

Quantum Internet Alliance Technology Forum (QIATF)

Terms of Reference, November 2026

Introduction

The Quantum Internet Alliance (“**QIA**”) is developing a full-stack quantum internet prototype network validating all key sub-systems. At the same time QIA is building an innovative European quantum internet ecosystem capable of scaling all sub-systems to world-leading European technology.

The Quantum Internet Alliance Technology Forum (“**QIATF**”) is formed by QIA to facilitate the road to innovation, strengthen the European quantum internet ecosystem, support interoperability, and prepare for the gradual transition from more research-oriented efforts to engineering, validation and deployment. Through QIATF, QIA connects industry, academia, public organisations, infrastructure providers, end-user communities, ecosystem partners and key players in various sectors of relevance to QIA quantum internet technology developments.

Scope

The scope of the QIATF is to connect and expand the QIA collaboration in a diverse ecosystem of stakeholders in various sectors to, primarily, address a specific technical demand of interest to QIA, as well as identify opportunities for further quantum internet development and / or commercial deployment, on technical areas of interest to QIA.

QIATF also serves as a forum for identifying ecosystem needs, deployment assumptions, interoperability challenges, technology convergence opportunities and strategic priorities relevant to the European quantum internet roadmap.

The activities of QIATF adhere to the QIA vision of building a global quantum internet made in Europe and align with QIA’s roadmap.

Framework

QIA convenes an annual QIATF event, which may be co-located with major European quantum events. Furthermore, QIATF Members may meet at various events, seminars and workshops organised by QIA.

The activities of the QIATF Members are organised in Special Interest Groups (SIGs). A SIG is formed by QIATF Members to engage in knowledge exchange in specific technical areas of interest to QIA and related to QIA’s mission and objectives, the development of quantum internet systems / sub-systems and applications. Establishment of a new SIG is subject to approval by QIA in accordance with these Terms of Reference.

QIATF relies on the voluntary (time and technical content) contribution of its Members, in line with the engagement mode each Member holds within a SIG.

Membership

QIATF Members support the development of QIA technology, while accelerating their own innovations in quantum internet and / or related fields.

There is a single category of QIATF Membership. QIATF Membership is the condition for joining and working in the SIGs. The rights and obligations of a Member within a SIG follow from the engagement mode it holds in that SIG, as set out under Engagement Modes below.

All QIA Specific Grant Agreement partners have by default the Doer role.

QIATF Membership is open to any legal entity that supports the purpose and scope of QIATF and meets the Membership Criteria. Membership is granted by QIA, in accordance with the Governance provisions below,

upon submission of a membership application signed by an authorised representative of the applicant confirming its acceptance of these Terms of Reference.

In deciding on admission, QIA reserves the sole and exclusive right to approve or reject any application at its discretion, taking into account the objectives and interests of QIA, the requirements referred to under International Participation, and relevant research security considerations and applicable laws and regulations.

Applications for participation in QIATF will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. No applicant shall have an automatic right to admission. QIATF Membership does not confer membership of QIA, the status of beneficiary or participant under any QIA Grant Agreement, or access to QIA Background or Results.

QIA does not charge any participation fee to QIATF Members.

Membership criteria

The applicant:

- a) supports the purpose and the scope of QIATF;
- b) is a legal entity with a registered office;
- c) is active in, or has a demonstrable interest in, quantum internet technologies, relevant networking or enabling technologies, or their deployment, use, infrastructure or standardisation;
- d) intends to contribute to the work of at least one SIG;
- e) agrees to have its visual identity (organisation name, logo) represented in the work outputs and within public communication (QIATF website sub-page, newsletters, social media content), where relevant;
- f) agrees to promote the QIA / QIATF work, where appropriate.

Rights and obligations of all Members

Irrespective of the engagement mode held in any SIG, each Member has the right to:

- a) attend the annual QIATF event;
- b) participate in activities intended for all QIATF Members, such as trainings, workshops, conferences and similar organised by QIATF;
- c) request an engagement mode in any SIG, in accordance with the participation arrangements of that SIG.

All Members are obliged to:

- a) act in good faith, transparently and with respect to all Members at all times;
- b) always behave in a professional manner: discussions are impersonal, questions are highly encouraged;
- c) follow at all times these Terms of Reference and the decisions taken by QIA under them;
- d) participate in SIG work in line with the obligations of the engagement mode they hold.

Engagement Modes

Each Member participating in a SIG holds one of three engagement modes in that SIG: Doer, Reviewer or Observer. A Member may hold different engagement modes in different SIGs. The engagement mode determines the rights and obligations of the Member, and of the experts it appoints, within that SIG. Experts act on behalf of the Member that appointed them.

Allocation. A Member requests an engagement mode when joining a SIG. The request is confirmed by the SIG Chair in accordance with the participation arrangements of that SIG. QIA may refuse or limit an engagement mode where required by the strategic objectives of QIA or by the requirements referred to under International Participation.

Change of mode. A Member may request a change of engagement mode at any time. Where a Doer or Reviewer does not fulfil the obligations of its engagement mode for a continuous period of six months, the SIG Chair may, after informing the Member, reassign it to a less demanding engagement mode. Reassignment does not affect Membership.

Rights and obligations per engagement mode.

Engagement mode	Rights within the SIG	Obligations within the SIG
Doer Active contribution to the SIG workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take part in all SIG meetings and Working Groups; access working drafts and the SIG working space; appoint up to three experts to contribute to SIG work; be appointed SIG Chair, Vice-Chair or Working Group Lead; propose the formation of a SIG; invite or propose experts of a different entity to contribute to SIG work, subject to QIA approval; vote, where voting is exceptionally required; be credited as contributor or co-author of SIG outputs to which it contributed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> actively contribute to the SIG workplan, including drafting and delivering the tasks it has taken on; take part regularly in SIG and Working Group meetings; respect agreed timelines and inform the SIG Chair in good time if it cannot deliver; take part in the annual SIG review.
Reviewer Expert review of SIG outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take part in SIG meetings and in Working Group meetings to which it is invited; access drafts released by the SIG for review; appoint up to two experts to review SIG work; have its review comments considered by the Doers; be acknowledged as reviewer of SIG outputs it reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide timely and substantiated feedback within the review windows set by the SIG; contribute expertise from its field to the review of SIG outputs.
Observer Following the SIG's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> receive SIG updates and the material the SIG releases to Observers; attend SIG meetings open to Observers; request a change to the Reviewer or Doer mode, in line with SIG-specific participation arrangements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no contribution obligation beyond the obligations of all Members.

The working practices of each engagement mode, such as indicative effort, meeting cadence and review windows, may be described in the SIG Operational Guidelines referred to under Governance.

Governance

QIA will provide for day-to-day management of all operational aspects of QIATF and communication and outreach management.

The QIA Steering Team is entrusted with the governance of QIATF. Where a decision falls within the legal scope of a QIA grant agreement, such as the release of a publication constituting dissemination of project results, or activities of a SIG carried out and funded under a grant agreement, the decision is taken by the QIA Executive Team in accordance with that Grant Agreement and the applicable Consortium Agreement.

The QIA Steering Team is responsible for all decisions necessary to accomplish the purpose of QIATF in line with QIA objectives. In particular, the QIA Steering Team is responsible for the:

- a) admission of new Members;
- b) termination of the membership of any Member, at its sole discretion, if the Member does not adhere to these Terms of Reference or if its continued membership is incompatible with the requirements referred to under International Participation;
- c) decision to establish, amend and terminate SIGs, including limiting the number of active SIGs in light of available coordination resources;
- d) appointment of SIG Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
- e) final decision on the refusal or limitation of an engagement mode;
- f) amendments of these Terms of Reference;
- g) review of SIG work and outputs;
- h) decision to publish SIG results, without prejudice to the competence of the QIA Executive Team set out above.

For the avoidance of doubt, the QIA Steering Team may adopt, and subsequently update, non-binding operational guidance documents (such as SIG Operational Guidelines) to support the implementation of these Terms of Reference. Such guidance documents supplement, but do not amend, these Terms of Reference and do not require the procedure for amendment of these Terms of Reference.

Responsibility and liability

Each Member remains responsible for its own participation in QIATF and for any information, materials or contributions it shares or uses in connection with QIATF. Participation in QIATF, and any review or approval by QIA, does not transfer such responsibility to QIA, its governance bodies or any other Member. Nothing in these Terms of Reference excludes or limits any liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

International participation

Participation in QIATF, and in the activities of its SIGs, shall support the strategic objectives of QIA, and remains at all times subject to applicable European Union legislation, applicable export-control and sanctions regimes, including in relation to the eligibility of specific organisations, sectors or countries, both for admission to Membership and for the allocation of engagement modes.

Each Member remains responsible for its own compliance with such requirements in relation to any information, technology or other material it shares or makes available through QIATF, including for obtaining any required authorisation. Admission to QIATF, the allocation of an engagement mode, participation in a SIG or approval of an output by QIA does not constitute export-control, sanctions or other legal clearance.

Information sharing and confidentiality

QIATF provides a professional environment for collaboration and knowledge exchange, but participation in QIATF does not, in itself, create a confidential environment. Members may share confidential, commercially sensitive, strategically sensitive, proprietary or otherwise restricted information at their own discretion and risk. Unless expressly agreed otherwise in writing between the relevant parties, no confidentiality obligation arises merely from participation in QIATF or from access to information shared within QIATF, a SIG or a Working Group.

Members should therefore assume that information shared within QIATF may be received, retained and used by other participants, irrespective of the engagement mode they hold, subject to applicable law and existing intellectual property rights. Each Member is responsible for determining what information it shares and for ensuring that it is entitled to do so. Members should take into account the possible consequences of disclosure,

including loss of confidentiality, effects on patentability or other intellectual property protection, commercial or strategic interests, and obligations owed to third parties.

For the avoidance of doubt, the absence of a confidentiality obligation does not in itself transfer ownership of, or grant any licence or other right under, intellectual property rights relating to the information shared.

Use of name and logo

By participating in QIATF, the organisation grants QIA permission to display its name and logo on the QIA website, QIATF materials, and social media for the sole purpose of identifying and acknowledging the work of the organisations participating in QIATF.

Such use shall be limited to factual identification and shall not imply any endorsement or sponsorship. QIA shall remove the organisation's logo upon reasonable request.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Purpose of a SIG. A SIG is formed by Members in order to address technical, architectural, interoperability, deployment and ecosystem challenges relevant to QIA's mission and objectives and to the evolution and future adoption of quantum internet systems / sub-systems and applications.

Each SIG shall have a list of participating Members with their engagement modes, its leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair), a mission statement, objectives, timeline, working method, participation arrangements and expected outputs, approved by the QIA Steering Team. The participation arrangements state whether engagement modes are confirmed openly or after review by the SIG Chair, or whether participation is by invitation only, where this is required by QIA Grant Agreement.

SIG formation and consolidation. Any Member holding, or intending to hold, the Doer mode may present an idea for a particular SIG by submitting a preliminary SIG request to QIA. The preliminary request shall include the scope, the special area of QIA quantum internet interest, a list of Member participants and their intended engagement modes, a list of relevant organisations for the scope of work (internal and external to QIATF), proposed leads (Chair, Vice-Chair), target audience, initial activity, duration and expected outcome of the respective SIG. The request shall be reviewed by the QIA Steering Team no later than six weeks after submission. The QIA Steering Team decides on one of three possible outcomes:

- I. establishment of a new SIG;
- II. inclusion of the proposed work in an existing SIG;
- III. refusal to establish the new SIG.

The QIA Steering Team reserves the right to ask for additional information and / or to work with the Members submitting the request in aligning the SIG workplan with QIA's mission and objectives. The formal consolidation of a new SIG shall start provided that:

- the preliminary SIG request has been granted by the QIA Steering Team;
- there is a balanced representation of Members in terms of expertise, engagement modes, organisations and countries;
- there is formal support and commitment of at least three Members holding the Doer mode, at least one of which is a QIA partner organisation participating in a QIA working team;
- the leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair) is known;
- the mission statement, objectives, working method, duration and expected output are defined.

Termination of a SIG. A SIG shall be terminated upon its own Members' initiative. The QIA Steering Team reserves the right to terminate a SIG in case no activity is occurring within the SIG.

SIG lifecycle review. The objectives, participating Members and their engagement modes, leadership and workplan of each SIG shall be reviewed annually in line with QIA workplan to confirm their continued relevance and activity.

SIG members. The SIG members are the experts appointed by the QIATF Members in accordance.

SIG leadership. The Chair and the Vice-Chair are appointed by the QIA Steering Team from among the Doers of the SIG. Where neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair is from a QIA partner organisation, the QIA Steering Team appoints a QIA Liaison from a QIA partner organisation to ensure alignment of the SIG with QIA's mission and roadmap. Working Group Leads are designated by the SIG Chair from among the Doers.

Working Groups. A SIG may establish temporary Working Groups to address specific technical topics, prepare reports, organise workshops, coordinate stakeholder consultations or develop recommendations, under the coordination of the SIG Chair and / or Vice-Chair. Working Groups are composed of Doers; Reviewers may be invited to contribute. Working Groups: (i) report to the SIG; (ii) are dissolved once their specific objective has been completed; and (iii) have no independent governance, decision-making authority, budget, or authority to bind QIA or any QIATF Member.

Responsibilities. The SIGs shall be responsible for:

- addressing the technical, architectural, interoperability, deployment and ecosystem challenges relevant to QIA and to quantum internet development;
- selecting a working method and organising the work of the SIG based on the proposal from the SIG Chair / Vice-Chair;
- effective involvement of the Members in accordance with their engagement modes;
- presenting a progress report at the annual QIATF event;
- preparing a progress report to the QIA Steering Team under the lead of the Chair / Vice-Chair;
- preparing the annual workplan for review and approval by the QIA Steering Team;
- requesting review and approval by QIA, in accordance with the Governance provisions, prior to publication of any SIG results;
- providing recommendations to the QIA Steering Team;
- identifying emerging use cases, supporting technology convergence and identifying interoperability gaps;
- facilitating exchange between research and industry;
- contributing technical input to relevant activities, where aligned with QIA objectives;
- identifying future collaborative and innovation opportunities within and beyond QIA.

Additionally, SIGs will be active in advancing the knowledge of their Members, QIA / QIATF and the broader community of peers and potential users on specific quantum internet topics; identifying and using opportunities for knowledge exchange, connecting and networking to drive innovation across the disciplines related to the quantum internet; and encouraging and organising knowledge-sharing activities supporting QIA's mission, such as newsletters, white papers and workshops.

Decision making. The SIG shall act as a collegial body and will always strive to achieve results and reach decisions through consensus among its Doers, taking into account the input of its Reviewers. Should voting be required in an exceptional case, only Members holding the Doer mode in the SIG are entitled to vote, with one vote per organisation. A decision shall be based on simple majority. Where consensus cannot be reached on a matter that blocks the work of the SIG, the Chair may refer the matter to the QIA Steering Team for decision.

Possible outputs. Possible SIG outputs include reports, white papers, roadmaps, architecture recommendations, interoperability guidance, use-case analyses, workshop reports, position papers and consultation inputs, each subject to QIA's prior review and approval before publication, as set out above. QIATF and its SIGs are not intended to provide a framework for joint research and development or for the joint creation of protectable technical results. Where a proposed activity is expected to involve the joint development of protectable results, or requires access to protected technology or know-how beyond the scope of QIATF, the relevant participants shall put in place separate written arrangements before commencing that activity.

Intellectual Property

a) Each Member retains full ownership of its intellectual property. Sharing information, materials or intellectual property through QIATF does not, by itself, transfer ownership or grant any licence or other right under such intellectual property. Members may only share content or intellectual property belonging to others where they are entitled to do so. Where relevant, Members should identify intellectual property rights affecting content they contribute to QIATF. Any licence or other right to use intellectual property must be agreed separately by the relevant rights holder.

The original Doers shall always be given appropriate credit. Members contributing or identifying QIATF content covered by intellectual property rights shall disclose such rights in a timely manner. QIATF encourages Members, where appropriate, to make disclosed intellectual property available on the most liberal licensing terms possible. Unless expressly agreed otherwise by the relevant rights holder, the sharing of content within QIATF does not assign, transfer, license or grant any rights or interests in patents, trademarks or other intellectual property rights.

b) Subject to applicable confidentiality, intellectual property, export-control and other legal restrictions, and to any required consent of the relevant rights holder, QIA may publish and use QIATF outputs that have been approved for publication by QIA in accordance with the Governance provisions for the purpose of promoting QIA, QIATF and the work of its Members. Such publication or use does not grant QIA any rights in underlying Member intellectual property beyond those expressly agreed.

Withdrawal, transition, amendments, and entry into force

Withdrawal. A Member may withdraw from QIATF at any time by written notice to QIA, sent to QIATF-qutech@tudelft.nl. Withdrawal does not affect the use of SIG outputs approved for publication before the notice, nor the provisions on Responsibility and Liability, Information Sharing and Confidentiality, and Intellectual Property, which continue to apply to information and contributions shared before the withdrawal.

Transition. On the entry into force of these Terms of Reference, all existing QIATF Core, Adopter and Associate Members become QIATF Members. QIA notifies them of these Terms of Reference; a Member that does not wish to continue may withdraw within 30 days of notification, and continued participation after that period constitutes acceptance. SIG Chairs and Vice-Chairs in office continue in their roles and hold the Doer mode. Other existing Members are invited to indicate their engagement mode in each SIG in which they participate; until confirmed, they hold the Observer mode.

Amendments. QIATF reserves the right to amend these Terms of Use from time to time for legitimate reasons. The latest version, including its version number and effective date, will be made available to all QIATF members. Members will be notified of material changes before they take effect. Members who do not agree with the amended Terms may discontinue their participation within QIATF. Any amendments shall be subject to applicable law.

Entry into force. These Terms of Reference enter into force on their adoption by the QIA Steering Team.