

The State and Prospects of Fusion Energy workshop

Preliminary Agenda

International Energy Agency Headquarters

9 rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris

International
Energy Agency

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Wednesday, 26 February 2025	
13h30	Welcome <p>Toshiyuki Sakamoto, Vice Chair, Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT)</p> <p>Timur Gül, Chief Energy Technology Officer, International Energy Agency (IEA)</p> <p>David Maisonnier, Chair, Fusion Power Coordinating Committee (FPCC)</p>
13h45	Introduction to Fusion Energy <p>Prof. Karl Lackner, Emeritus Scientific Member, Max Planck-Institute for Plasma Physics (20 min)</p>
14h05	Session 1: Current Progress and Future Prospects for Fusion Energy <p>Speakers:</p> <p>David Maisonnier, Chair, Fusion Power Coordinating Committee (FPCC) (15 min)</p> <p>Brian A. Grierson, Director of Fusion Energy Technologies, General Atomics (15 min)</p> <p>Alain Becoulet, Deputy Director-General and Chief Scientist, ITER Organization (15 min)</p> <p>Moderator: Michele de Nigris, CERT Vice Chair Q&A (10 min)</p>
15h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15h30	Session 2: Critical Technology Barriers <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Francesca Ferrazza, Head of the Magnetic Fusion Initiatives Unit, Eni (10 min)</p> <p>Prof. Ryosuke Kodama, Director, Institute of Laser Engineering, Osaka University (10 min)</p> <p>Moderator: Dennis Mesina, CERT Vice Chair Discussion (40 min)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most significant technological challenges and opportunities that the fusion industry faces today, and how are they being addressed? • Are any breakthroughs needed / fundamental problems left to be solved, or are we “just” facing engineering problems? • What are the biggest technology hurdles to transitioning from experimental fusion projects to commercially viable fusion power plants? • How do different fusion development strategies across countries compare? Are there key differences in priorities or approaches?

16h30	Session 3: Priority Actions for Government and Industry
	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Elena Righi, Head of EURATOM Research, European Commission (10 min)</p> <p>Bob Mumgaard, CEO, Commonwealth Fusion Systems (10 min)</p> <p>Moderator: Toshiyuki Sakamoto, CERT Vice Chair</p> <p>Discussion (40 min)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the different fusion strategies worldwide, what policies or funding mechanisms seem most effective for accelerating progress? • What are the key barriers to establishing effective public-private partnerships in fusion development? • What are the key differences between government-led and industry-led approaches to fusion development? • How can governments create policies that better support private-sector fusion initiatives? • What lessons can be learned from other large-scale scientific and energy projects when designing fusion policy frameworks? • What are the most critical policy and regulatory actions governments should take to accelerate fusion commercialization? • How can governments ensure long-term funding and stability for fusion research and development? • What are the biggest technical and financial challenges facing private fusion companies today? • How can public-private partnerships be structured to maximize innovation and efficiency in fusion development? • What are examples of successful collaborations between government and industry in fusion or other energy sectors? • How can international cooperation between government-led and private fusion efforts be improved?
17h30	Close

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