International Energy Agency
TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION PROGRAMMES

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the International Energy Agency (IEA)?

The IEA works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 29 member countries and beyond. Founded in 1974, the IEA was initially designed to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil such as the crisis of 1973/4. While this remains a key aspect of its work, the IEA has evolved and expanded. It is at the heart of global dialogue on energy, providing authoritative statistics and analysis.

The IEA examines the full spectrum of energy issues and advocates policies that will enhance the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy in its 29 member countries and beyond. The four main areas of IEA focus are:

- Energy security: Promoting diversity, efficiency and flexibility within all energy sectors.

- Economic development: Ensuring the stable supply of energy to IEA member countries and promoting free markets to foster economic growth and eliminate energy poverty.

- Environmental awareness: Enhancing international knowledge of options for tackling climate change.

- Engagement worldwide: Working closely with non-member countries, especially major producers and consumers, to find solutions to shared energy and environmental concerns.

For more information on the IEA, see www.iea.org.

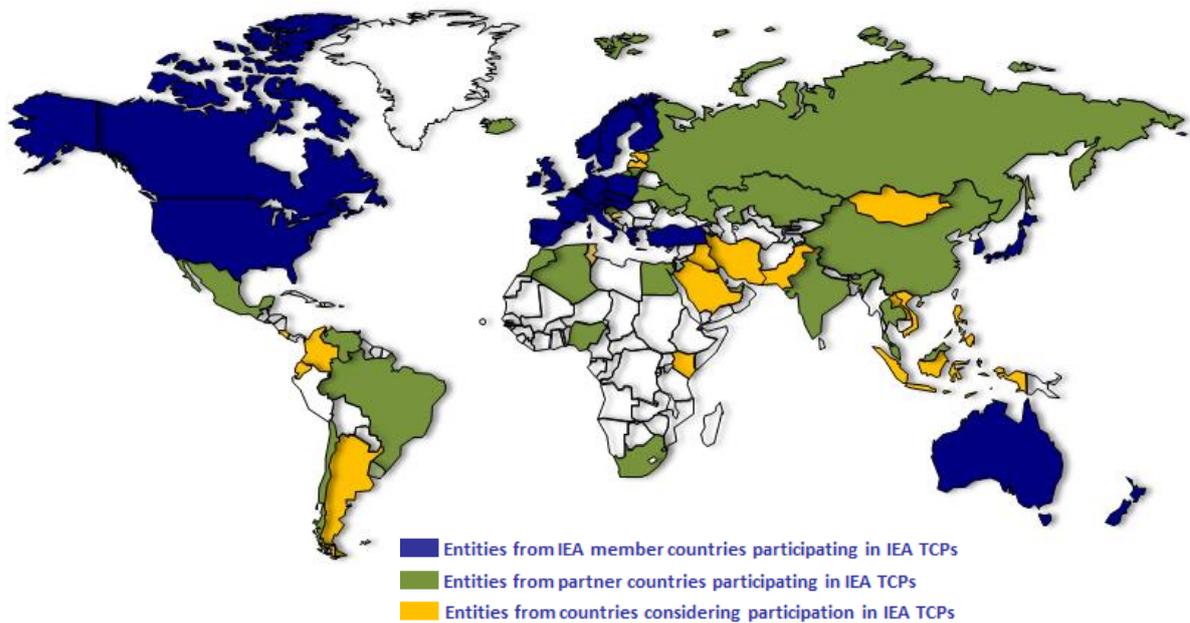### What is an IEA Technology Collaboration Programme?

The IEA Technology Collaboration Programmes (TCP) are 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. TCPs currently cover topics related to:

- efficient end-use (buildings, electricity, industry, transport)
- cleaner fossil fuels (greenhouse-gas mitigation, extraction, supply, transformation)
- renewable energy and hydrogen (technologies and policies for deployment)
- cross-cutting issues (modelling, technology transfer, project financing)
- fusion power (safety, physics, materials, technologies).

The 6,000 experts in the TCPs work to advance the research, development and commercialisation of energy technologies. The scope and strategy of each TCP is in keeping with the IEA Shared Goals of energy security, environmental protection and economic growth, as well as engagement worldwide. Depending on the TCP, activities may include:

- basic and applied research, technology development and pilot plants
- technology assessment, feasibility studies, environmental impact studies, market analysis, policy implications
- information exchange of research results and programmes
- scientist exchanges
- databases, modelling and systems analysis
- experts' networks.

Worldwide participation in TCPs

Legend:
- Entities from IEA member countries participating in IEA TCPs
- Entities from partner countries participating in IEA TCPs
- Entities from countries considering participation in IEA TCPs

This map is without prejudice to the status of sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries, and to the name of any territory, city or area. Experts from countries shown above participate in activities of the TCPs.

How are TCP activities financed?

Each TCP is self-financed by the participants, 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. In TCPs funded through a cost-sharing approach, each participant contributes to a common fund which can then be used to finance activities under the TCP's programme of work. In TCPs funded through a task-sharing approach, each participant contributes resources in-kind (for example personnel or materials).

How are TCPs governed?

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).

What is the role of the IEA in the TCPs?

The IEA provides the framework for collaboration through TCPs which is known as the *IEA Framework for International Technology Co-operation*. This sets out the minimum requirements for TCPs and outlines the principal responsibilities of TCP participants and the various IEA bodies involved with TCPs. It is a legal structure that is designed to simplify international co-operation between national entities, business and industry. It also includes important information about participation and reporting requirements.

Furthermore, the Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT) and the four specialised Working Parties have regular dialogue with the TCPs and regularly consider the following aspects of a TCP:

- strategic direction
- scope
- contractual and management requirements
- contribution to technology evolution
- contribution to technology deployment and market facilitation
- policy relevance
- contribution to environmental protection
- information dissemination
- outreach to partner countries
- added value.

The IEA does not provide direct financial support to TCPs through funding, either as a signatory or as a programme manager (Operating Agent). However, the IEA Secretariat provides guidance, advice and support by acting as conduit between TCPs and policy makers, and by promoting TCP outcomes where possible. The IEA also provides legal advice in relation to processes, procedures and the legal structure of TCPs.

What are the benefits to participating in TCPs?

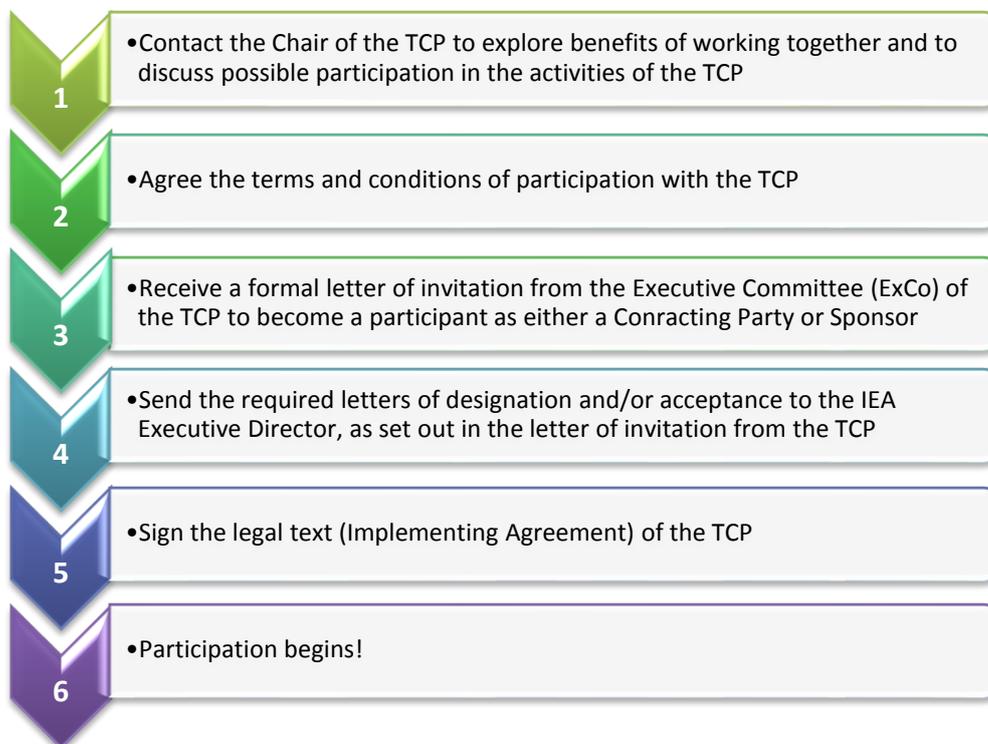There are numerous advantages to participating in the ongoing activities of TCPs:

- voting on projects carried out
- reduced cost and duplication of work
- greater project scale
- information sharing and networking
- international collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders
- linking IEA member countries with partner countries
- linking research, industry and policy
- accelerated development and deployment
- harmonised technical standards
- strengthened research capabilities.

In addition, many activities carried out by the TCPs result in publications. A number of TCPs also carry out workshops and conferences which provide opportunities for experts worldwide to share their recent results.

More than 300 public and private entities worldwide participate in the TCPs. Governmental or non-governmental entities from OECD member or non-member countries, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations are eligible to participate. Under the *IEA Framework for International Technology Co-operation*, it is possible for governments, international organisational and non-governmental entities (such as the private sector, business and industry, academia and research entities) to participate in TCPs.

How can my entity become a participant in a TCP?

A brief overview of the steps required to become a participant in the ongoing activities of a TCP is illustrated below.

1 • Contact the Chair of the TCP to explore benefits of working together and to discuss possible participation in the activities of the TCP

2 • Agree the terms and conditions of participation with the TCP

3 • Receive a formal letter of invitation from the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the TCP to become a participant as either a Conracting Party or Sponsor

4 • Send the required letters of designation and/or acceptance to the IEA Executive Director, as set out in the letter of invitation from the TCP

5 • Sign the legal text (Implementing Agreement) of the TCP

6 • Participation begins!

How are new TCPs created?

A new TCP may be created at any time, provided that:

- It is established by at least two IEA member countries.
- The scope, strategic plan and work plan are consistent with the shared goals of the IEA.
- The IEA CERT recommends the establishment of the new TCP and the IEA Governing Board approves the creation of the new TCP.

For further information

For further information regarding the TCPs, see the IEA website pages www.iea.org/tcp or send an email to iaforum[at]iea.org. For legal or procedural questions related to TCPs, please contact IMPAG.legal[at]iea.org.