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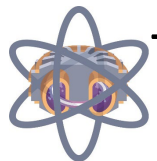
INFUSE FY2025 Workshop

A. Lumsdaine & E. Gilson

INFUSE Townhall Meeting
November 14, 2024

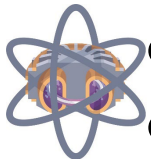
Townhall meeting format

- **The Townhall meeting is intended to be a forum for open discussion on topics relevant to continuously improving the INFUSE program.**
- **We will have brief introductions to topics, and then conduct a survey leading to a discussion.**
- **Please use the “raise hand” feature if you would like to talk. Feel free to use the chat at any time.**
- **We will discuss the following**
 - **How can INFUSE be a force for broadening participation?**
 - **INFUSE survey results (completed in 2024)**
 - **How are INFUSE partnerships developed?**
 - **How can future partnerships be developed?**



Broadening participation

- **The mission of INFUSE is to connect companies with expertise at national labs and universities, and so is not suitable as a training program.**
- **INFUSE can be an instrument for outreach programs, particularly as they are consistent with a PIER plan.**
- **Possible outreach vectors:**
 - **Outreach to institutions not currently within fusion ecosystem**
 - **Outreach to populations that are underrepresented in the field**
- **Some ideas:**
 - **Visit universities that don't currently do FES supported research to engage faculty into the field.**
 - **Conduct seminars at universities events to inform faculty and students of fusion opportunities.**
 - **Conduct public outreach events to engage broader audience.**
 - **Hire interns from universities that are underrepresented in the field.**



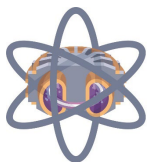
Broadening participation survey

- **What outreach activities are you currently involved in?**
- **What activities would you expect your organization to be involved in the next year?**
- **If your organization received an INFUSE award that could include some funding for the activity, which of these would you be highly likely to engage in?**

<https://forms.office.com/g/mJjVVgqkcc>



Links open on web site: <https://infuse.ornl.gov/fy2025-workshop/>



1. What type of organization to you represent?

[More Details](#)

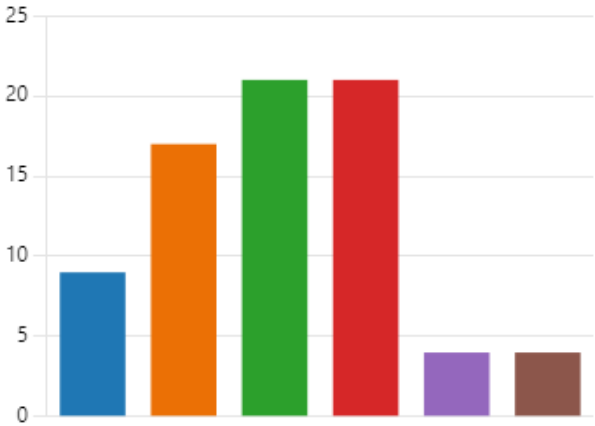
● Private company	22
● National laboratory	10
● University	2
● Other	0



2. Which of these activities are you currently involved in (select any)?

[More Details](#)

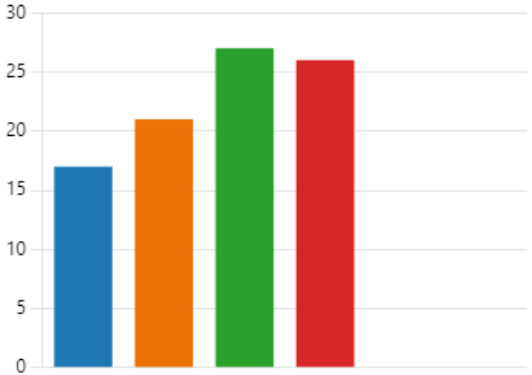
● Visit universities that don't curre...	9
● Conduct seminars at university ...	17
● Conduct public outreach events ...	21
● Hire interns from universities th...	21
● None of the above.	4
● Other	4



3. Which of these activities would you expect your organization to be involved in the next year (select any)?

[More Details](#)

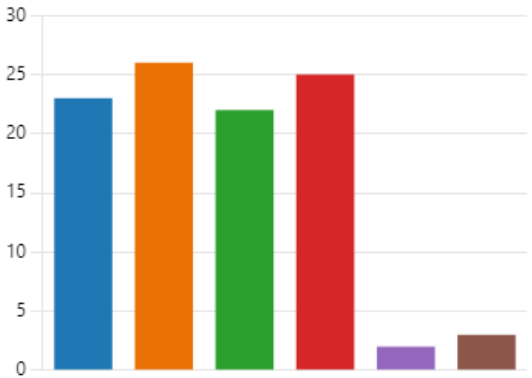
● Visit universities that don't curre...	17
● Conduct seminars at university ...	21
● Conduct public outreach events ...	27
● Hire interns from universities th...	26
● None of the above.	0
● Other	0



4. If your organization received an INFUSE award that could include some funding for the activity, which of these would you be highly likely to engage in (select any)?

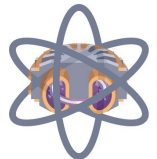
[More Details](#)

● Visit universities that don't curre...	23
● Conduct seminars at university ...	26
● Conduct public outreach events ...	22
● Hire interns from universities th...	25
● None of the above.	2
● Other	3



INFUSE 2024 Survey Results

- **In 2024, Rebecca Gruener, an AAAS Fellow, conducted a survey on the impact of the INFUSE program to the companies that have received awards.**



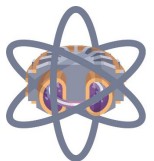
INFUSE award process survey

- **What is the optimal award size?**
- **How would you rate the INFUSE application process?**
- **How transformative was receiving an INFUSE award for your company?**
- **What do you believe is the best metric of impact an award has had on your organization?**

<https://forms.office.com/g/rVXJQNuCfy>



Links open on web site: <https://infuse.ornl.gov/fy2025-workshop/>



1. What type of organization to you represent?

[More Details](#)

Private company	16
National laboratory	6
University	2
Other	1



2. Have you already received an INFUSE award?

[More Details](#)

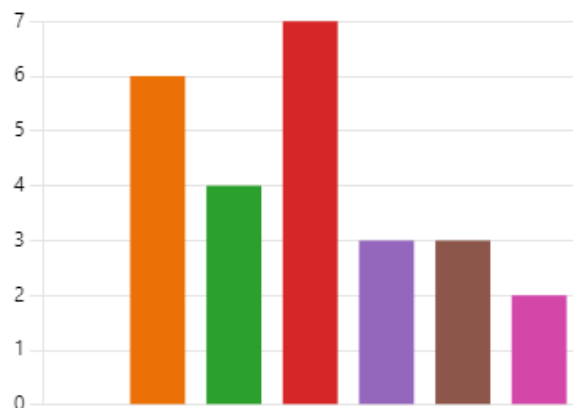
Yes	11
No	14



3. What do you believe is the optimal award size?

[More Details](#)

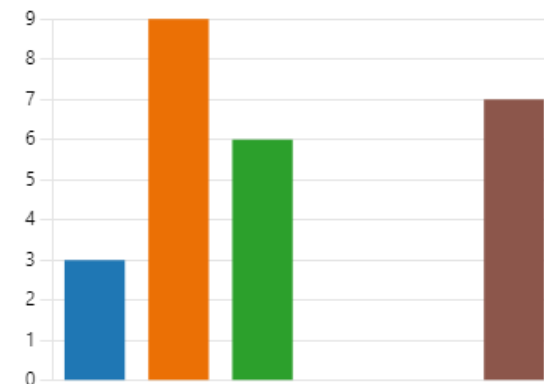
\$100k	0
\$250k	6
\$375k	4
\$500k	7
\$750k	3
\$1,000k	3
No limit	2



4. How would you rate the INFUSE application process

[More Details](#)

Very accessible	3
Accessible	9
Neutral	6
Inaccessible	0
Very inaccessible	0
Don't know / haven't submitted ...	7



5. How transformative was receiving an INFUSE award for your company?

[More Details](#)

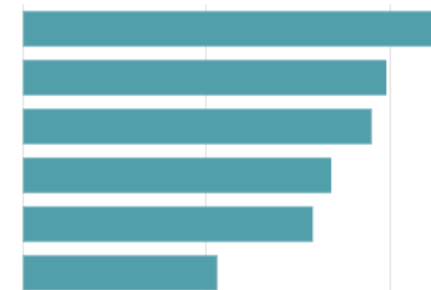
Very transformative	2
Transformative	10
Slightly transformative	1
Neutral	1
N/A - I have not yet received an...	11



6. What do you believe is the best metric of impact an award has had on your organization (please rank)?

[More Details](#)

1	Increase in follow on funding
2	Number of journal papers publi...
3	Number of patents granted pos...
4	Growth of company personnel
5	Number of presentations given ...
6	Other



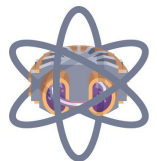
CRADA process survey

- **If you have received an award, which of the following caused delays in your CRADA approval?**
 - **There was no delay**
 - **Lab PI was unfamiliar with the CRADA process**
 - **Lab sponsored project office had delays**
 - **Company needed to negotiate the CRADA**
 - **Lab DOE site office had delays**
 - **Delays in DOE foreign influence review**
 - **Not sure / don't know**
 - **Other (please specify)**



<https://forms.office.com/g/awBxSYQgNR>

Links open on web site: <https://infuse.ornl.gov/fy2025-workshop/>



1. What type of organization to you represent?

[More Details](#)

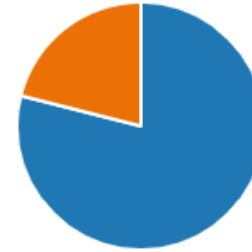
● Private company	14
● National laboratory	4
● University	1
● Other	0



2. Have you already received an INFUSE award?

[More Details](#)

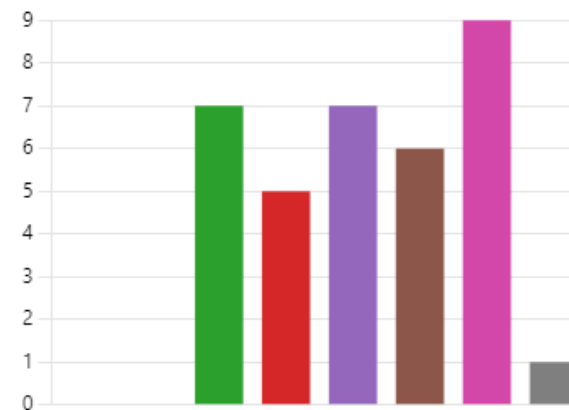
● Yes	15
● No	4



3. If you have received an award, which of the following caused delays in your CRADA approval?

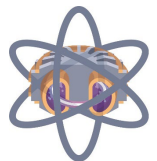
[More Details](#)

● There was no delay	0
● Lab PI was unfamiliar with the C...	0
● Lab sponsored project office ha...	7
● Company needed to negotiate t...	5
● DOE site office for the lab had d...	7
● Delays in DOE foreign influence ...	6
● Not sure / don't know	9
● Other	1



Partnerships

- **Discussion from companies on how prior partnerships were formed.**
 - **Commonwealth Fusion Systems – Michael Segal**
 - **TAE – Deepak Gupta**
 - **Kyoto Fusioneering America – Carli Smith**



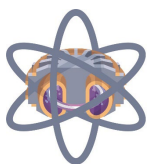
Partnerships

- Have you participated in an INUFSE application?
- How did you find your partner?
- Was your project funded?
- For your partnership, who initiated the first contact?
- How can future partnerships be fostered?

<https://forms.office.com/g/kX1WTxrHKH>



Links open on web site: <https://infuse.ornl.gov/fy2025-workshop/>



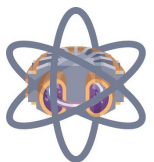
Partnerships (2)

- **How can future partnerships be fostered?**
 - Database of capabilities on website**
 - Monthly webinars with presentations of capabilities**
 - Site visits to national labs**
 - Site visits to universities**
 - University fusion fair**
 - Meet and greet at national conference(s)**
 - Online "matchmaking" service**
 - Other**



<https://forms.office.com/g/kX1WTxrHKH>

Links open on web site: <https://infuse.ornl.gov/fy2025-workshop/>



1. What type of organization to you represent?

[More Details](#)

Private company	21
National laboratory	5
University	3
Other	0



2. Have you participated in the submission of an INFUSE application?

[More Details](#)

Yes	16
No	13



3. How did you find your partner?

[More Details](#)

Prior working relationship (work...)	5
Professional relationship (i.e. me...)	11
Had familiarity with work, but di...	0
Didn't know at all, but had a ne...	0
Other	0



4. Was your project funded?

[More Details](#)

Yes	13
No	3



5. For your project, who initiated the first contact?

[More Details](#)

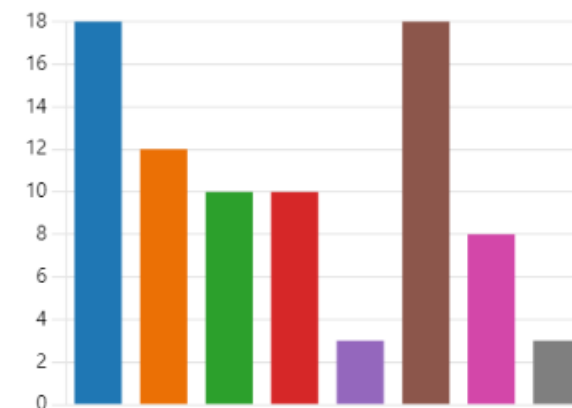
Company representative	6
National lab / university repre...	2
Mutual	8
Other	0



6. How can future partnerships be fostered (choose up to 3)?

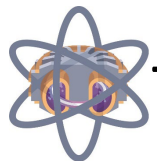
[More Details](#)

Database of capabilities on web...	18
Monthly webinars with presenta...	12
Site visits to national labs	10
Site visits to universities	10
University fusion fair	3
Meet and greet at national conf...	18
Online "matchmaking" service	8
Other	3



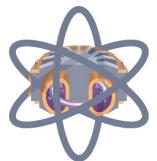
Annual Workshop – History

- **Since 2019, INFUSE has conducted an annual workshop:**
 - **FY20, Nov. 22-23, 2019, Knoxville, TN, focus on laboratory capabilities**
 - **FY21, Dec. 2-1, 2020, virtual, co-sponsored with EPRI and FIA**
 - **FY22, Dec. 16, 2021, virtual, expansion to universities**
 - **FY23, Oct. 17-18, 2022, Spokane, WA, part of Public-Private Partnerships mini-conference in conjunction with the 64th Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics (DPP)**
 - **Nov. 9, 2023, virtual mini-workshop**
 - **FY24, Feb. 27-28, 2024, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory**
 - **FY25, Nov. 14, 2025, virtual workshop**

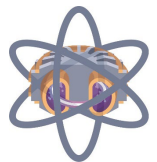
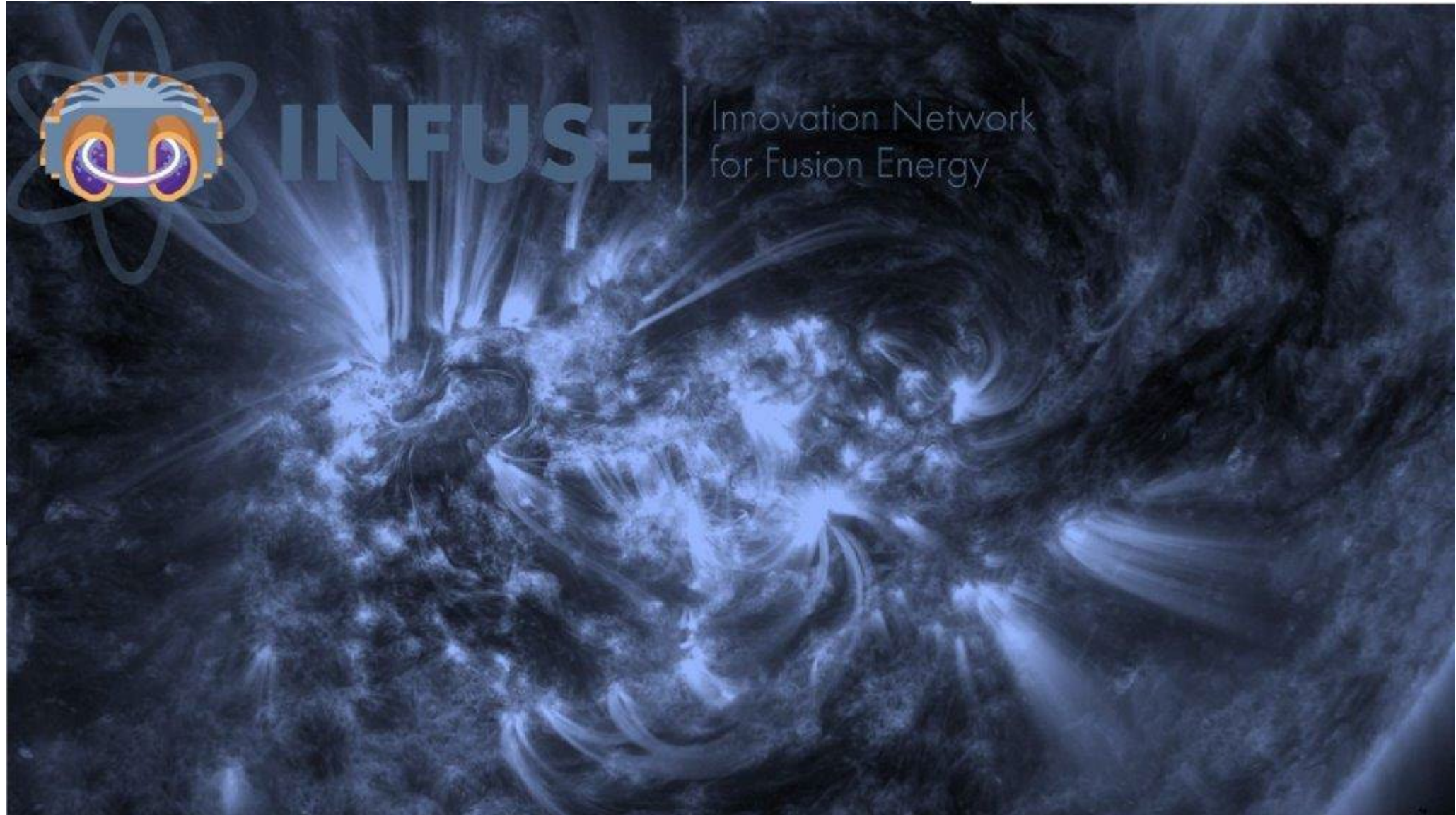


Annual Workshop – FY2026

- **The FY2026 workshop has been scheduled for Nov. 6-7, 2025 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.**
 - **Note that the International Symposium of Fusion Nuclear Technology ISFNT-16 meeting will take place from Nov. 9-14, 2025 (<https://isfnt-16.ornl.gov/>)**

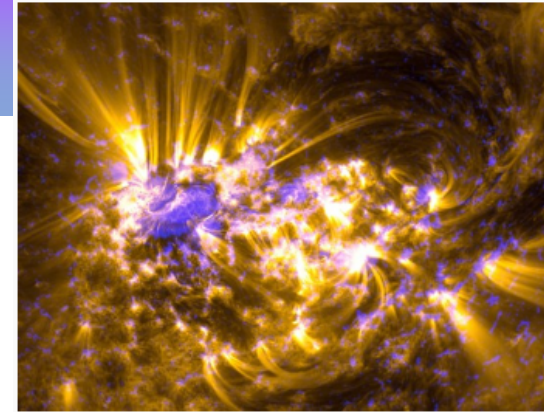
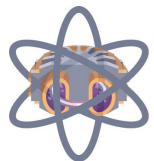


Questions?



Discussion

<https://infuse.ornl.gov/>



Innovation Network for Fusion Energy

The INFUSE program will accelerate fusion energy development in the private sector by reducing impediments to collaboration involving the expertise and unique resources available at DOE laboratories and universities. This will ensure the nation's energy, environmental and security needs by resolving technical, cost, and safety issues for industry.

[Read more](#)

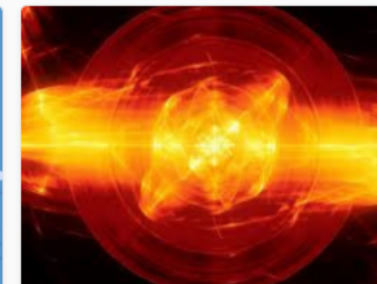


Webinar for FY2024 RFA

Published: December 8, 2023

A webinar will be held on December 14, noon-1:00pm (EST) to describe the FY2024 RFA.

[Read Article](#)



WANDA Meeting

Published: December 8, 2023

The next Workshop for Applied Nuclear Data Activities (WANDA2024) will be held on December 12, 1:00-2:00pm (ET).

[Read Article](#)



Milestone Program Awards

Published: November 7, 2023

DOE Announced \$46M for Commercial Fusion Energy Development. See the DOE announcement for more details.

[Read Article](#)

[Go to All News](#)