



# Introduction to ESRF

The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) is a scientific research facility in Grenoble, France

## Who?

It is supported by the UK and 21 partner nations including France, Germany, Spain and Italy.

The UK contributes 10.5% of the ESRF's annual budget. The Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC) manages the UK's contribution to the ESRF.

## What?

The ESRF is a huge, doughnut-shaped scientific machine called a synchrotron.

## How?

844m in circumference, the machine accelerates electrons close to the speed of light so that they give off extremely bright beams of x-ray light.

The x-rays are directed into specialised laboratories known as 'beamlines' where researchers carry out experiments.

## Why?

The x-rays produced by the ESRF are the brightest in the world. Researchers use this bright x-ray light to study materials and living matter at an atomic scale.

## Key research areas



### AEROSPACE & AUTOMOTIVE

Studying materials under stress and conducting fatigue tests



### HEALTH

Inventing new, more targeted drugs



### MATERIALS FOR TOMORROW

Identifying new types of semiconductor



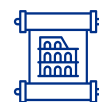
### CLEAN ENERGY

Studying the fast-charging of batteries



### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Developing more environmentally-friendly chemical products



### HUMANITY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Reading tiny fragments of ancient manuscripts



# Working with the ESRF

## Procurement budget

ESRF annual procurement budget: ~£30M

## Procurement process

Tenders at the ESRF are not publicly advertised. The STFC Business Opportunities team acts as the Industrial Liaison Office for the UK, providing a free service to support UK companies interested in working with the ESRF and promoting relevant tenders to them.

The STFC Business Opportunities team receives advance notification of all ESRF tenders estimated to exceed €50,000 and can put forward UK companies who would like to participate. Firms cannot propose themselves.

The ESRF procures via a competitive process, awarding contracts on a **best value for money** basis.

## ESRF and UK Industry

As the UK is one of the 22 partner countries that funds the ESRF, the ESRF works with the UK to achieve a fair return on its investment, including providing UK companies with opportunities to bid for contracts.

There are many areas in which UK companies can supply products and services to the ESRF.

## KEY SECTORS



Instrumentation



Cryogenics and Vacuum Equipment



Mechanical Engineering



Optics and Photonics



ICT and Electronics



Electrical Engineering and Magnets

## Tender process for >€50,000

Notice of forthcoming tender released by the ESRF

Details advertised by the STFC Business Opportunities team

Evaluation of responses by the ESRF

Evaluation of CFT responses by the ESRF

Contract placed  
On a best value for money basis



The STFC Business Opportunities team provides free assistance to UK industry to help them hear about and win contracts at the ESRF.

To receive advance notice of forthcoming tenders, advice on the ESRF's procurement processes, and invites to targeted events register at [stfc.ukri.org/tender](http://stfc.ukri.org/tender)

Or get in touch direct at [tenderopportunities@stfc.ukri.org](mailto:tenderopportunities@stfc.ukri.org)  
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