

Big business opportunities for UK companies at world-class science facilities

UK companies have won more than £240M* of work from large international science facilities over the last ten years with the help of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

What we do

The STFC Business Opportunities team provides free assistance to UK companies working in a diverse range of sectors. From office supplies to instrumentation we help businesses to access contracts from the large international science facilities that STFC funds on behalf of the UK.

How tender opportunities can benefit your business

We provide:

- Advance notice of upcoming tenders
- Advice on how to work with facilities and on the tendering process
- Access to tenders coming from the facilities
- Opportunities to build relationships with the facilities
- A range of events to link industry with facility procurement specialists

*The UK has won £239,027,107 in contracts from 2008 – 2017 from CERN, ESO, ESRF and ILL.

Credit: ESRF

We publicise tenders from:

- **CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research)**
Geneva, Switzerland
CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory, is home to the Large Hadron Collider and has a procurement budget of ~£350M every year. The LHC is currently undergoing a major upgrade: the HL-LHC project.
- **ESO (European Southern Observatory)**
Garching, Germany
ESO run a suite of ground-based telescopes around the world with an annual procurement budget of ~£90M/year. They are currently constructing the 39 metre E-ELT (European Extremely Large Telescope) in Chile.
- **ESS (European Spallation Source)**
Lund, Sweden
Currently under construction, the ESS will be a research facility using neutrons produced via spallation.



- **ESRF (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility)**
Grenoble, France
The ESRF is a high energy synchrotron radiation facility, producing intense X-rays for scientific research.
- **ILL (Institut Laue-Langevin)**
Grenoble, France
The ILL is a reactor-based neutron scattering facility located on the same site as the ESRF. Together the ESRF and ILL have a combined procurement budget of ~£60M/year.
- **SKA (Square Kilometre Array)**
Jodrell Bank, UK
The SKA will be the world's largest radio telescope, with dishes in South Africa and antennas in Western Australia; construction is due to begin in late 2019.
- **European XFEL (X-ray Free Electron Laser)**
Hamburg, Germany
The European XFEL produces intense, short pulses of X-rays for scientific research in a wide range of disciplines.
- **FAIR (Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research)**
Darmstadt, Germany
Once construction is complete, FAIR will be a new international accelerator facility for research with antiprotons and ions.

Opportunities available

In addition to the high-tech equipment needed for their instrumentation, the international science facilities have large sites and they need equipment and services to maintain and run this infrastructure.

They have contract opportunities in a wide range of sectors, from off the shelf products to new cutting-edge technologies which need a significant R&D phase.

These sectors include:

- Civil engineering (including architecture and building maintenance)
- Computing and information technologies
- Electronics and electrical engineering
- Instrumentation (including accelerators, cryogenics, vacuum, and detector technologies)
- Mechanical engineering
- Optics and detectors

Working with the large research facilities could have a big impact on your business. Companies who worked with CERN have been able to develop new products, move into new sectors, increase their national and international exposure and grow their business.

Contract successes for UK industry:

- Tesla Engineering Ltd have won contracts totalling €7.8M to supply the ESRF with quadrupole and dipole-quadrupole magnets as part of the Extremely Brilliant Source (EBS) upgrade project. Working with the ESRF has helped Tesla to continue to improve their practices, and as a direct result of the contract Tesla have recruited a significant number of technicians from the local area.
- Centerprise have won two contracts totalling ~£2.3M to supply CERN with 25 petabytes of storage units and 120 two rack unit quad node servers. For both contracts Centerprise worked in partnership with E4 Computing Engineering to test different solutions to find the best option to meet CERN's requirements.
- Teledyne e2v have been awarded a multi-million pound contract to produce a set of imaging sensors for use on ESO's Extremely Large Telescope (ELT). The contract award builds on e2v's long history of providing state of the art imaging sensors for astronomy instruments and telescopes around the world and in space.



Credit: ILL

For more information, please contact the STFC Business Opportunities team:

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You can access our service and the tender opportunities available by registering on our database: tenderopportunities.stfc.ac.uk