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Email: infuse@ornl.gov

Webinar 12/14/2023

A. Lumsdaine & E. Gilson

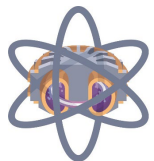
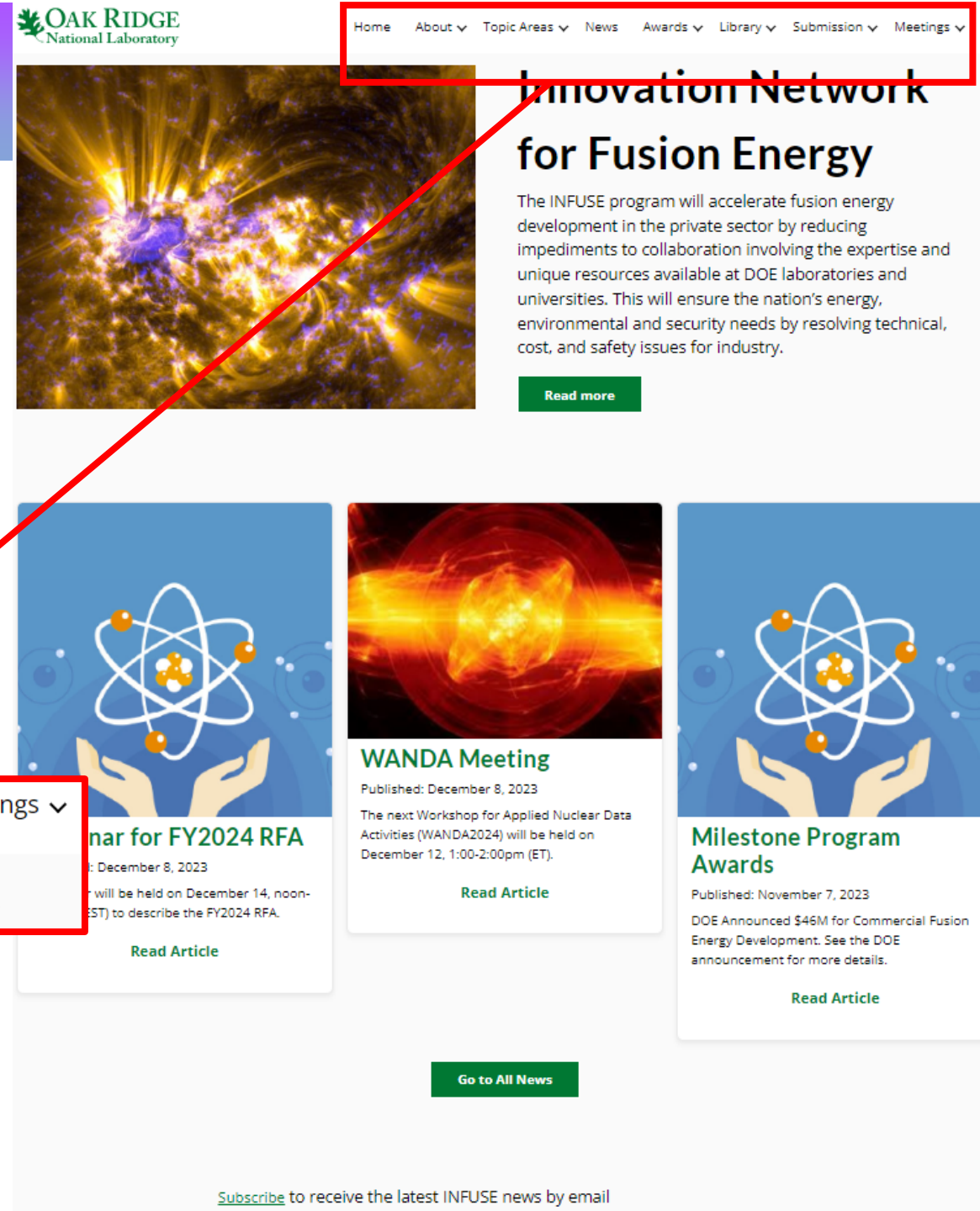
Q&A for FY2024 Call

INFUSE Web Site - Rebuilt

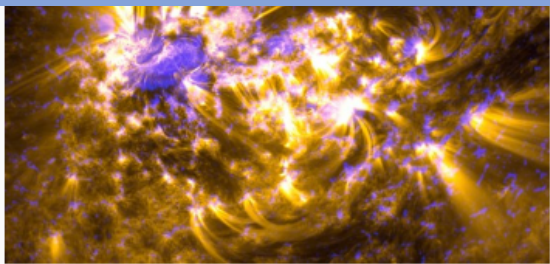
<https://infuse.ornl.gov/>

Any issues?

Email infuse@ornl.gov



INFUSE Web Site – Subscribe



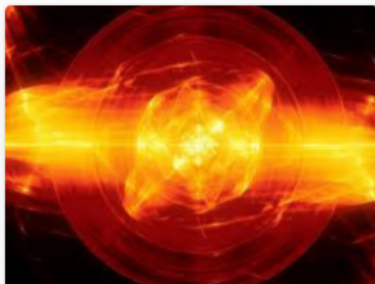
The INFUSE program will accelerate fusion energy development in the private sector by reducing impediments to collaboration involving the expertise and unique resources available at DOE laboratories and universities. This will ensure the nation's energy, environmental and security needs by resolving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

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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

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[Read Article](#)

Milestone Program Awards

Published: November 7, 2023

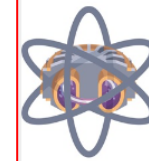
DOE Announced \$46M for Commercial Fusion Energy Development. See the DOE announcement for more details.

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<http://eepurl.com/iBeZiM>



INFUSE Innovation Network
for Fusion Energy

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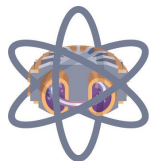
Emails will come from infusenews@mailor.ornl.gov

INFUSE Overview

The mission of INFUSE is to provide private-sector fusion companies access to the expertise and facilities of DOE's national laboratories and (since FY2022) U.S. academic institutions to overcome critical scientific and technological hurdles in pursuing development of fusion energy.

AWARDS

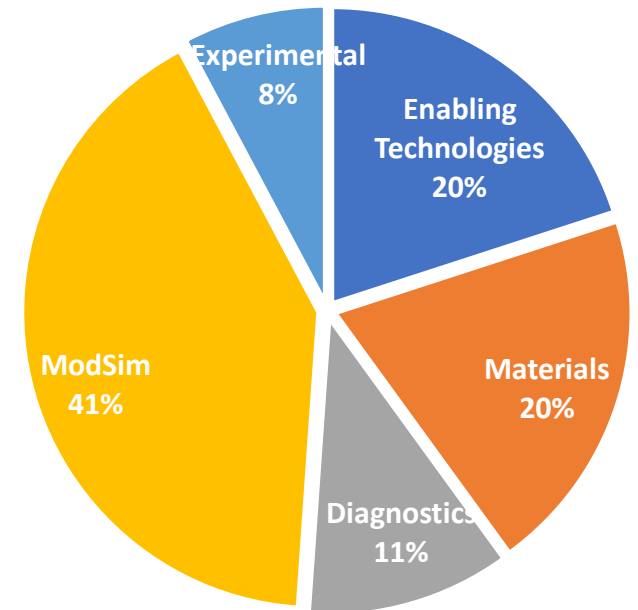
- **90** projects funded since 2019 with a total value of **\$19.3M**
- Awards were made to **28** private companies partnering with **10** DOE labs and **11** U.S. Universities.
- Detailed list:
https://infuse.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Cumulative_AwardList_wAbstracts_thru2023.pdf



PARTICIPATING LABORATORIES



Awarded Topical Areas

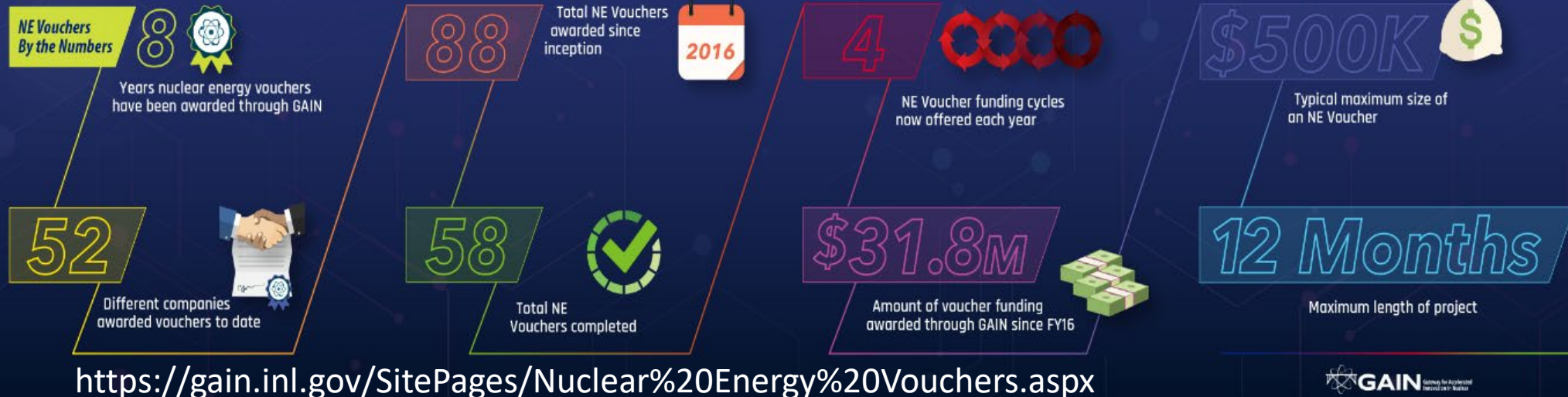


TOPICAL AREAS

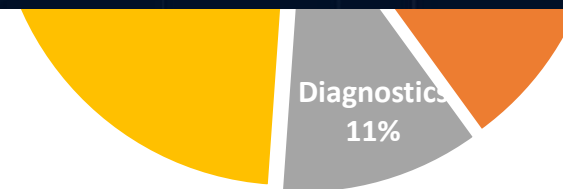
- 1) Enabling Technologies
- 2) Materials Science
- 3) Plasma Diagnostics
- 4) Modeling and Simulation
- 5) Unique Fusion Experimental Capabilities
- 6) Paths to Commercialization

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy established the GAIN initiative to provide the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial support necessary to move innovative technologies toward commercialization.

The NE Voucher Program is one way to provide industry with access to the unique research capabilities and expertise at DOE's national labs.

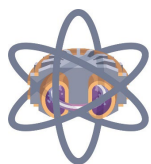


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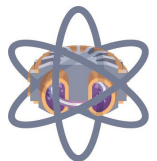
TOPICAL AREAS

- 1) Enabling Technologies
- 2) Materials Science
- 3) Plasma Diagnostics
- 4) Modeling and Simulation
- 5) Unique Fusion Experimental Capabilities
- 6) Paths to Commercialization



What is Changing for FY2024?

- 1. Increase in ceiling of award request**
- 2. Update to Conflict of Interest statement**
- 3. PIER plan update**
- 4. Appendix 3 – Project distinction from other DOE support (optional)**
- 5. First round will be the primary (perhaps only) round for applications in 2024**
- 6. Reminders**
 - Universities are valid partners
 - New topical area (as of 2023) “Activities to support eventual fusion commercialization,” abbreviated as “Paths to commercialization” on web site



Eligibility Requirements

- **Eligible Applicants:** Private companies incorporated in the United States (can be a foreign owned subsidiary – PI and all cost-share must come from US subsidiary).
- **Eligible Partner Institutions:** Any DOE national laboratory or institution of higher education with unique capability that is not available in the private sector. Partners must agree to work (record of discussion).
- **Award size:** \$100K to **\$500k** with a 20% cost share requirement, 12 months in duration. Requests **of higher amounts** and up to 24 months will be considered for work deemed to be of critical value to the company.
- **Number of Allowable Applications:** 5 per company per RFA call.
- **Company Certifications:** (1) Cost-share certification; (2) IP Certification (CRADA or IP Management Plan); (3) **Conflict of Interest certification** (“button push” on submission site).

For further details, consult the RFA Call:

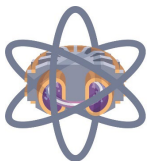
https://infuse.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FY2024-INFUSE-RFA_FINAL.pdf

For eligibility requirements:

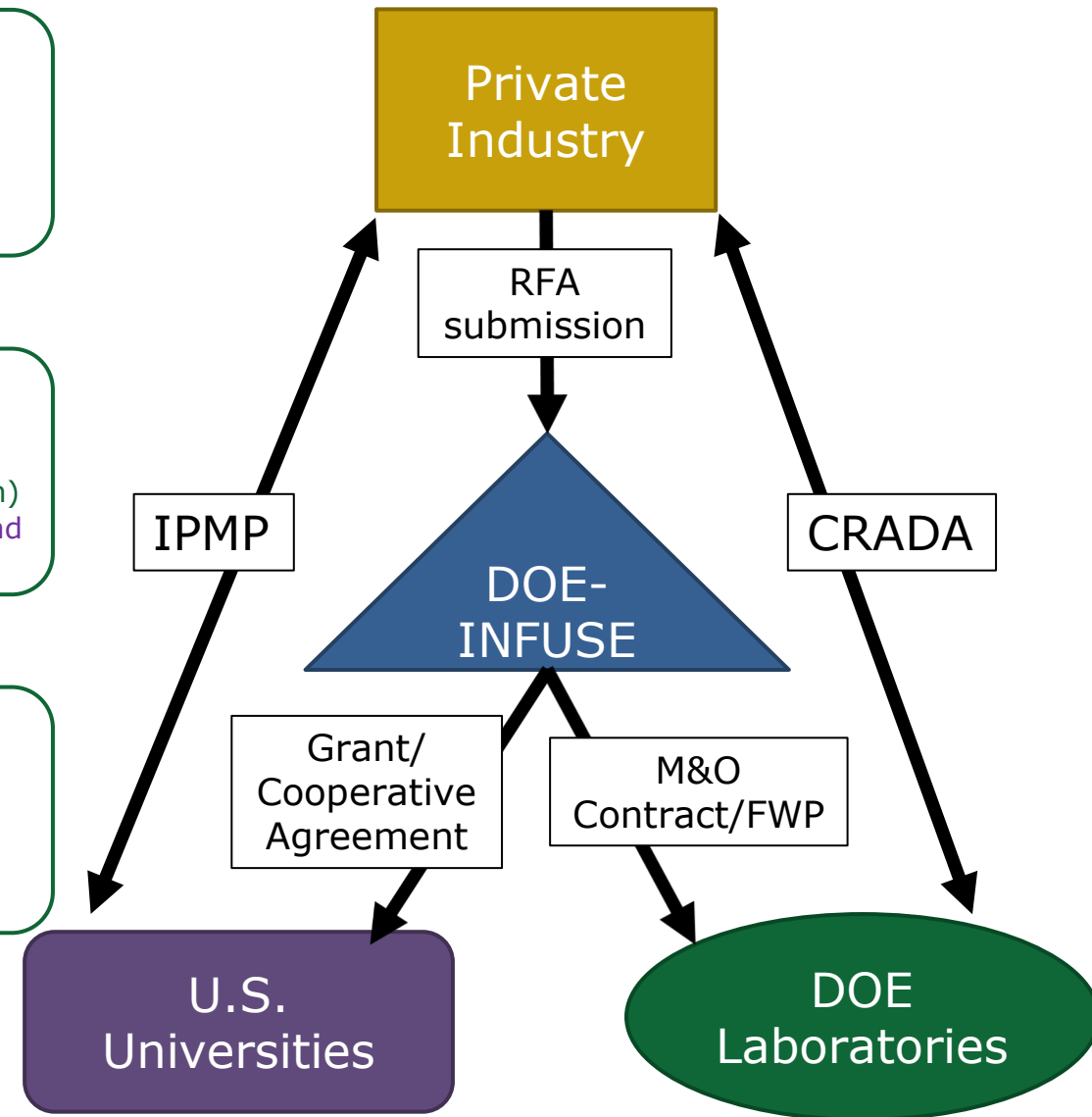
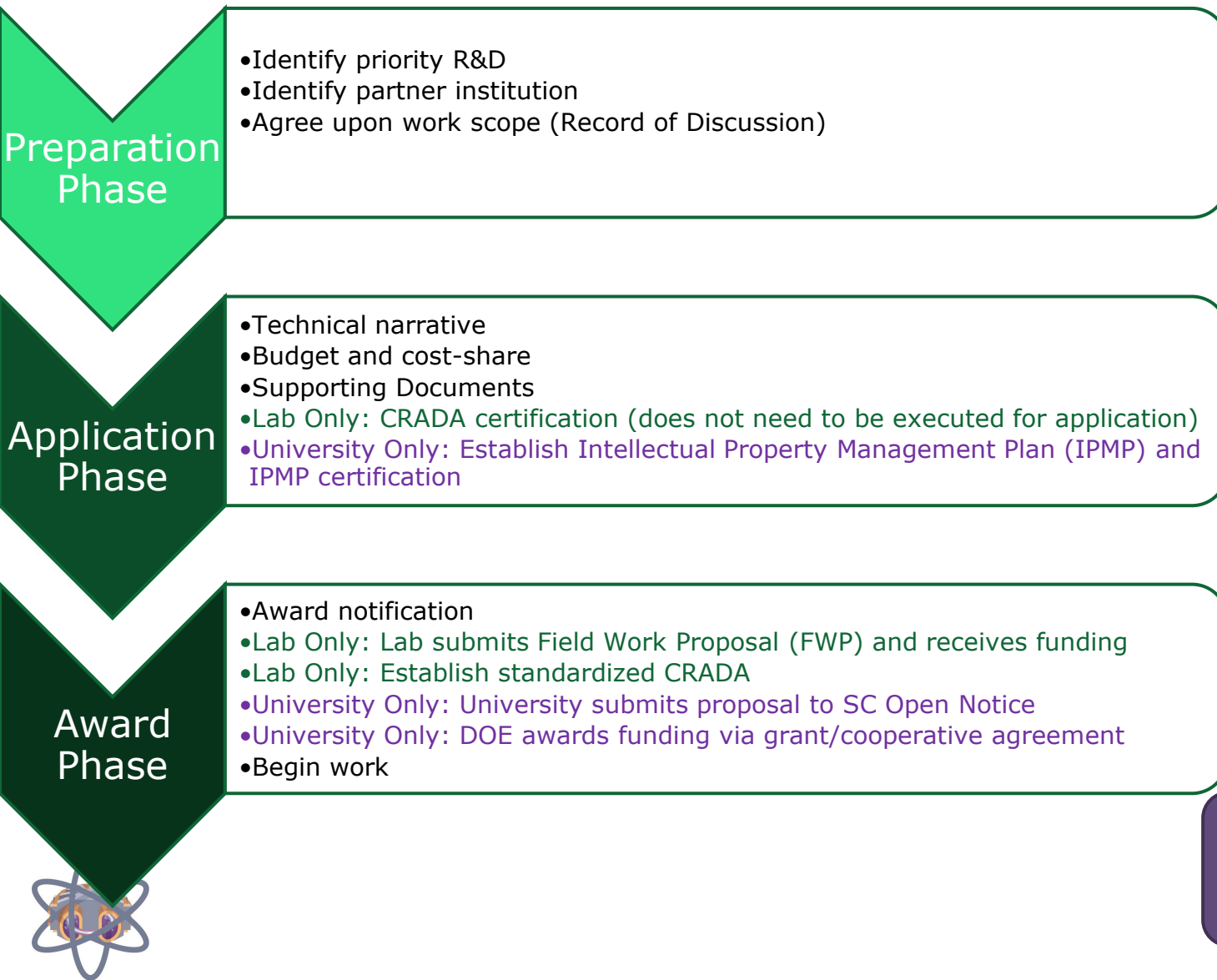
<https://infuse.ornl.gov/rfa-requirements/>

To request access to the submission site:

<https://infuse.ornl.gov/rfa-announcement-and-submission/>

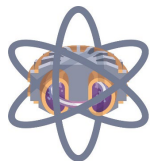


INFUSE Process



Inclusion of Universities

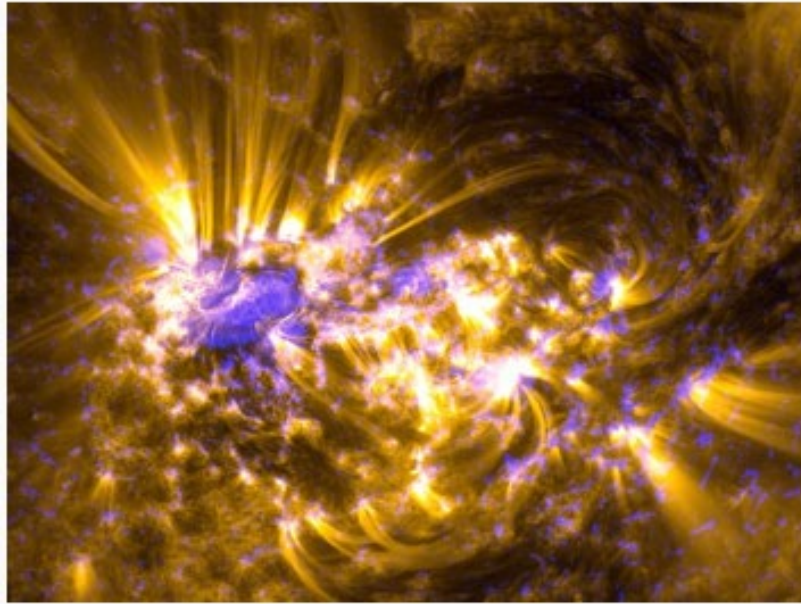
- **Intellectual Property Management Plan (IPMP)**
 - The IPMP is required as a part of the submission package for university partners.
 - This is an agreement between the company and the institute of higher education.
 - INFUSE has no template for the plan or requirement on its format.
- **The INFUSE “Library” page has a University Contact List**
 - <https://infuse.ornl.gov/infuse-contacts/>
 - This will be updated as we continue to identify possible partners for relevant work.
 - The University Fusion Association could be a resource in identifying universities that have faculty performing research in this area:
<https://sites.google.com/site/universityfusionassociation/home?authuser=0>



INFUSE Web Site – Library



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Innovation Network for Fusion Energy

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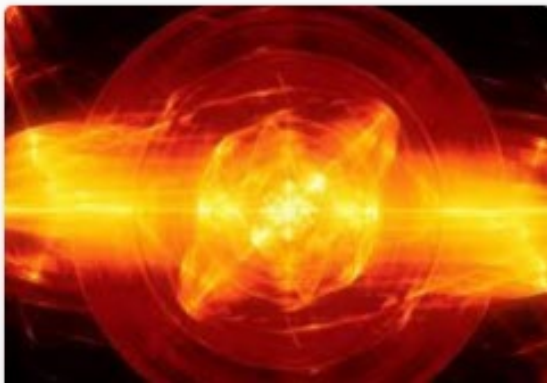
[National Lab Capabilities](#)

[University Contacts](#)

[DOE and Fusion Community Reports](#)

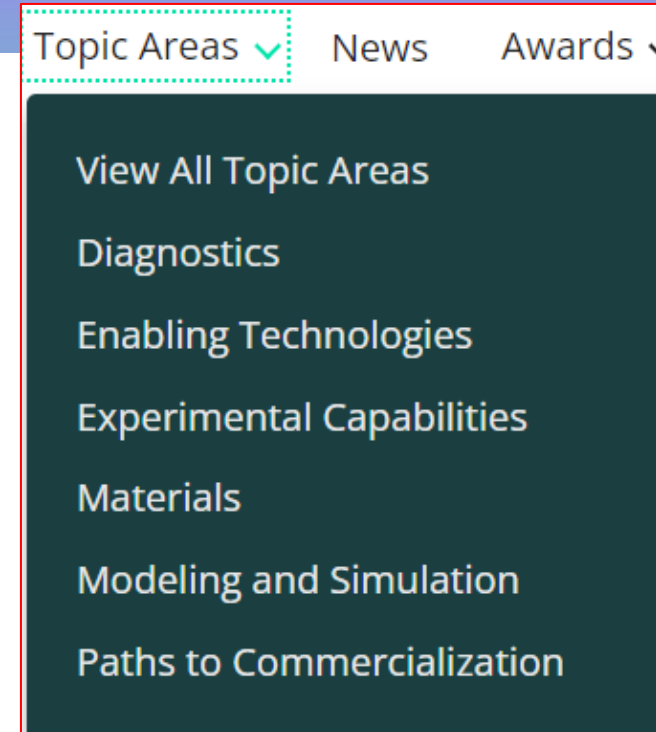
[INFUSE Project Final reports](#)

[Previous RFA Information](#)

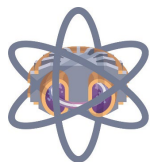


The Library has been organized better into coherent informational areas.

Topic Area Modification (from 2023)

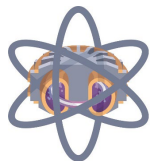


- **Activities to support eventual fusion commercialization (“Paths to Commercialization”)**
 - This topic was added in view of the maturation of the private fusion industry.
 - This would include but not be limited to:
 - Accident and safety analysis in support of eventual licensing
 - Public engagement, including energy and environmental justice
 - Fuel supplies
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Waste disposition and recycling
- **Expansion of “Modeling and Simulation”**
 - This would include but not be limited to:
 - Physics, engineering and/or materials modeling/simulation
 - Plant costing (e.g., models focused on cost to build a fusion plant and cost drivers for a fusion plant or essential subcomponents/systems, such as tritium processing)
 - Technoeconomic modeling focused on cost-of-electricity or other products (e.g., process heat) for fusion plants



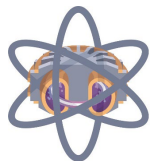
Update to Conflict of Interest certification

- Applicants must be aware of and disclose of real or potential COIs resulting from an applicant's employee(s) or owner(s) having a direct relationship with the proposed partnering research institution.
- COIs may be financial or organizational.
 - A financial conflict of interest means a situation in which an Investigator or the Investigator's spouse or dependent children has a significant financial interest or financial relationship that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting or funding of a project.
 - An organizational conflict of interest means a situation where because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-Federal entity is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization.
- Applicants must confirm in the application submission that there is no COI in collaborating with the partnering institution and partnering institution PI.
- If there is a real or potential COI with the partnering institution or PI, the company should include a statement in the Technical Narrative of the application disclosing the real or potential COI and a justification and/or mitigation plan as to how this COI will be managed.



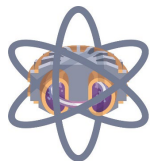
PIER Plan Update

- **Review of PIER Plan**
 - A fifth review criteria was been added to the original four in FY23.
 - The addition was made following a requirement of the Office of Science.
 - Applicants will add this in **Appendix 1** of the application (not within 10 page limit).
 - Go to <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Applicant-and-Awardee-Resources/PIER-Plans/Information-about-PIER-Plans> for more information.
- **Notes on the PIER Plan evaluation**
 - The language of the review criteria is provided by the Office of Science.
 - **Both INFUSE partners, both the private company and the lab / university should include PIER plans.** It is understood to be the view of the organization, not the individual PI.
 - The size of the project, and the size and maturity of the company will be taken into account in the review.
 - **It is acceptable to include items in the budget that will support the activities detailed in the PIER plan in keeping with the cost principles in [2 CFR 200](#).**
 - The PIER Plan is expected to be a plan, not a census.



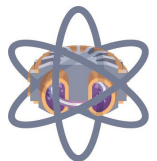
Appendix 3 – Project distinction from other DOE support

- The application can have three appendices which are not included as a part of the 10-page limit:
 1. Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) plan (3 pages) – **Mandatory**.
 2. Images and Tables (2 pages) – **Optional**.
 3. Project Distinction from Other DOE Support (1 page) – **Optional**.
- Appendix 3 details
 - Applicants with ongoing DOE funded projects, such as the Milestone-Based Fusion Development program, may apply for INFUSE awards.
 - Additional justification may be included in the application to explain how the proposed INFUSE project is distinct from other ongoing funded awards.
 - This should be no more than 1 page.



FY 2024 Schedule (Dates are CY 2024 unless noted)

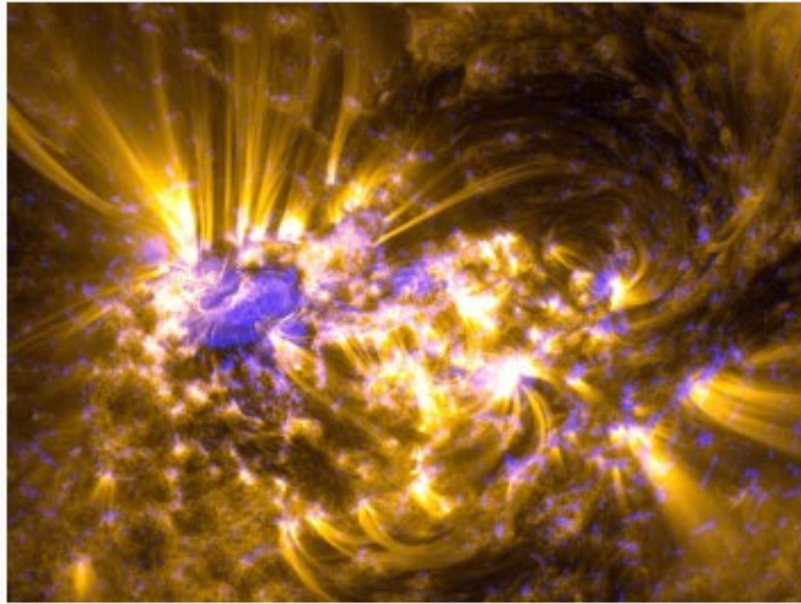
- Nov. 9, 2023 Virtual mini-workshop
- Dec. 11, 2023 RFA posted
- Dec. 14, 2023 Webinar
- Jan. 3 Web site open for submissions
- Feb. 16 (noon EST) RFA closes – **this is a firm deadline**
- Feb. 27-28 In-person workshop at PPPL (**tentative**)
- Mid-June Award Announcement
- Sep. 1 Work Start Date



INFUSE Web Site – Submission



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Innovation Network for Fusion Energy

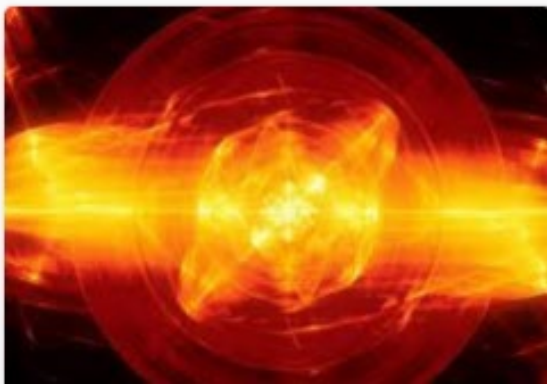
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- [RFA Requirements](#)
- [Previous RFA Information](#)
- [RFA Submission Information and Templates](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

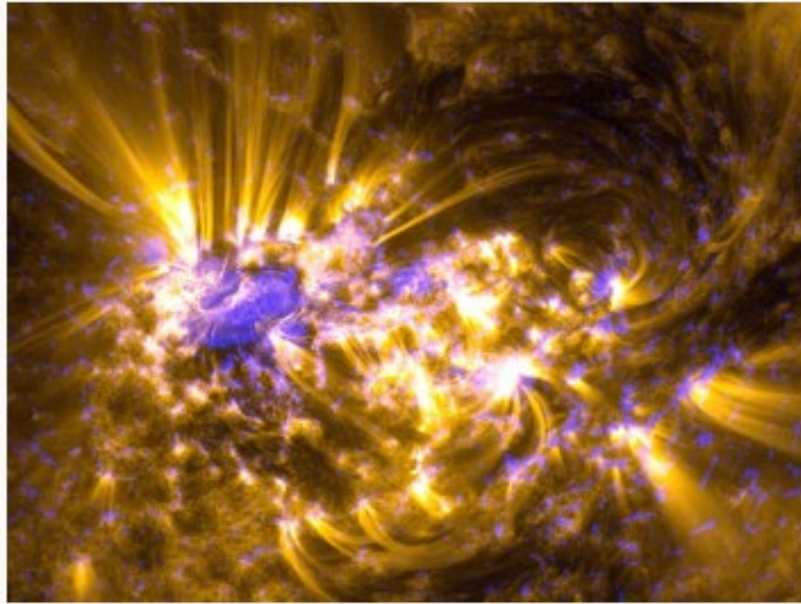
The Submission menu has all of the information related to what is needed to submit an application.



INFUSE Web Site – Awards



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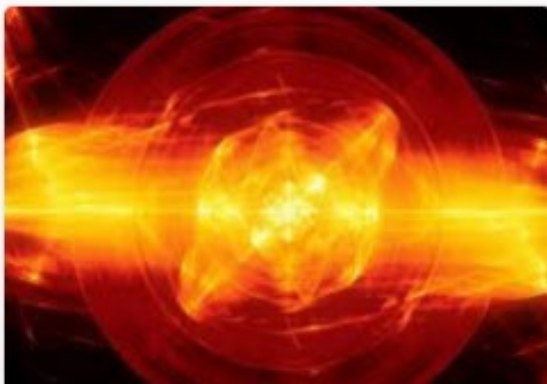
Awards ▾ Library ▾ Submission ▾

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Award information can be listed by:

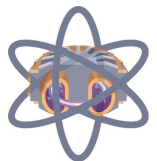
- Company
- Institution (University)
- National Lab
- Topical Area



FY 2023 Submission Tips

A few tips on proposal submission:

- You will need to go through the vetting process to get access to the submission site (see following slides). The application cannot be started until January 3, but vetting can begin now.
- Make sure to give sufficient detail outlining the cost share split between private / national lab partners.
- Also see “Tips on writing a successful proposal” document under “RFA Submission Information and Templates” on submission page (<http://infuse.ornl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/INFUSEhints.pdf>) or the “Frequently Asked Questions” page under the “Submission” tab.



Submission Process – go to “submission” on menu

RFA Announcement and Submissions

The 2024 RFA submissions are expected to open on January 3, 2024.

[FY2024 INFUSE RFA Call](#)

Downloadable Resources

[View and download templates](#)

Access to Submission Site (Open)

ORNL has a security procedure for guest access. If you are planning on submitting an RFA, please fill in your information below. You will be contacted with further instructions. Even if you have a vetted account and password from a previous cycle, you will still need to fill out this form to gain access to the submission site for this round. (NOTE: If you have been vetted before and you enter a different email below, then you will need to be vetted again). Anyone needing access to the site should complete this form, whether a company Point of Contact or company Principal Investigator. Once you receive confirmation, you may log into the protected SharePoint [site](#) here to begin your submission.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Guest Access" with a teal header. Below the header, there is a section for "Required" information. The first field is labeled "1. Name *" and contains a text input box with the placeholder "Enter your answer". The second field is labeled "2. Primary Email *" and also contains a text input box with the placeholder "Enter your answer". The form is set against a light blue background with a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

Guest Access

* Required

1. Name *

Enter your answer

2. Primary Email *

Enter your answer

<https://infuse.ornl.gov/rfa-announcement-and-submission/>

- You may begin the process now.
- This is the first step of the “vetting” process to gain access to the RFA application site.

INFUSE questions: infuse@ornl.gov

Arnie: lumsdainea@ornl.gov

Erik: egilson@pppl.gov

Submission – Vetting Process for Guest Access

To request guest access for submitting an RFA Application, please visit <https://infuse.ornl.gov/rfa-announcement-and-submission/> and fill out the form under “Access to Submission Site” at the bottom of the page.

An automated process will check if you have already been vetted and your email is in our system.

If you have been vetted in the last 6 months, you will receive an invitation to the RFA Application site along with log in instructions. ***Note that if you have changed software (i.e. reinstalled Authenticator) or hardware (i.e. new cell phone) you will need to email infuse@ornl.gov in order to reset your MFA.***

If you have not been vetted in the last 6 months, you will receive the email below:

Greetings,

Please use this [link](#) to schedule a time when you are available to be vetted for guest access to ORNL’s SharePoint sites.

You will need the following:

1. Access to a web camera
2. Driver's license or Passport
3. A system with Google Chrome (for the Teams web version) or the Teams client installed.

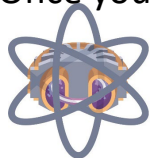
The link will take you to a bookings page <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/ExternalGuestScheduling@ornl.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/> which will allow you to select the date/time when you can join a Teams meeting.

When the external user selects the date/time they can meet, a Teams meeting gets created for both them and with one of our team members.

At the Teams meeting, both you and our team member will turn on their cameras. You will verify your identity by showing our team member your driver’s license or passport. No information or images are recorded.

They will also walk you through any additional steps that may be needed.

Once you have been vetted, you will receive an email invitation to the RFA Application site along with log in instructions.



Submission Notes

A few notes on proposal submission:

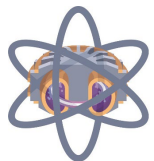
- You may make any changes to your application while it is in “Draft”.
- When you change to “Submit” and press save:
 - You will be notified if any required fields are not completed.
 - You will be sent a confirmation email including a PDF of your submission.
- You can continue to modify your application until Feb. 16 at noon (EST)

You may submit once required fields are completed. *

☒ Draft ☐ Submit

Important! Submitted applications can continue to be modified until the application close date. No applications are reviewed until that time. After submitting, you will receive a PDF copy of the form for additional review (allow 5 minutes).

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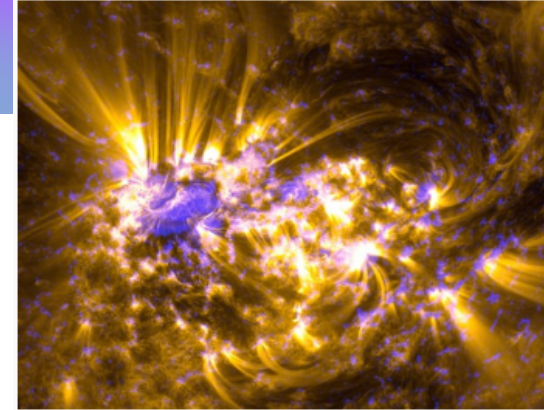
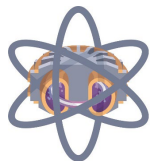


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Discussion

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[Read Article](#)



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Milestone Program Awards

Published: November 7, 2023

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

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