INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CO-OPERATION

frequently asked questions

When the IEA was founded in 1974, the main objective of its member countries was to reduce dependence on imported oil through the development of alternative energy sources while improving energy efficiency. More recently, concerns such as greenhouse gas emissions and globalization have underlined the need for international co-operation.

To support these core issues, the IEA created a legal contract – Implementing Agreement – and a system of standard rules and regulations that would allow interested member and non-member governments to pool resources and research the development and deployment of particular technologies.

For more than 30 years, technology collaboration has been a fundamental building block among IEA member and non-member countries in facilitating progress of new or improved energy technologies.

What is IEA technology collaboration?

Technology collaboration provides the basis for interested parties to undertake energy technology research, development and deployment activities.

In 2005 there were 40 collaborative projects with several thousand participants from 58 countries, organisations or companies working in the areas of:

- Fossil Fuels
- Renewable Energies and Hydrogen
- End-Use (transport, buildings, industry)
- Fusion Power
- Cross-sectional Activities

Who can participate?

The IEA technology collaboration programme is open to IEA member and non-member countries. Typically, participants are:

- Governmental or energy technology entities representing governments
- Research institutes and universities
- Energy technology companies

Each signatory designates a representative to an Executive Committee that governs and administrates the work.

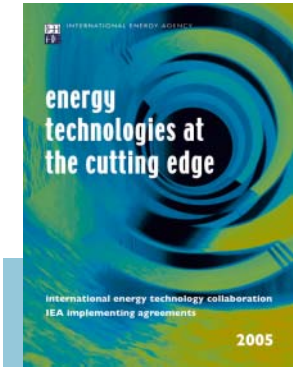
What are the benefits of participation?

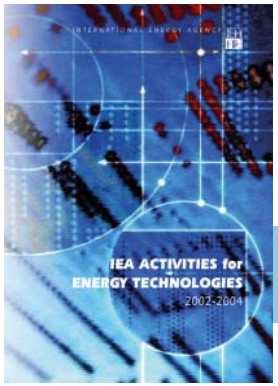
There are numerous advantages to international energy technology RD&D collaboration. Some examples include:

- Reduced cost and duplication of work
- Greater project scale
- Information sharing and networking
- Linking IEA member countries and non-member countries
- Linking research, industry and policy
- Accelerated development and deployment
- Harmonized technical standards
- Strengthened national RD&D capabilities

In addition, the IEA technology collaboration programme has a proven record of successful management that allows:

- Flexibility
- Intellectual property rights protection





How is technology collaboration structured?

The programme of work and strategy of each technology collaboration contract (Implementing Agreement) must fit into the IEA shared goals: energy security, environmental protection and economic growth. Typically, the work includes:

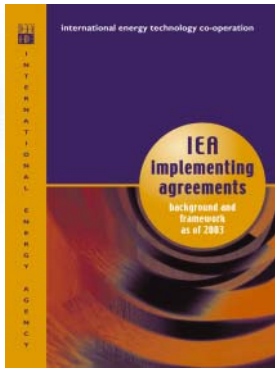
- Technology assessment, feasibility studies, environmental impact studies, market analysis, policy implications
- Research projects - from laboratory scale to pilot facility scale
- Information exchange of programs, policies, funding priorities, research, modeling
- Dissemination of results and experiences acquired

How is technology collaboration financed?

Technology collaboration can be financed on a cost-shared or task-shared basis, or a combination of both, as long as the signatories agree and as set out in the Implementing Agreement.

Task-sharing works well when there are a number of different concepts that are being investigated by different participants in parallel, while cost-sharing is more appropriate for funding a single joint activity or experiment.

Some participants use common funds to cover the costs of central administration, leaving the project costs to be task-shared. Others may rely entirely on task-sharing, which reduces administrative burdens for accounting but implies a detailed definition of each participant's rights and obligations.



What is the IEA Framework?

The IEA Framework for International Technology Co-operation, adopted by the Governing Board on 3 April 2003 to replace the IEA Guiding Principles for Co-operation in the Field of Energy Research and Development, sets forth minimum legal and management requirements for Implementing Agreements, including, e.g., who can participate, the process to become a participant, reports required by the IEA and the maximum initial term and manner of extension of Implementing Agreements.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE IEA

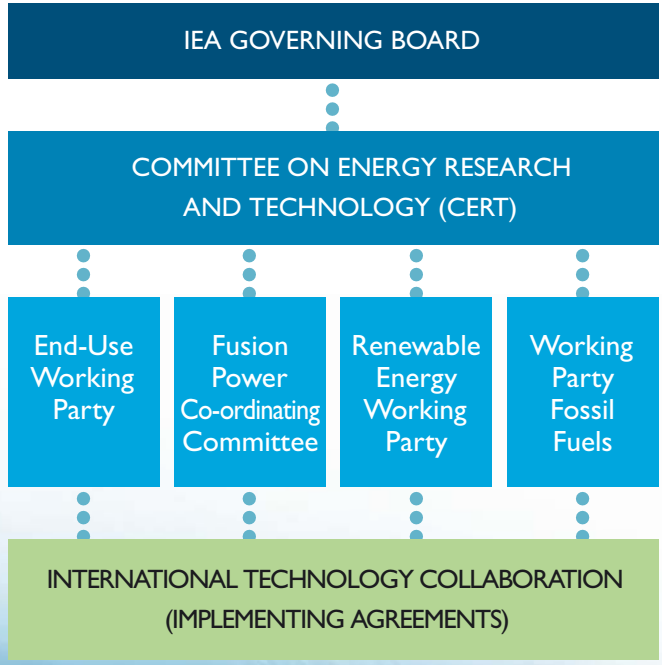
The role of the IEA Secretariat in the energy technology collaboration programme is to:

- Provide legal advice and support
- Identify areas of common interest between the IEA and the Implementing Agreements via workshops, publications and other collaborative efforts
- Report on energy technology collaboration activities via the IEA Web pages, the *OPEN Bulletin*, the publication *Energy Technologies at the Cutting Edge* and other material

Every five years, the IEA **Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT)** and its Working Parties review the effectiveness, achievements and strategy of each Implementing Agreement. The CERT is also responsible for overseeing the energy R&D technology issues of all IEA member governments by:

- Analysing energy technology issues and recommending effective policy approaches based on member country experiences
- Tracking trends in energy technology RD&D
- Encouraging international co-operation on the research, demonstration, and deployment of energy technologies

IEA ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



HOW CAN MY ORGANISATION PARTICIPATE?

If your organisation is interested in participating in the technology collaboration programme, the first step is to contact the Chair, Operating Agent or Executive Secretary of an Implementing Agreement to discuss and define together what form your participation might take. Thereafter follows an exchange of letters (formal invitation, acceptance, and notification), with the final step being the signature of the actual contract (Implementing Agreement).

How are new Implementing Agreements established?

A new Implementing Agreement can be created at any time, provided that:

- It is established by at least two IEA member countries
- The scope, strategic plan and work plan fit into the overall energy technology goals of the IEA member country governments
- The IEA Committee on Energy Research and Technology and Governing Board have given their approval

For more information

For more information on the energy technology collaboration programme, its legal Framework, or details on the activities of individual Implementing Agreements, please see the IEA website Technology Agreements pages at

www.iea.org/techagr

For specific queries relating to the IEA Energy Technology Collaboration Programme, or for information on related energy technology and R&D activities at the IEA, contact:

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