Fusionality — Pre-Seed Announcement Press Release

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[Full media pack]

Fusionality raises CHF 3 million to make fusion devices more reliable to operate and easier to analyze.

Lausanne team, founded by ex-Google DeepMind scientists and spinning out of EPFL's Swiss Plasma Center, is building the technologies to measure, simulate and control magnetic fusion devices.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — September 9th, 2026 — Fusionality today announced a CHF 3 million pre-seed round co-led by Founderful and Playfair. The company is building technologies that enable fusion companies to operate, monitor and analyze their devices.

Magnetic fusion devices use powerful magnets to confine a super-hot plasma - creating the conditions found in stars, here on earth. More than 30 privately funded companies worldwide are now building fusion devices, alongside publicly funded national and international programmes, with the ultimate aim of developing electricity-producing power plants.

They all need to solve a very similar problem: measure the properties of the plasma, turn those measurements into understanding of the plasma's state, and steer the reactor's heating, fueling and magnet systems to act on the plasma within milliseconds. This 'operations infrastructure' needs to be highly robust and reliable - failure can slow progress, damage components, and potentially result in interruption to energy production in future power plants. Many organisations are trying to re-build this capability almost from scratch. This leads to widespread duplication, inefficiency, higher costs, and slower development.

Fusionality solves this problem by providing integrated solutions that enable fusion companies to build the operations infrastructure for their device more quickly and efficiently using proven components and technologies, spanning both hardware and software. The company's approach is to build these technologies in a way that are easily transferable across devices, with minimal customization done for each client, so that each subsequent deployment costs meaningfully less than the first.

> “By targeting core challenges in measurement, simulation, and control, Fusionality is positioned to help accelerate the entire fusion sector. I'm excited to see the impact the Company will have.”
> *David Gates, Ph.D., Co-Founder and CTO of Thea Energy*

Fusionality was founded in 2026 by Federico Felici, who has spent his career pioneering innovations in simulation and model-based control of fusion devices. Following a degree in control engineering and a PhD in plasma physics at EPFL, he was an assistant professor at TU Eindhoven before returning to EPFL to drive control activities at the Swiss Plasma Center. He then spent 2.5 years at Google DeepMind before returning to Switzerland to found the company.

He is joined by co-founder Jonas Buchli, an electrical engineer by training who held a faculty position at ETH Zürich before joining Google DeepMind as a senior research scientist. He led teams working on robotic systems, optimal control and reinforcement learning for control of physical systems, and worked on a wide range of interdisciplinary applications.

Federico and Jonas met while teaching an AI to control EPFL’s TCV tokamak, a collaboration between EPFL and Google DeepMind which led to the 2022 *Nature* paper "Magnetic control of tokamak plasmas through deep reinforcement learning".

> “Operating a fusion device is a challenging problem where multiple sources of data, different time scales and complex plasma behaviour come together. Fusionality can bring a multi-disciplinary approach spanning measurement, software, control, and data engineering.”
> *Jonas Buchli, co-Founder and CTO at Fusionality.*

The funding will be used to build the founding team in Lausanne — control engineers, computational physicists, plasma measurement specialists and software engineers — and to deliver the company's first customer engagements. Fusionality is hiring across both technical and operations roles. Open positions are listed at fusionality.com/careers.

Quotes

Co-founders:

“We have spent most of our careers making plasmas in real fusion devices behave as we wanted. Now we founded Fusionality to bring that expertise to our customers and partners, helping them tackle some of the hardest bottlenecks in fusion operations.”
Federico Felici, co-Founder and CEO at Fusionality

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Jonas Buchli, co-Founder and CTO at Fusionality.

Fusion Industry:

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David Gates, Ph.D., Co-Founder and CTO of Thea Energy

Investors:

"The fusion industry is scaling faster than its supply chain, and the operations infrastructure is the clearest gap, Federico and Jonas are among a very small number of people in the world who have worked across the range of technologies needed for fusion control & operations, on various devices. That combination of academic standing and commercial instinct is rare, and it is why we backed them."
Felix Neubeck at Playfair.

EPFL:

“The Swiss Plasma Center at EPFL has decades of experience in plasma control and diagnostics. It is a great development for the field, and for the Swiss fusion ecosystem, to witness the creation of startups like Fusionality, benefiting from this knowledge and serving the emerging fusion industry worldwide."
Prof. Paolo Ricci, Director, Swiss Plasma Center, EPFL.

About Fusionality

Fusionality enables fusion companies and organisations to better operate, monitor and analyze their fusion devices by providing integrated solutions for control, simulation, measurement and data analysis. Founded in 2026 and headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, the company is a spinout of EPFL's Swiss Plasma Center and is backed by Founderful and Playfair.

About Founderful

Founderful is Switzerland's leading pre-seed fund, backing founder teams building tech companies with the potential to become global market leaders. Founderful has a track record of supporting exceptional founders in creating breakthrough companies and has the passionate conviction that the Swiss startup ecosystem is just starting to write its best success stories.

About Playfair

Playfair is a generalist fund focused exclusively on pre-seed investing. Based in London, Playfair invests across the UK and Europe with an intentionally high-conviction, low-volume approach: making six investments a year out of their third $70m fund and preserving time, capital, and resources to help companies post-investment. Their 78% Series A graduation rate is approximately 4x the industry average and their founders have raised over $3bn of follow-on capital since 2013. Playfair has backed 100+ companies, including Thought Machine, Orca AI, Protex AI, Ascento, and Exclaim Robotics.

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