

House Appropriations Bill (sections related to fusion research) December 9, 2014

Fusion Energy Sciences - The total for Fusion Energy Sciences in FY15 (“domestic” plus ITER) is \$467,500,000. This compares with the Administration’s FY15 requested level of \$416,000,000 and the FY14 enacted level of \$505,677,000. The agreement accepts the new proposed budget structure for fusion energy sciences and provides funding accordingly. Unless specifically contravened in this agreement, references in the House report using the old budget structure shall stand. The agreement further directs the Office of Science to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act a report on the contribution of fusion energy sciences to scientific discovery and the development and deployment of new technologies beyond possible applications in fusion energy.

Within available funds, the agreement provides not less than \$70,220,000 for the National Spherical Torus Experiment, not less than \$79,950,000 for DIII-D, and not less than \$22,260,000 for Alcator C-Mod. The Office of Science is advised that fiscal year 2016 will be the final year of funding for Alcator C-Mod, consistent with the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee strategic planning and priorities report under all budget scenarios, and is directed to plan for an orderly shutdown following fiscal year 2016. The Office of Science is further directed to seek community engagement on the strategic planning and priorities report through a series of scientific workshops on research topics that would benefit from a review of recent progress, would have potential for broadening connections between the fusion energy sciences portfolio and related fields, and would identify scientific research opportunities. The Department is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act a report on its community engagement efforts.

The agreement provides \$216,062,000 for burning plasma science foundations, \$38,956,000 for burning plasma science long pulse, and \$59,682,000 for discovery plasma science. In addition to these funds, the agreement provides \$2,500,000 to continue high energy density laboratory plasma science at the Neutralized Drift Compression Experiment-II and \$300,000 for the National Undergraduate Fellowship Program to support the study of plasma physics.

The agreement provides \$150,000,000 for ITER, of which not less than \$125,000,000 is for in-kind hardware contributions and up to \$25,000,000 is for cash contributions to the ITER Organization.

Additionally, from the statutory language, the bill requires:

Provided further, That no funding may be made available for United States cash contributions to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project until its governing Council implements the recommendations of the Third Biennial International Organization Management Assessment Report.

Provided further, That the Secretary of Energy may waive this requirement upon submission to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a determination that the Council is making satisfactory progress towards implementation of such recommendations.

NNSA Funding for ICF continued on next page

Inertial Confinement Fusion and High Yield -The agreement provides \$512,895,000. Within these funds, \$68,000,000 is for Omega at the University of Rochester and \$329,000,000 is for the National Ignition Facility (NIF). The NNSA is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act an assessment on whether the likelihood of achieving ignition at the NIF has increased since December 2012 and the level of confidence that the NNSA will achieve ignition at the NIF by December 2015.