



Key Points of STFC and EPSRC's Fusion for Energy Strategy

EPSRC and STFC Councils have agreed a revised strategy for fusion for energy research:

- 1) EPSRC and STFC will support fusion research as a long term endeavour in which the UK is making an internationally leading research contribution and demonstrating leadership to realise the goal of fusion energy.
- 2) EPSRC will develop a long term base funding mechanism for magnetic confinement fusion as part of the energy programme. This will include support for the reduced MAST upgrade.
- 3) EPSRC will provide targeted "challenge" funding for specific fusion research, when possible, given other priorities in the RCUK Energy Programme.
- 4) For the period after 2011, working with the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, EPSRC will seek an agreement with Euratom on long term JET funding, recognising its essential role in preparation for ITER.
- 5) For ICF, the HiPER project should continue to develop its business case and there should be a parallel document that clearly details the UK specific proposed activity and costs. When ready this should undergo an independent technical review.
- 6) Both MCF and ICF should contribute to realising the benefits of more immediate applications as they arise from fusion research programmes.
- 7) Industry's role for the next 20 years is likely to be as a specialist (funded) developer and supplier of equipment to large and complex experiments, but not as an investor in them.
- 8) EPSRC and STFC will maintain the strong links with universities in both magnetic and inertial confinement fusion to broaden research input and develop the next generation of fusion scientists and engineers.
- 9) EPSRC and STFC will widen the remit of the current Fusion Advisory Board to cover both magnetic and inertial confinement fusion.

The sale of UKAEA Ltd to Babcock International Group was completed in November 2009. The fusion work at Culham is now being carried out by the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy as part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

EPSRC, STFC and the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy are now working together to implement this strategy.