

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Implementing Agreement?

Implementing Agreements, or IAs, are multilateral technology initiatives that enable experts from governments and industry to work together to carry out programmes and projects on energy technology research, development and deployment (RD&D). These initiatives form contracts based on the principle of equitable sharing of rights and obligations. There are currently 40 IAs working in the areas of:

- cross-cutting activities;
- end-use (buildings, electricity, industry, transport);
- fossil fuels;
- fusion power;
- renewable energies and hydrogen.

Who can participate?

Participation is open to any public or private organisation from IEA member or non-member countries, as well as international and non-governmental organisations, academia and industry. The work of each Agreement is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of representatives designated by each member.

What are the benefits of participation?

International energy technology RD&D collaboration offers numerous advantages including:

- reduced cost and duplication of work;
- greater project scale;
- information sharing and networking;
- linking IEA member and non-member countries;
- linking research, industry and policy;
- accelerated development and deployment;
- harmonised technical standards;
- strengthened national RD&D capabilities.

How are the programmes structured?

The scope and strategy of each IA is in keeping with the IEA shared goals of energy security, environmental protection and economic growth, as well as engagement worldwide. Typically, the work includes:

- 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;
- expert networks.

How are IA projects financed?

Each IA is self financed by the participants. The research may be carried out on a cost- or task-shared basis, or a combination of both, as long as all signatories agree. Task-sharing works best when there are a number of different concepts under investigation by different participants in parallel. Cost-sharing is practical when funding joint activities or experiments. Some IAs cover the cost of central administration with a common fund, while the research projects are task-shared. Others rely entirely on task sharing, which implies a detailed definition of each signatory's participation.

What is the IEA framework?

The IEA Framework for International Technology Cooperation specifies the minimum legal and management requirements for IAs including the mandate, the nature of agreements, participation and withdrawal, copyright, length of term, reporting requirements and specific provisions concerning the structure of each programme.

What is the role of the IEA in the Implementing Agreements?

The IEA Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT) and the working parties (WPs) regularly review and rate IAs according to the following criteria:

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

In addition, the IEA Secretariat provides support by providing

legal advice, acting as conduit between IAs and policy makers, and promoting IA outcomes through *Energy Technology Initiatives*, the *OPEN Bulletin*, IEA website and at international events. The IEA does not provide direct support to IAs through funding, as a signatory or as a programme manager (Operating Agent).

How are new IAs created?

A new Implementing Agreement 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 fit into the shared goals of the IEA;
- the IEA Committee on Energy Research and Technology and the IEA Governing Board have approved.