

How to get your idea through the FORCE – system.

FORCE is a company driven organization and all ideas, proposals and projects shall have its origin within a member company. Apart from this principle, there are no fixed rules for how a project enters and is processed in the system. However, the most common processes are described below.

The Network Groups are open to all member companies and is where an idea is usually forwarded and discussed for the first time. Permanent membership in a group is not a pre-requisite for having an idea discussed.

An idea is often derived from the discussion within the Network Group itself, but may also be brought directly in by one or more member companies. Dependent on its stage of maturity the following can happen:

1. The idea is sent directly to the relevant Technical Committee (TC) for evaluation. The TC will determine if the idea is sufficiently elaborated to be sent out to the member companies as a JIP proposal or if it needs to be sent back to the relevant Network Group for additional work.
2. The idea is discussed in the Network Group and the forwarding company, together with other interested companies, may rework the proposal it is sent to the relevant Technical Committee or back to the Network Group which will handle it as described under pt.1.
3. The Network Group may decide that more information is needed and will arrange a workshop or a seminar to gather further knowledge and support before a proposal is formulated and sent to the relevant Technical Committee
4. From such workshops and seminars also additional ideas and proposals, not triggered by a specific project idea, may evolve and shall be further discussed in the Network Groups

A proposal may also be sent directly from a company to a Technical Committee for evaluation. The TC may decide to send it to a relevant Network Group or to the participating companies as a JIP – proposal, depending on its maturity.

The Technical Committee will normally work together with the original company, other interested companies and the Network Group to mature a project proposal. Such a proposal must have the support of at least two companies (including the originator) and normally (but not necessarily) one or more research or industrial partners in order to be sent out to the member companies as a proposal for a Joint Industry Project (JIP).

The TC may decide that a proposal is not sufficiently well defined to be considered a project proposal, but that it has sufficient general interest to be brought further. The TC may in such cases propose a pilot project and the Management Committee will allocate the funds if deemed relevant. The pilot work will be done in cooperation with interested companies and the results will be available to all member companies.

The final JIP proposal will be sent to the company's representatives in the General Assembly for processing and participation and technical personnel should make sure to support the proposal internally in the companies.

If the proposal gains sufficient support (financial, technical), the interested member companies will establish a Steering Committee for the project and it leaves the FORCE organization. Additional financing for may be sought from governmental funding institutions.

It is important to notice that the members of the different groups and committees are facilitators and not necessarily directly involved in the project work, neither in the preparation nor in the execution phase.

