# The Path to Commercial Fusion Energy

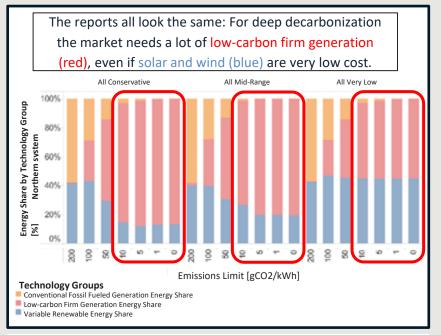
Rick Needham Chief Commercial Officer





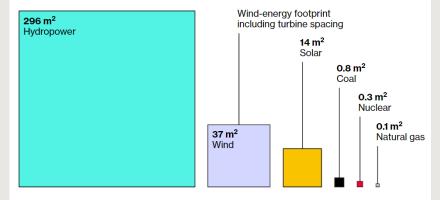
### The world needs a new clean energy technology

- Electricity demand increasing
  - Global electricity demand projected to increase by at least 50% by 2050
- Geopolitical challenges looming
  - Supply chains, critical minerals, commodity prices, and interconnections
- Limitations of variable renewables
  - Seasonality, intermittency, and weather
  - Land use many countries have limited renewables options
  - To decarbonize the grid, we need an affordable, dispatchable, zero-carbon power source



Power Densities: Renewables Need More Space

Land area needed to power a flat-screen TV, by energy source



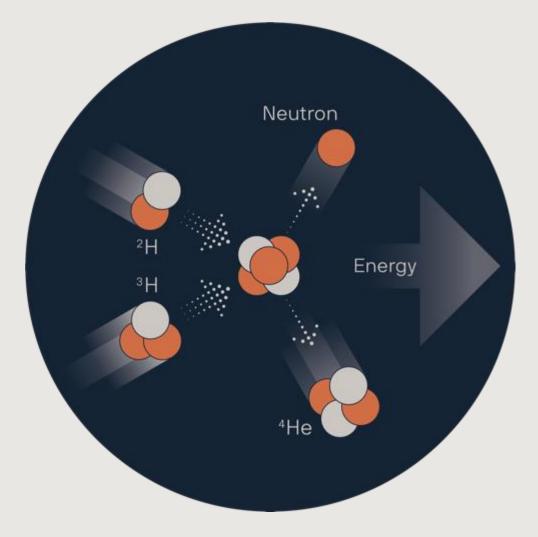
Note: Assumes 100-watt television operating year-round

Source: van Zalk, John, Behrens, Paul, 2018, The Spatial Extent of Renewable and Non-Renewable Power Generation

#### Copyright Commonwealth Fusion Systems

#### Fusion is the energy source to meet that challenge

- Process that happens in stars like the sun
- Hydrogen fuses together into helium releasing enormous amounts of energy
- Generates 200 million times the energy per reaction as burning coal

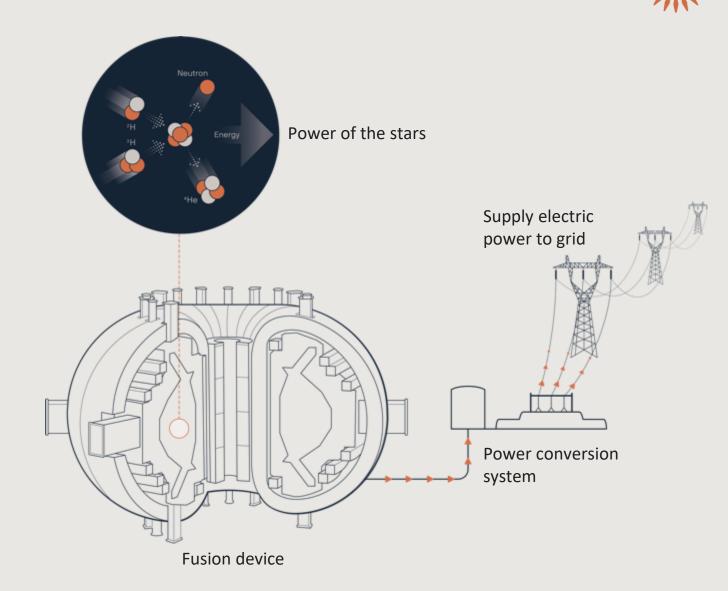


The power of the stars



### Why fusion is disruptive

- Clean zero emissions
- Dispatchable able to provide baseload or on demand power
- Safe no chain reaction, no risk of meltdown, no decay heat, walkaway safe, no high-level waste or proliferation
- Scalable affordable, modular, capable of siting anywhere, leverages existing infrastructure
- Secure no geopolitically fraught supply chain, minimal fuel which can all be procured up front





#### Machines called "tokamaks"

On the verge of commercially relevant fusion power

 Machines called "tokamak are closest

than in (Q>1)

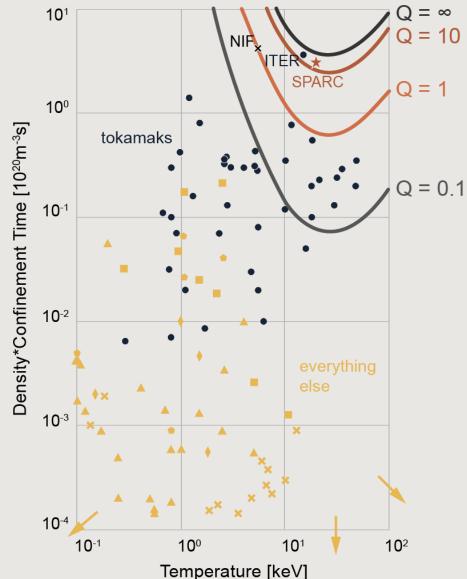
 >150 tokamaks have been built worldwide

On the cusp of a key milestone

of commercially relevant net

gain energy, more energy out

 Magnets hold and insulate the plasma and very high magnetic fields make tokamaks smaller

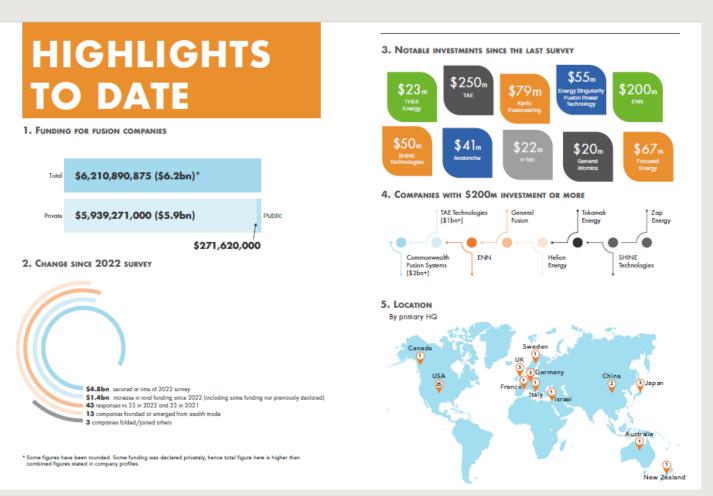




•

### There is a growing global private fusion industry

- Nearly 40 global startups with the goal of commercializing fusion
- Over \$6 billion in private investment
- 87% of companies believe that fusion electricity will be on the grid in the 2030s
- 2022 fusion supply chain spending was over \$500 million, with projected supply chain growth of 1300%



Fusion Industry Association 2023 Industry Report

# **CFS' Plan**

### CFS is on a path to deliver commercial fusion energy

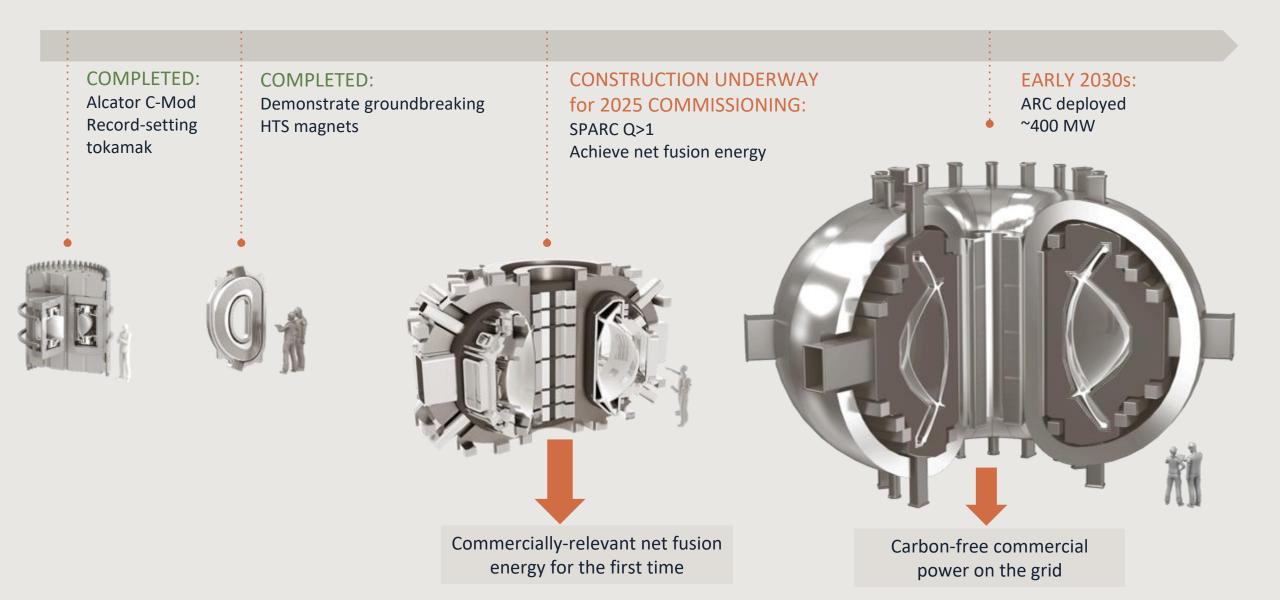


- CFS Founded in 2018, spun out of MIT with the goal of commercializing fusion energy to combat climate change
- Raised more >\$2 billion
- Built a high caliber, diverse team
- >650 employees



#### Risk retirement in concrete steps



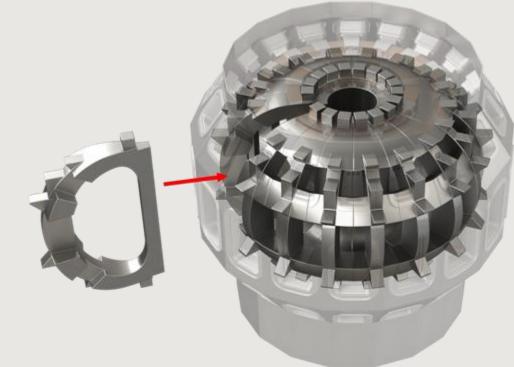


## CFS proprietary magnets unlock new fusion path



- CFS invented world's strongest High Temperature Superconductor (HTS) magnet
- Designed and built it in 3 years, demonstrated 20 Tesla
- Power plants can be >40x smaller, faster, and much lower cost





### SPARC, first commercially relevant fusion machine



- Validated approach peer reviewed publications
- Demonstrated technology built world's strongest HTS magnets
- Accelerated construction we are building it now

J. Phasma Phys. (2020), vol. 66, 865860202 
O. The Authors's, 2020. 
Published by Cambridge University Press.

This is an Open Access article, distributed under the terms of the Catalive Commons

Antributes.NonCommencial 2000 Prevails Researce (http://www.isegiocommons.org/Researce/Ty-ne.td/4.07), which
prevails non-commercial re-use, distributed, and properly (non-commercial re-use, non-commercial re-use, distributed, and properly (non-commercial re-use), which provided the original work is
unablered and is properly (non. The writem permission of Cambridge University Press must be obtained for
commercial re-use or in order to comman command work.

#### Overview of the SPARC tokamak

doi:10.1017/S0022377020001257

 A. J. Creely <sup>01</sup>, <sup>4</sup>, M. J. Greenwald <sup>02</sup>, S. B. Ballinger<sup>1</sup>, D. Brunner<sup>1</sup>, J. Canik<sup>1</sup>,
J. Doody<sup>2</sup>, T. Fülöp <sup>04</sup>, D. T. Garnier<sup>2</sup>, R. Granetz<sup>2</sup>, T. K. Gray<sup>3</sup>, C. Holland<sup>5</sup>,
N. T. Howard<sup>2</sup>, J. W. Hughes <sup>02</sup>, J. H. Irby<sup>2</sup>, V. A. Izzo<sup>6</sup>, G. J. Kramer<sup>1</sup>,
A. Q. Kuang <sup>02</sup>, B. LaBombard<sup>4</sup>, Y. Lin <sup>02</sup>, B. Lipschultz<sup>5</sup>, N. C. Logan<sup>2</sup>,
J. D. Lore<sup>3</sup>, E. S. Marmar<sup>2</sup>, K. Montes<sup>2</sup>, R. T. Mumgaard<sup>1</sup>, C. Paz-Soldan <sup>09</sup>,
C. Rea <sup>01</sup>, M. L. Reinke<sup>1</sup>, P. Rodriguez-Fernandez <sup>02</sup>, K. Särkiemäkl <sup>04</sup>,
F. Sciortino<sup>2</sup>, S. D. Scott<sup>1</sup>, A. Snicker<sup>30</sup>, P. B. Snyder<sup>9</sup>, B. N. Sorbom<sup>1</sup>,
R. Sweensy<sup>10</sup>, R. A. Tinguely<sup>2</sup>, E. A. Tolman<sup>5</sup>, M. Umansky<sup>13</sup>, O. Vallhagen<sup>4</sup>,
J. Varje<sup>19</sup>, D. G. Whyte<sup>2</sup>, J. C. Wright<sup>2</sup>, S. J. Wakitch<sup>2</sup>, J. Zhu<sup>2</sup> and the SPARC Team<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Plasma Science and Pission Center, Massachuseth Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA <sup>5</sup>Oak Raige National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN, USA <sup>6</sup>Chaitners University of Technology, Göteberg, Swaden <sup>9</sup>University of California – San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA <sup>9</sup>Fint Lan, San Diego, CA, USA <sup>7</sup>Princeston Plasma Bypsich Laboratory, Princenon, NJ, USA <sup>8</sup>Yook Plasma Institute, University of York, Hockington, York, UK <sup>9</sup>Caneral Alumics, San Diego, CA, USA <sup>9</sup>Auto University, Espon, Finland <sup>10</sup>ORISE, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Ukwramer, CA, USA <sup>11</sup>Lawrenne Livermore National Laboratory, Ukwramer, CA, USA <sup>12</sup>Lawrenne Livermore National Laboratory, Ukwramer, CA, USA <sup>13</sup>Lawrenne Livermore National Laboratory, Ukwramer, CA, USA

(Received 18 May 2020; revised 9 September 2020; accepted 10 September 2020)

The SPARC tokamak is a critical next step towards commercial fusion energy. SPARC is designed as a high-field (B<sub>0</sub> = 12.2 T), compact (R<sub>0</sub> = 1.85 m, a = 0.57 m), superconducting. DT tokamak with the goal of producing fusion gain Q > 2 frem a magnetically confined fusion plasma for the first time. Currently under design, SPARC will continue the high-field path of the Alcator series of tokamaks, utilizing new magnets based on rare earth barium copper oxide high-temperature superconductors to achieve high performance in a compact device. The goal of Q > 2 is achievable with conservative physics assumptions ( $H_{m,s,2} = 0.7$ ) and, with the nominal assumption of  $H_{m,s,2} = 1$ , SPARC is projected to attain  $Q \approx 11$  and  $P_{basen} \approx 140$  MW. SPARC will therefore constitute a unique platform for burning plasma physics research with high density ( $\phi_0 > 3 \times 10^{10}$  m<sup>-3</sup>), high temperature ( $T_0 > 7$  keV) and high power density

\* Email address for correspondence: alex@cfs.energy

an interim wyna terretellou yn achinellau Published widre by Candridge University Press





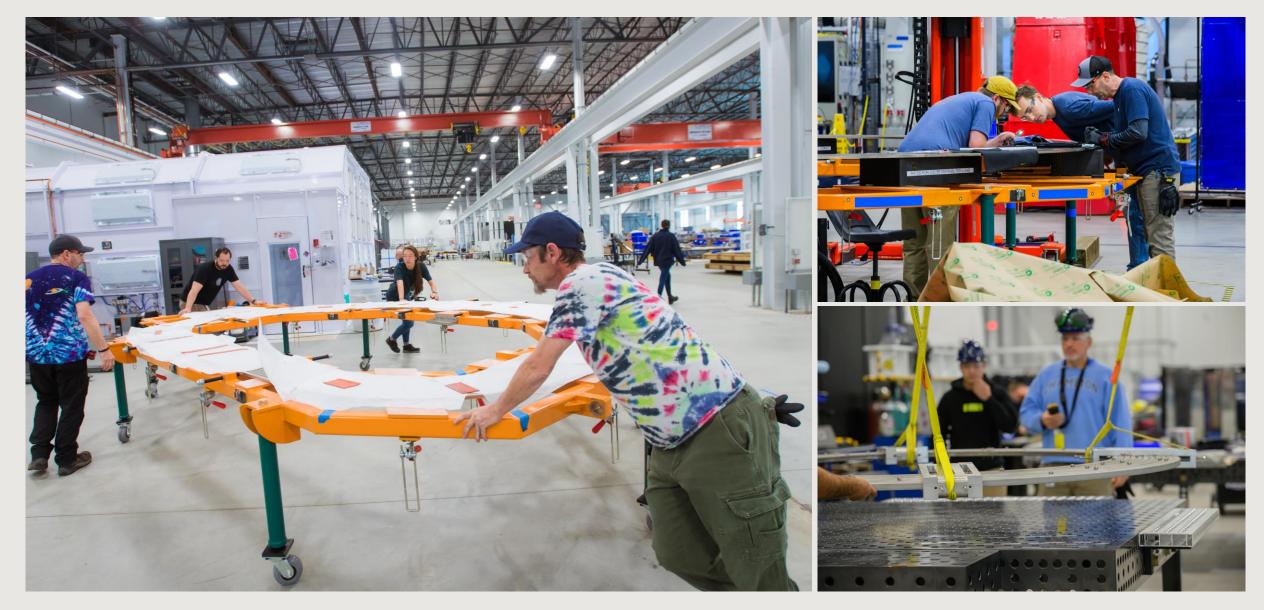
### CFS Commercial Fusion Campus in Devens, MA





## **CFS Magnet Factory**





## **SPARC** Facility





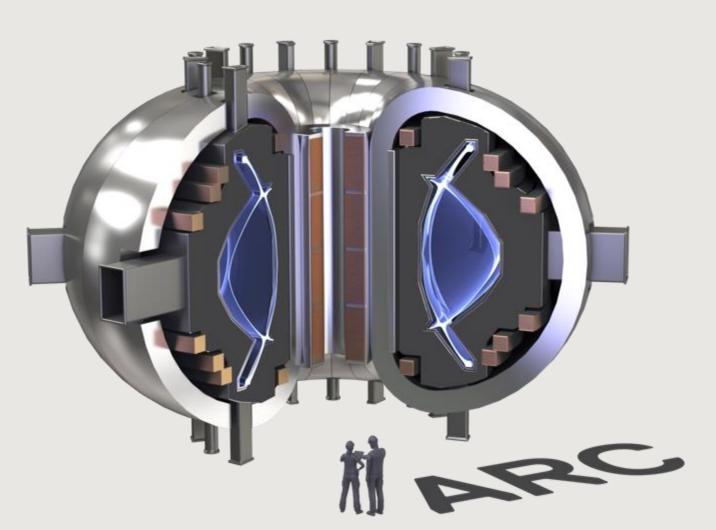
#### **Tokamak Hall**





#### ARC, world's first commercial fusion power plant

- Validation from SPARC:
  - Economics de-risked using SPARC costs and supply chain
  - Performance de-risked using SPARC operations to optimize it
  - Technology de-risked using SPARC and innovative R&D pathways in parallel
- Global site search underway





# Policy for Accelerating Fusion Deployment

## Policy for accelerating fusion deployment

- Growing government support for fusion energy
- Governments advancing policies, strategies, and regulations include US, UK, China, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, and EU
- Private fusion companies are moving quickly, but policy support will ensure fusion energy succeeds at scale in time to meet the climate challenge

#### Key policy areas:

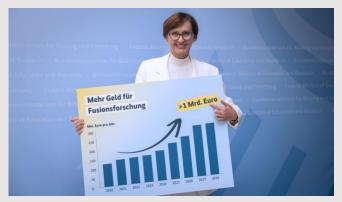
- **Regulatory and Permitting**: Risk-appropriate regulation, distinct from fission; regulatory and permitting certainty
- Financial Framework: Enabling financial frameworks including incentives and tariff structures, commensurate with fusion's transformative role in addressing climate change and designed to accelerate deployment
- **Fusion Ecosystem**: Ecosystem development, including supply chain policies e.g., limited export control and workforce-related programs

18





Special Envoy for Climate Secretary John Kerry announcing the new International Fusion Strategy



German Minister for Education and Research Stark-Watzinger announcing additional investments as part of German Fusion Strategy

## Fusion Policy in the U.S.

#### **Regulatory and Permitting:**

- NRC finalized their decision on commercial fusion regulation
- Part 30 "byproduct materials" framework as particle accelerators
  - This is distinct from fission, regulated under Parts 50 or 52

#### **Financial Framework:**

- Inflation Reduction Act: Technology-neutral tax credits provide up to 50% tax credit for power plants that meet decarbonization, labor, and other criteria
- *Milestone-based Fusion Development Program*: supports private companies meeting milestones towards a private fusion pilot plant

#### **Fusion Ecosystem:**

- International Fusion Strategy established goals for increased int. partnerships and collaborations to accelerate commercial fusion
- *DOE Infuse:* Provides funding to lab/university to help private companies overcome critical scientific and technological challenges

Readout of the White House Summit on Developing a Bold Decadal Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy

#### Executive Summary

APRIL 19, 2022 + PRESS RELEASES

The Biden-Harris Administration is developing a strategy to accelerate fusion energy - a clean energy technology that uses the same reaction that powers the Sun and stars. On March 17, 2022, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) co-hosted the first-ever White House summit on Developing a Bold Decadal Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy. The hybrid event drew more than 1,200 viewers to witness fusion energy leaders from government, industry, academia, and other stakeholder groups showcase progress made and have inclusive conversations about an updated fusion energy strategy.

#### The Biden-Harris Administration announced three new initiatives

 Community Engagement: The Biden-Harris Administration will lead the development of a decadal strategy to accelerate the realization of commercial fusion energy that benefits all stakeholders. Future workshops will build on this momentum to further define a clear path to success.



US Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk announcing the Creation of Milestone Based Fusion Development Program *Photo by Fusion Industry Association* 

# Fusion Policy in the UK

#### **Regulatory and Permitting:**

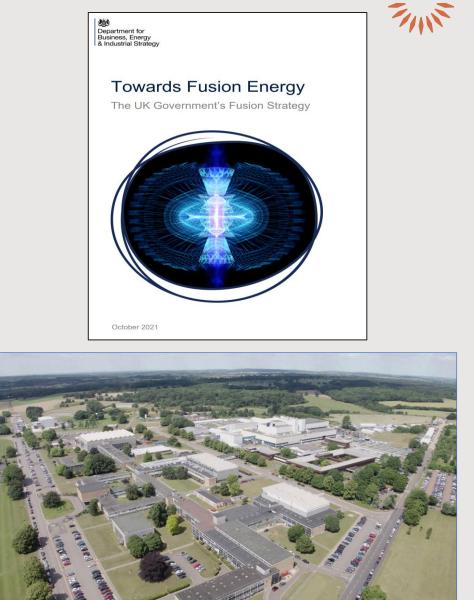
- Regulating fusion through Health & Safety Executive and Environmental Agency, not Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Enshrined into Energy Bill that fusion is distinct from fission
- Leading "Agile Nations" working group on fusion policy

#### Financial Framework:

- R&D: public and private coordination (new £650M in funding)
- Exploring other incentive programs (Fusion Fund)
- Discussing Contracts for Difference for fusion

#### **Fusion Ecosystem:**

- Fusion campus at UKAEA in Culham
  - Research partnerships for companies
  - Research into fusion supporting systems
  - Apprentice program



UKAEA fusion campus in Culham Photo by UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)

