CNR, ENEA, INAF and INFN), the local **Area Science Park** and the region's in-house agency **PromoTurismo FVG**, which in turn externally contracted out by public tender the tasks planned for the PCO.

In addition, the Italian bid was able to count on the active support of four ministries (MAECI, MUR, MIMIT and MASE) and a number of other not only national organizations located around the Trieste area, such as the *CEI Secretariat-Central European Initiative*.¹

Responsibility for drafting the program and carrying out the related scientific activities has been entrusted to the ILO Network Italia, which, in collaboration with the European association of ILOs - *Industrial Liaison Officers PERIIA*, the other parties involved and under the direction of the INI Service of the Technology Transfer Directorate of ENEA, have carried out all the planned activities under the supervision and thanks to the continuous support of the representatives of the ten promoting BSOs - *Big Science Organizations* (CERN, ESA, ESO, ESRF, ESS, European XFEL, F4E, FAIR, ILL and SKAO) gathered in the **BSBF2024 IOC - International Organizing Committee**.²

The availability of the Region FVG, which allocated a dedicated budget for the organization of BSBF Trieste 2024 through the approval of resolution No. 1023 of July 8, 2022 of its regional council, made it possible a particularly rich edition, thanks to the half-day extension of the program of work and the inclusion of some innovative elements before and during the Forum.³

In addition to the confirmation of several activities already present in the previous edition, such as 16 parallel sessions, it was possible to increase the number of plenary sessions to 6 and satellite sessions to 8 and 1/3 the exhibition space reserved for companies. This was possible thanks to the strong appreciation found by various stakeholders involved, as represented in graphic form by the ***Appreciation traffic light*** based on the results of a questionnaire sent retrospectively to the relevant scientific/business community in order to provide a retrospective qualitative assessment of the activities carried out within the framework of BSBF2024.

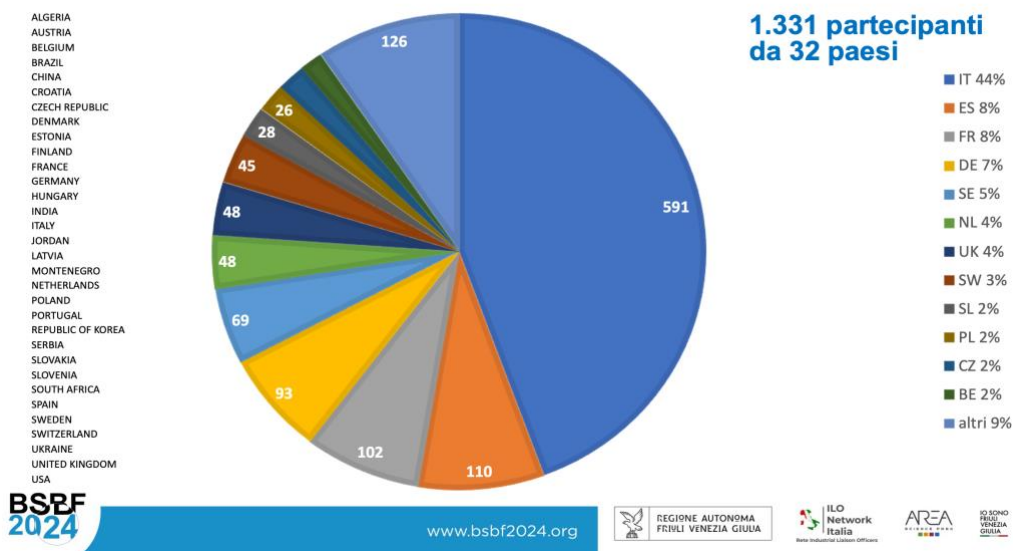
¹ <https://www.bsf2024.org/supporters/>

² <https://www.bsf2024.org/organizers/>

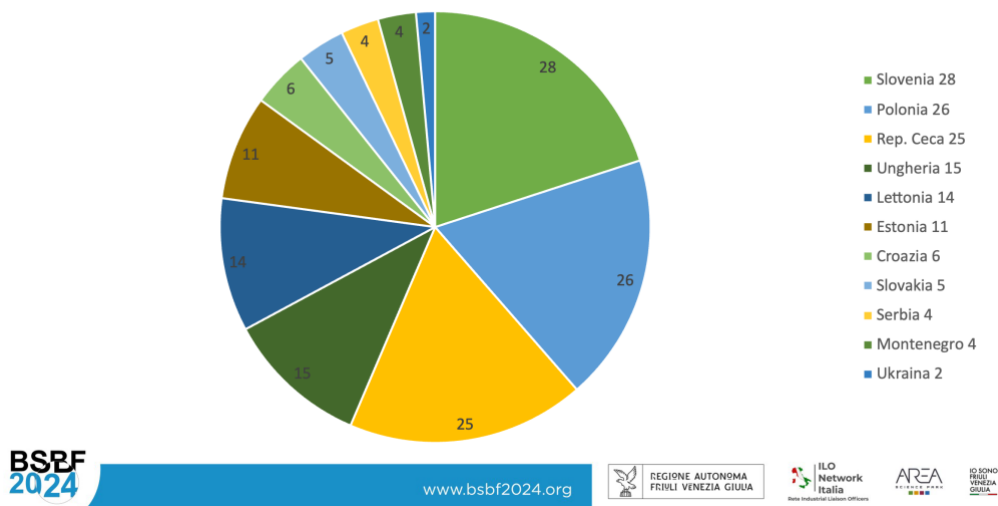
³ <https://www.bsf2024.org/programme/>

| | Appreciation traffic light (%) | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------|--|------|--|
| | Poor | | Average | | Good | |
| Plenary sessions | | | | | | |
| Parallel sessions | | | | | | |
| Satellite sessions | | | | | | |
| Speakers | | | | | | |
| Poster sessions | | | | | | |
| Site visits | | | | | | |
| B2B sessions | | | | | | |
| Exhibition area | | | | | | |
| Social programme | | | | | | |
| App and info | | | | | | |

Some quantitative data substantiate the success of BSBF2024. It turned out to be the most ever attended edition with **1331 participants from 32 different countries**, in person during the four working days in Trieste. As a result of some targeted actions, there were attendances from Central and Eastern European countries that were totally absent or had low participation in previous editions.



140 partecipanti dai paesi attenzionati da BSBF Trieste 2024, tra i quali quelli presenti per la prima volta (Croazia, Estonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovacchia, Slovenia, Ukraina)



This achievement was possible thanks to extensive and varied preparatory work carried out in almost two years leading up to BSBF2024. For example, from the time of the submission of the application, Region FVG had focused on involving stakeholders from the Balkans and Central and Eastern Europe, traditionally almost absent from the Big Science market. To this end, it involved the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Trieste-based intergovernmental body *Central European Initiative* CEI Secretariat to launch a new activity agreed upon with the BSBF2024 IOC dedicated to this geographic area.

1. New preparatory activities for the BSBF

This gave rise to the "**BSBF visits Central European Countries**" scheme, a full-fledged roadshow to present BSBF activities at Embassies of Italy in various European capitals that directly touched nearly 300 people on the ground, including businesses and other local stakeholders, which enabled to gain the participation results mentioned above.⁴

This new BSBF2024 scheme was also the template for a first time presentation of BSBF activities at the European Union institution environment in Brussels.

Promotion – BSBF visits

Thanks to **CEI – Central European Initiative** and **Embassies of Italy** located in different capitals, **BSBF Trieste 2024** is promoting a roadshow in target countries of Central Europe, presenting industrial opportunities offered by BSBF to companies and institutional stakeholders in the area.

In particular, some **BSBF visits Central European Countries** are already planned, such as:

- BSBF visits Serbia, **Belgrade**, 27th February 2024
- BSBF visits Slovakia, **Bratislava**, 20th March 2024
- BSBF visits Czech Republic, **Prague**, 21st March 2024
- BSBF visits Poland, **Warsaw**, 16th April 2024
- BSBF visits Hungary, **Budapest**, 7th May 2024
- BSBF visits Croatia, **Zagreb**, 13th June 2024
- BSBF visits Slovenia, **Ljubljana**, 14th June 2024
- BSBF visits Montenegro, **Podgorica**, 12th July 2024

Information campaigns on those BSBF visits are disseminated jointly by CEI, Italian Embassies, BSOs, Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, ILOs, and BSBF channels.

In addition, the same presentation scheme has been adopted for

- BSBF visits European Union, **Brussels**, 11th April 2024

BSBF
2024

www.bsf2024.org



At the same time this scheme had been borrowed from a new promotion initiative decided by BSBF2024 IOC in addition to the traditional presentations at international conferences and events related to Big Science. This was the scheme called "**BSBF visits BSOs**," with visits promoted by the BSBF2024 organization aimed at European companies to visit international research infrastructures on-site for free, touching their production and technological demands, and coming into direct contact with their personnel.⁵

4 <https://www.bsf2024.org/category/visits/>

5 <https://www.bsf2024.org/bsbf-visits-f4e-fusion-for-energy/>
<https://www.bsf2024.org/bsbf-visits-european-xfel/>
<https://www.bsf2024.org/bsbf-visits-esa/>
<https://www.bsf2024.org/bsbf-visits-cern-2/>

Promotion – BSBF visits

BSBF Trieste 2024 is promoting industrial visits to international research infrastructures in collaboration with BSOs and related ILO Networks.

BSBF visits BSOs - Big Science Organizations, a new format for industries:

- A one visiting day to the major research infrastructure in Europe reserved to international companies, including presentations by hosting BSO and BSBF organizers.

Information campaign on this new opportunity for companies to get closer and to know better Big Science are disseminated jointly by BSOs, ILOs and BSBF channels.

List of BSBF visits to:

- F4E at ITER Organization, Cadarache (FR), 25th October 2023
- European XFEL, Hamburg (DE), 19th January 2024
- CERN, Geneva (CH), 9th February 2024
- ESA, Noordwijk (NL), 15th March 2024



Promotion – BSBF Presentation in conferences

BSBF Trieste 2024 wants to promote participation and consolidate the BSBF brand in the research and business international context. For this reason, it has been present with promotional material at many conferences, where it will have the chance to present BSBF activities, such as:

- Presentation BSBF2024 Press conference- Roma (Feb 2023)
- IPAC'23 International Particle Accelerator Conference- Venice (May 2023)
- IOD'23 Industrial Opportunity Days- Napoli (June 2023)
- Polish Economic Forum – Karpacs (September 2023)
- ISFNT15 International Symposium on Fusion Nuclear Technology– Las Palmas (September 2023)
- Sea Summit – Trieste (October 2023)
- Precision Fair in Netherlands – Eindhoven (November 2023)
- Big Science Poland – Krakow (January 2024)
- Big Science Sweden – Lund (January 2024)
- EPS – European Physical Society Forum – Berlin (March 2024)
- Big Science in London School of Economics – London (April 2024)
- Deep Tech Atelier in Latvia – Riga (May 2024)
- F4E Procurement Strategy and Industrial Policy – Barcelona (June 2024)
- Exploring Innovation and technologies in view of BSBF2024 – The Hague (September 2024)



All those initiatives were centrally coordinated by the BSBF Trieste 2024 organizers, who managed communication, relations, and business registration at the events, contributing to the consolidation of a specific business and research community, a key feature of Big Science activities. Of course, all activities are improvable, especially those introduced for the first time such as **BSBF visits**, but general appreciation obtained suggests undertaking similar initiatives in various international areas.

Implementation of all these activities involved extensive preparation and promotion work, in which old and new initiatives to involve various national and international stakeholders were integrated, as can be seen from the BSBF2024 timeline. ¹

Undoubtedly this is the solid premise for the Trieste forum success, as it is evident from communication data such as 60.000 visits to www.bsf2024.org website or 10.000 contacts reached by 15 editions of BSBF2024 Newsletter. This general estimation is shown also by following results of the questionnaire on the quality of the proposed activities.

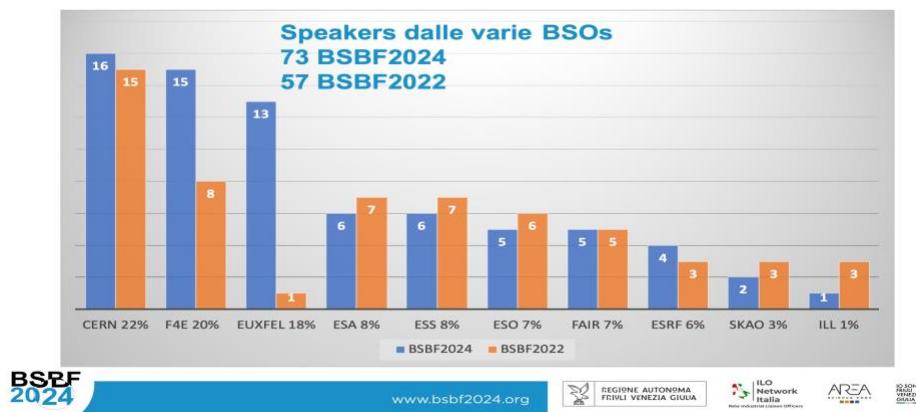
| | Appreciation traffic light (%) | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| | Poor | | Average | | Good | |
| Preparatory work | Red | Yellow | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Pre BSBF presentations | Red | Red | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| BSBF visits BSOs | Red | Red | Yellow | Yellow | Green | Green |
| BSBF visits CEI Countries | Red | Red | Yellow | Yellow | Green | Green |
| Contacts | Yellow | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Contacts with BSOs | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |

6 <https://www.bsf2024.org/timeline/>

2. New tools for Big Science engagement and community building.

Another benefit of this continued osmosis among the organizing bodies, sponsoring BSOs, businesses and various other stakeholders can also be seen in the higher number of **speakers** in attendance in Trieste during the BSBF2024 proceedings.⁷

This is evident not only from the quantitative figure with respect to the speakers who took part (in greater numbers both with respect to the total and to the exponents from BSOs), but also taking into consideration the topics covered and the ways in which the relevant invited speakers were involved.



In this sense, some moments were symptomatic of the relevance of some new initiatives adopted for the Trieste Forum work. Some BSBF2024 iconic moments included:

- For the first time, the **top leaders of the ten BSOs met** on the same stage to discuss together the future of Big Science during the opening session of BSBF2024;
- For the first time during the same session, the relevance of the new *Einstein Telescope* infrastructure was presented jointly by the two national candidates competing for hosting to the large audience of Big Science world;
- For the first time, a session dedicated to **Big Science opportunities for Central and Eastern Europe** was held where took the floor speakers from eight different countries in the area (including Ukraine) selected during the BSBF2024 roadshow;
- For the first time, two sessions composed of companies, BSOs representatives and experts were held to discuss how to build a **Big Science Common Market** in Europe throughout a bottom - up approach;
- For the first time, there was a session devoted to innovative international procurement tools adopted to facilitate **public-private partnerships** and new business access in the sector;
- For the first time, a plenary session dedicated to **job opportunities** in the sector was launched, managed directly by EURES Network of the European Commission, with thousands of contacts even remotely.

⁷ 152 total speakers from 25 different countries, half of them from BSOs, a third from other international or national organizations, and about 15 percent from industry.

<https://www.bsbf2024.org/chairs-and-speakers/>

3. Development of available tools and BSBF calls

At the same time, some moments already established in past editions were developed, attempting to improve their effectiveness and attractiveness to new people involved or interested in the sector, through **BSBF2024 Calls** dedicated to:

- Identify new infrastructures of international significance, potentially of entrepreneurial interest to which two parallel sessions were devoted to 9 selected ABSOs – *Associated Big Science Organizations* could present their opportunities to a wide audience (ABSO call);
- Explanatory sessions on the tools available to European SMEs to facilitate and incentivize their access in the Big Science market, as well as space dedicated to 26 selected SMEs in the poster session (SME Track call);
- Selected around 50 experiences for Technology Transfer from research to market, coming from enterprises or BSOs (TT Track call);
- Strengthening women's participation in Big Science thanks to the work of Committee for Women in Big Science award (WBSF award).

Those activities were implemented through the publication of dedicated **BSBF2024 Calls**, prepared and managed by ILO Network Italy in collaboration with PERIIA – *Pan European Research Infrastructure ILO Association*, always under the supervision of the BSBF2024 IOC. In other cases, however, other means of involvement were used, as in the case of the session on employment opportunities in Big Science managed directly by Region FVG in connection with EURES Network.²

BSBF2024 Calls

Sotto la responsabilità di INI, e dopo l'approvazione dei rappresentanti delle BSOs, sono state lanciate diverse procedure aperte per l'ampio coinvolgimento di imprese e di altri soggetti a livello europeo. Nello specifico ha riguardato l'elaborazione e la pubblicazione dei seguenti bandi di gara, con la relativa procedura di selezione dei candidati:

ABSO Call – Affiliated Big Science Organizations

Selezionate 9 ABSOs da 5 paesi diversi, per presentare le proprie attività in 2 sessioni parallele dedicate.

BSCM Call – Big Science Common Market

Selezionate 8 imprese da diversi paesi. Presentazione proposte in sessione parallela, poi discusse da panel di esperti in plenaria dedicata. Sulla base di queste proposte verrà istituito un gruppo di lavoro BSBF.

SME Track Call

Selezionate 26 SMEs da 14 paesi, per presentare le proprie attività in sessioni plenarie, parallele o posters.

TTT Call – Technology Transfer Track

Selezionate 52 esperienze di trasferimento tecnologico realizzate in connessione con le BSOs.

WBSF Recognition Award – Women in Big Science Forum

Selezionate 12 buone pratiche di coinvolgimento femminile nella scienza dal comitato WBSF delle BSOs.

BSBF2026 Host Call

Selezionato paese ospitante della edizione 2026 del BSBF (Maastricht, NL)

A separate scientific/entrepreneurial importance covers publication of the **BSBF2024 Procurement Handbook**. This is the main legacy of each edition of BSBF, being the main training tool for any entrepreneurial entity wishing to approach the opportunities offered by the Big Science market. In this latest version, in addition to the traditional parts

⁸ <https://www.bsf2024.org/bsbf-calls/>

4. Toward BSBF Maastricht 2026

Through the publication of BSBF2026 Call for host, two national bids from Belgium/Netherlands and Sweden were collected. As usual, the selection process was carried out by the representatives of the BSOs, while the BSBF Trieste 2024 organizers played a mere Secretariat role in preparing, managing and evaluating the bidding documents.¹⁰

In the closing session of the Trieste forum, it was announced that the next BSBF edition will be held in **Maastricht, 27 - 30 October 2026**. The new organizers immediately expressed interest in learning the good practices gained in promoting the event and in this regard requested active support from the organizers of BSBF Trieste 2024. This report and the summary tool called Appreciation traffic light make a synthesis of the quality questionnaire outcomes on the activities content of the last edition Forum.

Generalized appreciation found almost unanimously regarding the activities proposed by BSBF2024 is closely related to the almost total confirmation of participation in the 2026 edition by those who responded to the questionnaire. However, this also creates additional expectations regarding the need to continue or not on many new activities recently introduced. These needs are related to the characteristics and aptitudes of each individual host organization, and some activities could easily be improved based on the experience gained or new ones could be tried out. However, it would probably be a mistake if in the new organizers would not follow up innovative promotional schemes introduced, as "BSBF visits BSOs" or the relations with EURES Network, ESFRI - *European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure*, European Commission, other National and International Organizations after the effort made to activate them.

⁹ <https://www.bsbf2024.org/procurement-handbook/>

¹⁰ <https://www.bsbf2024.org/bsbf2026-call-for-host-2/>

| | Poor | Average | Good |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| BSBF2024 appreciation | | | |
| Attendance at BSBF2026 | Maybe | Definitely Yes | |
| BSBF Frequency | Every 2 years | | 3 years 4 years |
| BSBF Duration | 2 days | 3 days | 4 days |

Not all innovations have been received in the same way. In fact, while it is true that there is an extremely widespread desire to continue holding the Forum every two years, the majority of participants seemed inclined to confirm the 3-day work formula adopted by the BSBF Granada 2022 (in which only site visits were held on the morning of the fourth day for those who had registered) in contrast to the Trieste formula, which provided for the continuation of the forum even on the morning of the fourth day, open for the occasion to the participation of students and young people interested in plenary sessions on job opportunities and women's involvement in Big Science, while site visits were held.

This preference probably stems from the perception that a forum that lasts almost the entire working week is too demanding not only for those organizing it, but also for the companies and other international players attending. Doing so, however, reduces the space available for the many sessions in the business program, but also for the various activities now inherent in the BSBF such as satellite meetings, exhibition space, B2B meetings, social and networking opportunities, etc.

It will be a daunting task for the new IOC and the BSBF2026 organizers to find the right balance without overly penalizing innovative aspects appreciated in Trieste. It is possible to go in deep with organization structure consulting part of BSBF2024 Programme Book in the following Annexes.³



BSBF2024 IOC/LOC members

¹¹ <https://www.bsf2024.org/books/>

Conclusions

Traditionally, the BSBF program will fit into a well-established forum structure. Anyway, it would be important to give appropriate space to all those topics where there is a consensus within IOC to continue a series of new Big Science activities.

A general consensus was already well established on activities to build up a **Big Science Common Market** (BSCM), incorporating concrete proposals that emerged during BSBF2024, in order to facilitate the access of new companies, boosting European technological development and their international competitiveness. Proposals concern the possible establishment of working groups on BSCM, including with other actors beyond representatives of BSOs, to address the issues:

- Standardization of codes used for Call for tenders in order to have their harmonization and facilitate business access. Such BSBF working group could be composed of representatives from all interested BSOs, EIROforum, PERIIA, business associations and other international stakeholders;
- Creation of a common Market Place on the web, where it will be possible to collect the publication in one virtual place of all the bidding opportunities of the different BSOs. It would be important in design it a wide involvement of PERIIA, European Commission and other international stakeholders;
- Forms of mutual recognition of qualifications required for companies to participate in call for tenders issued by different Big Science Organizations;
- Searching for innovative forms of procurement and public-private partnerships;
- Seeking new cooperative relationships with BSOs globally.

There are also other issues addressed during BSBF2024 for which there is a widespread willingness to move forward. For example, it is deemed useful to continue with outreach to companies and other stakeholders in those countries where there is just a little presence in Big Science (e.g. Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Baltics). Or the creation of a **Big Science Masterclass** promoted by university network, in direct collaboration with BSOs, covering different scientific studies requested by multidisciplinary education needed in Big Science domain.

Big Science needs reorganization and simplification of tools for improving industrial participation, in particular in the Italian economic context. A trend that is already widely in place in many countries and some targeted BSBF activities have shown can be addressed, both internationally and nationally. Innovative actions can be implemented to get an ever-increasing structured link between research and business to pave the way towards a Big Science Common Market and new forms of global governance of Big Science.

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Annex

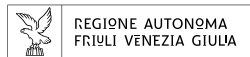
BSBF2024 Programme Book

- BSBF2024 - Promoters and Supporters pag. 2
- IOC – International Organizing Committee pag. 4
- LOC – Local Organizing Committee pag. 5
- BSOs – Big Science Organizations pag. 6
- BSBF Trieste 2024 - Italian Host Organizers pag. 10
- ABSOs – Affiliated Big Science Organizations pag. 13

Big Science Organizations



Host Organizers of BSBF Trieste 2024



In collaboration with



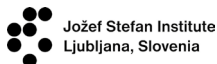
and in collaboration with the following Research agencies



With the support of



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The International Organizing Committee

Big Science Organizations

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BSBF 2024

Big Science Organizations (BSOs)



CERN

CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, uses advanced instruments to study fundamental particles and universal laws. Scientists at CERN develop cutting-edge technologies for accelerators, detectors and computing, requiring a continuous supply of resources and services. Each year, the Organization allocates nearly half of its 1.3 billion CHF budget to industry procurement. CERN's procurement rules adhere to transparency and impartiality, ensuring balanced industrial returns for its Member States. Any firm based on Member or Associate Member states that can provide evidence of good performance and ethical business practice is encouraged to apply to our upcoming surveys and invitations to tender. Contracts are awarded based on compliance with origin, technical, financial, environmental, and delivery requirements, offering the highest overall value to CERN. CERN is looking forward to doing business with you. Register your firm on the CERN's supplier database. You can find more information on our website (Procurement website) or if you have any questions, you can contact Procurement.Service@cern.ch.



ESA

ESA is Europe's comprehensive space agency, active across every area of the space sector; space science, human spaceflight, exploration, earth observation, space transportation, navigation, operations, technology, telecommunications and safety and security from space. ESA promotes a broad competitiveness of European space industries through its industrial policy. ESA also works in close cooperation with the EU and other European organizations as well as space organizations outside Europe. ESA is further increasingly active in stimulating the downstream market that follows from space developments and applications. ESA works with economic operators to carry out projects and activities in all areas mentioned.



ESO

The **European Southern Observatory** (ESO) enables scientists worldwide to discover the secrets of the Universe for the benefit of all. We design, build and operate world-class observatories on the ground — which astronomers use to tackle exciting questions and spread the fascination of astronomy — and promote international collaboration for astronomy. An intergovernmental organisation supported by 16 Member States and two partner countries, ESO has headquarters in Germany and operates three observing sites in Chile.



ESRF

The **ESRF**, the European Synchrotron, is the world's most intense X-ray source and a centre of excellence for fundamental and innovation-driven research in condensed and living matter science. Funded by 20 partner countries, the ESRF welcomes around 10,000 scientists each year to carry out leading-edge research, addressing the complex societal challenges, such as health, energy and the environment. It also contributes to the development of new technologies for industry and to preserving humanity's cultural heritage.

In 2020, the ESRF opened a brand-new generation of high-energy X-ray source, ESRF-EBS (Extremely Brilliant Source), with X-ray performances multiplied by 100 compared to before. Selected as a Landmark in the ESFRI Roadmap, ESRF-EBS hails a new era for X-ray science in imaging condensed and living matter, such as sub-cellular imaging of human organs, time-resolved serial crystallography, but also with applications for new sustainable materials for energy and industry, and the studies of key molecular components of our universe.



ESS

ESS is a research facility under construction in Lund, Sweden, with its data centre in Denmark. When completed it will be the world's most powerful accelerator-based neutron source. Researchers from academia and industry will use ESS to learn about materials, unlocking discoveries and driving innovative solutions for global challenges, from energy to healthcare and sustainability. ESS is being built by 13 countries, with components designed and constructed by technical experts from more than 40 European research institutes with contributions from over 100 laboratories worldwide.



XFEL

European XFEL in the Hamburg area is an international research facility of superlatives and the world's largest X-ray laser: 27,000 X-ray flashes per second and a brilliance that is a billion times higher than that of the best conventional X-ray sources open up new opportunities for science. Researchers from around the world map the atomic details of viruses, decipher the molecular composition of cells, take three-dimensional "photos" of the nanoworld, "film" chemical reactions, and study processes such as those occurring deep inside planets. European XFEL is a non-profit company that cooperates closely with other research organizations worldwide. It has a workforce of more than 550 employees and started user operation September 2017. At present, 12 countries have signed the European XFEL convention: Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. For more information on European XFEL go to www.xfel.eu.



FAIR

The **FAIR (Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe)** is a world-class scientific facility in Darmstadt, Germany, focusing on accelerator-based research. Currently, the project is advancing in constructing new sections and transitioning to the installation phase of its particle accelerator. This phase presents significant opportunities for industrial companies in construction, high-tech engineering, and related fields. These companies can contribute to a pioneering scientific infrastructure that will facilitate cutting-edge experiments in physics and materials science.



F4E

Fusion for Energy (F4E) is the European Union's organisation for Europe's contribution ITER- the biggest international fusion experiment.

One of the main tasks of F4E is to work together with European industry, SMEs and research organizations to develop and provide a wide range of components together with engineering, maintenance and support services. F4E also supports fusion R&D projects through the Broader Approach Agreement signed with Japan and prepares for the construction of demonstration fusion reactors (DEMO).

F4E was created by a decision of the Council of the European Union and was established in April 2007 for a period of 35 years.

Its headquarters are in Barcelona (Spain) and has offices in Garching (Germany), Rokkasho, Naka (Japan). For more information: www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu.



ILL

The **ILL** is the world-leading facility for neutron science and technology. Its high-flux reactor delivers the world's most intense neutron beams to a state-of-the-art suite of more than 40 public instruments. Neutrons are a unique and powerful probe of materials and processes. ILL's instruments, complemented by a comprehensive suite of labs and scientific support services, enable cutting-edge research across a wide range of scientific domains, including physics, chemistry, biology, and materials science. The ILL works closely with industry and develops an impactful program addressing societal challenges namely in health, energy, sustainability and climate changes, and quantum technologies. The ILL hosts researchers mainly from 14 stakeholder countries in Europe, with 10% coming from about 30 other countries. In total, there are about 2500 researcher visits each year. The ILL is a Landmark Facility on the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, recognising its central role in the ecosystem of European research facilities.

The **SKA Observatory** (SKAO) is an intergovernmental organisation with member states on five continents, headquartered in the UK. Its mission is to build and operate cutting-edge radio telescopes to transform our understanding of the Universe, and deliver benefits to society through global collaboration and innovation. The SKAO's two telescopes, under construction in South Africa and Australia, will be the most advanced radio telescopes on Earth, exploring the frontiers of science and deepening our understanding of key processes, including galaxy evolution, fundamental physics in extreme environments and the origins of life. Through technological innovations and its contribution to addressing societal challenges, the SKAO will help to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefits across its membership and beyond. The SKAO recognises and acknowledges the Indigenous peoples and cultures that have traditionally lived on the lands on which its facilities are located.



Credit: FAIR

BSBF 2024 Host Organizers



Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

A crossroads between the Mediterranean and Central Europe and historically a meeting place for peoples and cultures, Friuli Venezia Giulia is one of the five regions with special statute in the Italian Republic, with direct legislative power over specific key areas for its socio-economic development and marked financial autonomy.

This small borderland, nestled between the Alps and the Adriatic, is home to three universities, numerous scientific institutions, and, since 2016, to SIS Fvg – a network born from the agreement between the Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of University and Research, aimed at enhancing the scientific and innovation system.

This comprehensive and integrated network, strongly supported by the regional administration, has led Friuli Venezia Giulia to be awarded the title of "strong innovator" by the European Union and to be recognized by the European Committee of the Regions for its sustainable growth strategy.



ILO Network Italia

The ILO Network Italy is the network of **Italian Industrial Liaison Officers** (ILOs) for major European research facilities, who act as a bridge between major research projects and Italian Industry. The ILOs are available to assist national industries interested in participating in international tenders to become suppliers for large research infrastructures. The activities of the ILO offices are supported by the national research institutions **CNR**, **ENEA**, **INAF**, and **INFN**, which operate within the framework of their respective institutional activities and have long-standing and productive collaborative relationships.

These entities promote the participation of the Italian industry in major international scientific endeavours in their respective fields of interest, and they support these activities with their own resources to maximize industrial returns, encouraging national participation in international projects or centers of research excellence.

Each member or associate country in these international scientific projects designates a national ILO who serves as a contact, promoter, and coordinator between the international centers and the companies of their country, within the specific ILO Network committees promoted by each research infrastructure.

Italy participates as a member country in all major research projects and their associated European market for goods and services. Italian industries represent excellence on a global scale in this sector, characterized by the development and production of highly advanced technological products. ILOs are experts who support their nation's businesses in participating in tenders at large research infrastructures.

ILO Network Italy offers to national companies a coherent overview of all available opportunities within the common market of Research and Big Science, starting with the national coordination of participation in various editions of the BSBF - Big Science Business Forum. Finally, the network is a useful tool for strengthening collaborations between the ILOs and the institutions in which they operate, contributing to the growth of the impact of research and innovation of Italian industry worldwide, particularly in high-tech sectors with strong global market competition.



Area Science Park: an ecosystem of research, innovation and enterprise

Supervised by the **Italian Ministry of University and Research**, Area Science Park is a **national research body** headquartered in Trieste. Established in 1978 to develop scientific and technological research in the region, over the years it has accrued specific skills in conceiving and implementing technology transfer initiatives and **innovative services**. Today, Area Science Park's main focuses include:

- highly specialized research in the field of **omics sciences, new materials** and **data science**
- management and development of **research and technology infrastructures**
- design of **innovation models to support industry**.

Area Science Park is responsible for managing and developing a science and technology park spanning 80,000+ sqm. The site is spread over two campuses in the Karst region of Trieste, both fully equipped for R&D work.

The park hosts **59 national and international research organizations and companies** working on site, employing 2,800 people in total.

With three main laboratories on its premises (**Genomics and Epigenomics Lab, Electron Microscopy Lab, Data Engineering Lab**) operating with cutting edge technology equipment and accessible in an open access mode by researchers from academia and business alike, Area Science Park is par of **networks of scientific collaboration and international research infrastructures**.

IO SONO
FRIULI
VENEZIA
GIULIA



PromoTurismoFVG – IO SONO FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

PromoTurismoFVG is the Destination Management Organization (DMO) for the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, dedicated to enhancing the region's natural, cultural, and culinary assets both nationally and internationally. Its mission is to develop the tourism system by welcoming visitors as "temporary citizens."

PromoTurismoFVG provides strategic guidelines and manages operations for the region's main beaches, Grado and Lignano Sabbiadoro, as well as six ski resorts: Sappada, Piancavallo, Sauris - Forni di Sopra, Zoncolan, Tarvisio, and Sella Nevea-Kanin. The agency closely collaborates with stakeholders, promoting key regional brands such as Collio, San Daniele, Montasio, and Trieste.

The tourism offerings are broad and diverse, including arts and culture, seaside experiences, year-round mountain activities, biking and outdoor adventures, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions), weddings, golf, and historic villages. Gastronomy is a central, cross-cutting element that integrates with all other offerings. PromoTurismoFVG places a strong emphasis on the MICE sector, recognizing it as a crucial driver for business tourism. The region offers modern infrastructure and unique venues, making it an ideal destination for events. It supports event organizers with tailored services, including team-building activities, ensuring a seamless and sustainable experience.

Additionally, PromoTurismoFVG is a key promoter of the **Big Science Business Forum (BSBF) 2024**, an international event connecting the worlds of science and industry. BSBF 2024 provides a platform for collaboration between companies, institutions, and research centers, highlighting Friuli Venezia Giulia, particularly Trieste, as a hub for scientific innovation.



Credit: ESRF

The BSBF 2024 affiliated Big Science Organizations (ABSOs)

The BSBF is a business-oriented congress that brings together the main European research infrastructures and European industry to present and discuss the prospects of the Big Science market in terms of future developments, investments, and procurement opportunities.

The aim of ABSOs call is to bring to the table also those European or national research infrastructures that are not yet involved in the event. To qualify, these facilities must have a dedicated procurement budget for the period 2024-2028 and must be interested in communicating with industry about upcoming business opportunities and procurements that are open to European industry.

Research infrastructures selected through this call will present their projects and procurement plans in two dedicated parallel sessions, will have the opportunity to reserve a dedicated space in the exhibition area to showcase their activities, and will be available for networking with industry throughout the entire congress.

Selected ABSOs



Cherenkov Telescope
Array Observatory



Consorcio
ESS Bilbao



Divertor
Tokamak Test



Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste

Elettra -
Sincrotrone Trieste



EST European
Solar Telescope



Extreme Light
Infrastructure ERIC



IFMIF-DONES
España



INFN - Istituto Nazionale
di Fisica Nucleare



Multi-purpose HYbrid
Research Reactor for
High-tech Applications

BIG SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS



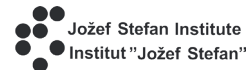
AND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH AGENCIES



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