

Press Release

Science, business, research, and institutions:
The countdown begins for the Big Science Business Forum in Trieste

The program for the third edition of the international event that connects the world of Big Science with high-tech companies, offering new perspectives for study and employment for the next generation, was presented at the Palazzo della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Trieste, Italy - 20/09/2024. The Friuli Venezia Giulia Region is ready to host the third edition of the [Big Science Business Forum](http://www.bsf2024.org) (BSBF2024), which will take place in Trieste from October 1-4, 2024, at the **Generali Convention Center** in Porto Vecchio. The official program was presented during a press conference at the Palazzo della Regione in Piazza Unità d'Italia, with key speakers including **Massimiliano Fedriga**, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and President of BSBF 2024; **Alessia Rosolen**, Regional Minister for Labor, Education, Universities, Research, and Family of Friuli Venezia Giulia; **Paolo Acunzo**, Director of BSBF 2024 - ENEA; and **Salvatore La Rosa**, Director of the Research and Innovation Department - Area Science Park.

"Connecting the scientific world with business is one of the key factors that can contribute to economic growth and improve the competitiveness of an entire country," said Massimiliano Fedriga. "BSBF is an extraordinary opportunity that Trieste has successfully embraced, leveraging its historical role in science and innovation. Hosting this event demonstrates the qualitative leap made by the Region in recent years, by investing in the most strategic research sectors, from life sciences to hydrogen, and various energy and digital transformation processes."

BSBF 2024, following previous editions in Copenhagen and Granada, is hosted by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in collaboration with **ILO Network Italia**, comprising representatives from **CNR**, **ENEA**, **INAF**, and **INFN**, with **Area Science Park** in Trieste, **PromoTurismo FVG**, and promoted by the ten leading European [Big Science Organisations](http://www.bsf2024.org) (BSOs), including **CERN**, **ESA**, **ESO**, **ESS**, **ESRF**, **European XFEL**, **FAIR**, **F4E**, **ILL**, and **SKAO**, with support from **PERIIA**, the pan-European network of **Industry Liaison Officers** (ILOs). Italy's bid to host BSBF 2024 received the backing of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, the **Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy**, the **Ministry of Environment and Energy Security**, and the **Ministry of Universities and Research**, along with the **City of Trieste**, the **University of Trieste**, the **Venezia Giulia Chamber of Commerce (Gorizia-Trieste)**, and the **Central European Initiative**.

The objective of **BSBF 2024** is to expand future opportunities for the creation of a European Big Science market, valued at around **€10 billion** annually. These funds are managed through public tenders and international contracts issued directly by the [BSOs](http://www.bsf2024.org), following specific rules and procedures, which participants will have the opportunity to explore in depth during the four-day event. *"The 2024 edition, being held for the first time in Italy, marks a significant step forward in the organization of BSBF,"* said **Paolo Acunzo**, Director of BSBF 2024 - ENEA. *"Thanks to the continuous preparatory work carried out by various promoters over the past two years, this has been made possible. Scientific seminars, dozens of presentations at international meetings, visits to major research infrastructures, and a dedicated Roadshow across the*

Host Organisers BSBF Trieste 2024

major capitals of Central and Eastern Europe have led to the engagement of new businesses from across Europe that will gather in Trieste. This has been a team effort, with both national and international stakeholders integrating into an Italian industrial context already active in the global market. I hope this international synergy between research, business, and institutions will deepen and become a virtuous model for the development of Big Science in Italy."

As **Paolo Acunzo**, BSBF Director, highlighted, to promote technological developments, facilitate economic investments, and provide business opportunities to enter the Big Science market across Europe, various tenders were issued during the two-year preparation phase, resulting in the involvement of [new SMEs](#) (26 selected from 14 different countries, including two Italian) and the selection of affiliated scientific organizations, known as [ABSOs](#) (Affiliated Big Science Organizations), involving nine from five countries, three of which are Italian.

BSBF 2024 will also showcase Friuli Venezia Giulia's commitment to scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial innovation, as emphasized by **Alessia Rosolen**, Regional Minister for Labor, Education, Universities, Research, and Family: *"With the organization of Italy's first forum dedicated to Big Science, Trieste and Friuli Venezia Giulia will be at the heart of a debate that will facilitate the exchange of valuable expertise between business and innovation leaders. This will not only keep pace with the increasingly rapid changes affecting modern society, but will also promote investment in virtuous development processes and, most importantly, open up new professional opportunities for young people through research and technological progress."*

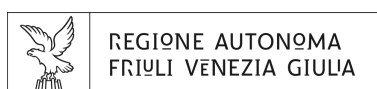
The fourth day of the forum, [Friday, October 4](#), will be dedicated to young students and researchers from across Europe, offering free admission for those under 40 [upon registration](#). This will be a unique opportunity to interact with leading experts, explore the latest high-tech and innovation trends, and participate in career-oriented initiatives designed to support the next generation of talent.

Caterina Petrillo, President of **Area Science Park**, the national research institution based in Trieste, also emphasized the strong connections between new generations, science, research, and business: "BSBF is a unique opportunity to strengthen the relationship between research infrastructures and high-specialization technology companies. Forums like this allow us to showcase the significant volume of the European scientific infrastructure market and its impact on the economy, youth training, and society. It also highlights the virtuous connection between research and deep-tech innovation, a key driver in which **Area Science Park** is investing, particularly through the development of research and technological infrastructures crucial to the green transition."

PROGRAM FOCUS

The forum will begin on **October 1** with registration and [Satellite Meetings](#) promoted by international entities and institutions external to BSBF, and it will conclude on **October 4** with the handover to the country hosting the 2026 edition. Starting from **October 2**, the program will include [six plenary sessions](#)

Host organizers of BSBF Trieste 2024



featuring representatives from institutions, the scientific community, the ten Big Science Organizations, and national and international industry; as well as [16 parallel sessions](#) focusing on technical aspects and methods for increasing industry involvement in Big Science, particularly from Eastern Europe. A total of [150 speakers](#) from across Europe are expected to participate. Throughout BSBF, [B2B meetings](#) and [visits to research centers](#) in Italy and Slovenia will also take place. Specifically:

October 1: The first day will be dedicated to registration and [Satellite Meetings](#) organized by international entities and institutions external to BSBF, such as "The Role of Academia and Industry in Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM," promoted by the **International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)**; "Hydrogen and Big Science: Innovation, Challenges, and Future. An Italo-European Perspective," promoted by **Area Science Park** and **Ceric-Eric**; and the presentation of **EuPRAXIA**, the first European project to develop a research infrastructure dedicated to particle accelerators. The [WBSBF Recognition Award](#) will also be presented.

October 2: The second day will open with **institutional greetings** and the inaugural [plenary session](#), concluding with the presentation of the **Einstein Telescope (ET)**. The first eight [parallel sessions](#), focusing on technical aspects and increasing industry involvement in Big Science, especially from Eastern Europe, will also begin in the afternoon.

October 3: The third day will focus on creating a common **European Big Science market**, with a [plenary session](#) addressing this topic. In the afternoon, the remaining eight parallel sessions will present the winners of the BSBF 2024 tenders, including those dedicated to [ABSOs](#) and new [SMEs](#) involved in the Big Science market.

October 4: The final day will be dedicated to the last three plenary sessions: "[Women in Big Science](#)" promoted by the **WBSBF committee** and "[Career Opportunities in Big Science](#)." Admission will be free for students and researchers under 40, upon registration. Registered participants will also have the opportunity to visit research centers in Italy and Slovenia: **Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste** and **KYMA**; **Jožef Stefan Institute** in Ljubljana; and **OGS**, the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics. The day will conclude with **the final plenary session**, during which the handover to the organizers of **BSBF 2026** will be led by **Alessia Rosolen**, Regional Minister for Labor, Education, Universities, Research, and Family of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

BSBF 2024 Figures

At least **1,000 delegates** from **500 organizations** will attend the forum, featuring **163 stands** with **245 exhibitors**, and **14 national pavilions**. **30 countries**, including **Italy, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia (Slovak Republic), Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and USA**, will be represented. Furthermore, **1,700 applications** from young students and researchers in Big Science have already been collected from

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across Europe, with Italy ranking second in terms of representation, thanks to BSF 2024.

Sponsors

The **Gold Sponsors** of the event are [AVS Added Value Solutions](#), [DANIELI](#), [Fincantieri S.p.A.](#), and [illycaffè S.p.A.](#) The **Silver Sponsors** are [CADINOX, S.A.](#) and [GLP Intellectual Property Office](#), while the **Bronze Sponsors** are [DELTA-TI IMPIANTI S.P.A.](#), [Serco Italia SpA](#), [T-Systems International GmbH](#) and [Generali S.p.A.](#), with **Confindustria Alto Adriatico, V.A.T. and Leonardo.**

How to Participate

Registrations to participate in the event are open through the [dedicated registration page](#). For more information, the official **BSF Trieste 2024** website www.bsf2024.org is always available, and the event app ([iOS](#) and [Android](#)) can also be downloaded.

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