

AIP Fusion FAQs

For Institutions

Q: What is AIP Fusion?

A: **AIP Fusion** is a new **services-based** model that brings together **unlimited access** to research and **unlimited publishing rights** across AIP Publishing’s full portfolio, including both **hybrid** and **gold open access** titles. Created in collaboration with libraries and consortia, **AIP Fusion** is designed to support your institution’s open science mission, simplify your processes, and maximize the impact of your researchers’ work.

Cost transparency is built in: Developed in consultation with libraries and consortia the model uses a simple formula to transparently calculate pricing. It’s based on AIPP’s cost per article (an analysis we’ll update and share annually), institutions’ legacy article outputs, and a community services fee. Institutions can audit the data used in the formula and transparently determine how their fees are calculated.

This ensures that participating institutions pay a single, predictable annual fee based on transparent and agreed-upon data. There are no hidden costs or APCs, and full usage and publishing reports help libraries track value, support funder compliance, and demonstrate the impact of their investment.

Our goal with **AIP Fusion** is to empower **libraries** and **researchers**, creating a more **open, fair, and impactful** research environment.

Q: What does AIP Fusion include?

A: **AIP Fusion** gives your institution:

- **Unlimited “Read” Access:** Full access to all AIP journals and partner titles, spanning from 1999 to the present.
- **Unlimited “Publishing” Rights:** Your institution and its researchers can publish unlimited articles in AIP and partner journals, including **gold open access** titles, under the **CC BY 4.0 license**.
- **Transparent, Predictable Pricing:** One straightforward agreement and an annual fee based on your institution’s historical publishing activity—with no hidden fees, no surprises.

Q: How does AIP Fusion support open science?

A: AIP Fusion is designed to advance open science in a practical, researcher-centered way. By offering unlimited publishing rights in **Gold OA** and hybrid journals under a CC BY 4.0 license, it ensures research is widely accessible, reusable, and impactful. **Anchored in AIPP's four open science pillars**, AIP Fusion:

- **Increases Transparency:** Demystifies costs for publishing services and clarifies publication decisions.
- **Improves Access:** Makes research outputs discoverable, usable, and shareable globally.
- **Embraces Difference:** Supports global perspectives and inclusive research communities.
- **Ensures Sustainability:** Provides a predictable, APC-free, services-based model that scales with institutional needs.

Libraries and researchers can confidently adopt AIP Fusion knowing it removes barriers to reading and publishing, supports funder compliance, and contributes to a fair, open, and globally connected research ecosystem.

Q: How does AIP Fusion differ from a standard Read & Publish agreement?

A: While traditional Read & Publish (RAP) agreements often include limits—such as caps on the number of articles, exclusions for certain journal types and journals, or APC management—AIP Fusion is designed to remove those barriers entirely.

Key differences:

- **Truly unlimited publishing with a services-based approach:** No caps, no exclusions, and no restrictions by journal type—covering all hybrid and Gold OA titles. Institutions gain seamless access across our platforms, with a clear understanding of the cost to enable both reading and publishing.
- **No APCs at all:** Unlike many RAPs that still involve APC administration behind the scenes, AIP Fusion eliminates APCs entirely.
- **One transparent fee:** Pricing is based on usage and publishing history, with no hidden costs, waivers, or top-ups.
- **Stronger alignment with open science:** Default CC BY licensing and funder compliance are baked in—no manual steps needed.

AIP Fusion is designed for simplicity, fairness, and scale—moving beyond the limitations of legacy RAP agreements.

Q: How is the pricing for AIP Fusion determined?

A: AIP Fusion is built to be both **fair** and **flexible**. The **annual fee** is calculated based on your institution's **publishing activity** and **usage trends**. This simple, transparent pricing structure ensures that costs reflect the true value your researchers derive from our services.

We've designed a model that allows for **predictable budgeting**, while aligning with your open access goals.

Q: What makes AIP Fusion different from traditional publishing models?

A: Unlike traditional models that separate access and publishing, AIP Fusion combines both into a single agreement. This simplifies the experience for institutions and researchers, eliminating paywalls, publishing caps, and APCs.

Importantly, the model focuses on the **true, transparent cost of services**—moving beyond simply counting articles or APCs to demonstrate the value of our world-class editorial services, support staff, and trusted brand. With AIP Fusion, libraries can offer unlimited access to a wide array of journals, while researchers can publish without limits, all under one simple agreement.

This model is about **flexibility, collaboration, and empowering researchers**—the next step in advancing open science.

Q: How does AIP Fusion work for my institution?

A: For libraries and institutions, AIP Fusion provides:

- **Comprehensive access** to AIPP's journal portfolio and partner titles, ensuring your researchers have the tools they need to stay at the cutting edge of research.
- **Predictable costs** with one fee covering both reading and publishing, making budget planning easier and more transparent.
- **Simplicity and flexibility**, with no separate subscriptions or additional fees, making it easier for you to manage your institution's access and publishing needs.

For researchers, AIP Fusion:

- Automatically applies **publishing benefits** like **CC BY 4.0 licensing** at the time of submission—**no surprises**, no need for additional paperwork or licensing choices.
- **No barriers to publishing**—authors can submit and publish their work freely, without being concerned about hidden costs or publishing limits.

Q: What's the pricing structure for AIP Fusion?

A: Institutions' fees are calculated via a simple formula using the following data points, developed in consultation with libraries and consortia:

(Publication volume* x \$2700 USD cost-per-article*) + Shared Community Fee (based on usage tiers) = Year 1 price**

1. **Publication volume:** This is a three-year rolling average of *all* publications with a corresponding author from your institution, **including Gold OA articles**.
2. **Cost per article:** This is AIP Publishing's true cost per article—incorporating services such as peer review, production, dissemination, technology, etc.—which will be updated annually and shared publicly.
3. **Usage:** A three-year rolling average.

a. Note: usage is calculated purely to group like institutions. You are **not charged based on your usage**. Instead of relying on external classifications like Carnegie tiers or consortia levels, we use usage as a **transparent proxy** to group similar institutions. As usage grows over time, these bands are adjusted to ensure that institutions with comparable activity pay comparable fees.

The first part of the formula (3-year rolling pub avg x CPA) reflects the true cost of publishing your content. It does *not* include our margin, which goes back to support the American Institute of Physics, its 12 member societies, and by extension, tens of thousands of researchers.

The second part, the **Shared Community Fee**, is a fixed contribution per institution that supports the broader mission of AIP. This fee is **tiered based on each institution's three-year rolling usage average** (see item 3a), ensuring fairness and alignment with institutional activity.

Q: How does the tiered pricing work?

Institutions are grouped into **10 usage tiers** based on their publishing history. Each tier has a defined fee, with **higher-use institutions** paying more to reflect the additional services they receive.

This **tiered approach** ensures that **AIP Fusion** remains fair, allowing both **large** and **small institutions** to benefit from the model based on their unique needs and usage levels.

Q: Will AIP Fusion work for institutions with lower publishing activity?

A: Absolutely! The tiered pricing ensures that **even smaller institutions** or those with **lower publishing activity** are still able to access **AIP Fusion** at an affordable price. By using a rolling three-year average of publications, we ensure that pricing reflects your institution's true usage and publishing activity.

For institutions with **little or no prior publishing history with AIPP**, we offer **entry-level pricing** to welcome new partners and help them get started.

AIP Fusion is designed to be **flexible and inclusive**, helping institutions of all sizes take part in the **open science movement**.

Q: How can my institution get started with AIP Fusion?

A: Getting started with **AIP Fusion** is simple! Reach out to us at aipfusioninfo@aip.org, and we'll guide you through the process, provide a tailored proposal based on your institution's specific needs, and help you understand how **AIP Fusion** can best support your open science goals.

We're here to collaborate with you to create a customized plan that meets your institution's needs and supports your researchers' success.

Q: How does AIP Fusion align with libraries' open science goals?

A: At AIPP, we are dedicated not only to our open science pillars—**Transparency, Accessibility, Embracing Difference, and Sustainability**—but also to **supporting and empowering libraries in advancing their own open science missions**. **AIP Fusion** supports these goals by offering **unlimited access** and **unlimited publishing** rights, ensuring that your researchers can share their work freely and collaborate globally. By adopting **gold open access publishing** with a **CC BY 4.0 license**, we help libraries fulfill their commitment to **open science**, making research **accessible, transparent, and reusable**.

We recognize that **open access and open science priorities differ across regions and institutions**. If you are unsure whether this model aligns with your open science, open access, or funder requirements, please reach out to aipfusioninfo@aip.org.

Q: My funder policies require “rights retention” for author-accepted manuscripts. Does AIP Publishing enable that?

A: Yes, AIP Publishing has one of the most generous rights retention policies made possible by our Green Open Access solution. Our Green Open Access policy allows authors to **self-archive their accepted manuscript (AAM) immediately upon acceptance** in an institutional or subject repository, on a personal website, or on a funder platform—**with no embargo period and no fees, applying whatever license is necessary to ensure compliance**. This pathway helps authors comply with public access mandates like NIH while maximizing the visibility and impact of their research.

How it works with AIP Publishing:

- **No embargo:** Researchers can share the accepted manuscript as soon as it's accepted.
- **No fees:** Green OA is completely free—No article Processing Charges.
- **Easy compliance:** Compatible with funder and institutional repositories, including PubMed Central.
- **Simple process:** Authors upload their AAM with DOI and full citation to the repository of their choice.

This approach ensures that the work is **accessible, compliant, and discoverable** to the global research community while maintaining flexibility and choice for authors.