



# Developments in the Global Private Fusion Industry

*Fondation Tuck*

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Chief Executive Officer

# Overview: The Private Fusion Industry Today

- 43 verified private fusion companies
- **\$6.2 billion in investment**
- 13 new fusion companies
- Increasing optimism on timescales
- Growing interest from governments in Public Private Partnerships
- Growing geographical diversity
- But – many challenges remain

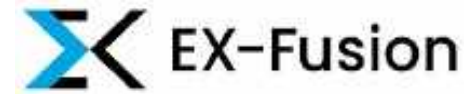


# FIA Mission



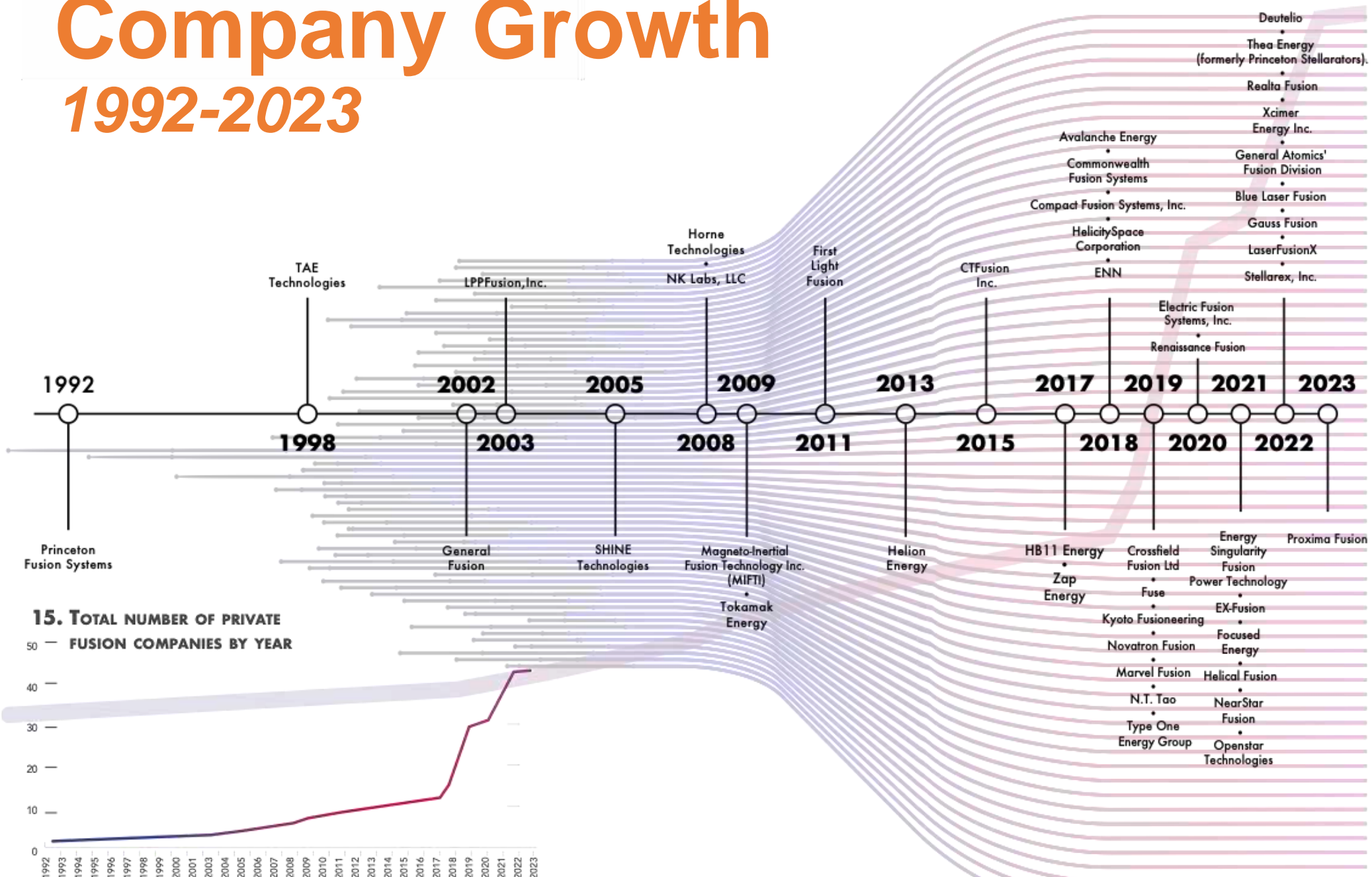
*The Fusion Industry Association is the **voice** of the growing fusion industry. It is a membership organization that supports efforts to **accelerate commercial fusion energy through advocacy and education***

# FIA Membership





# Company Growth 1992-2023



# A Global Industry *Led by American Companies*



- 25 American Fusion Companies
  - With > 80% of the investment
- Growing global diversity
  - 12 countries with at least one fusion company
- A global supply chain
- A global workforce
- Global scientific leadership

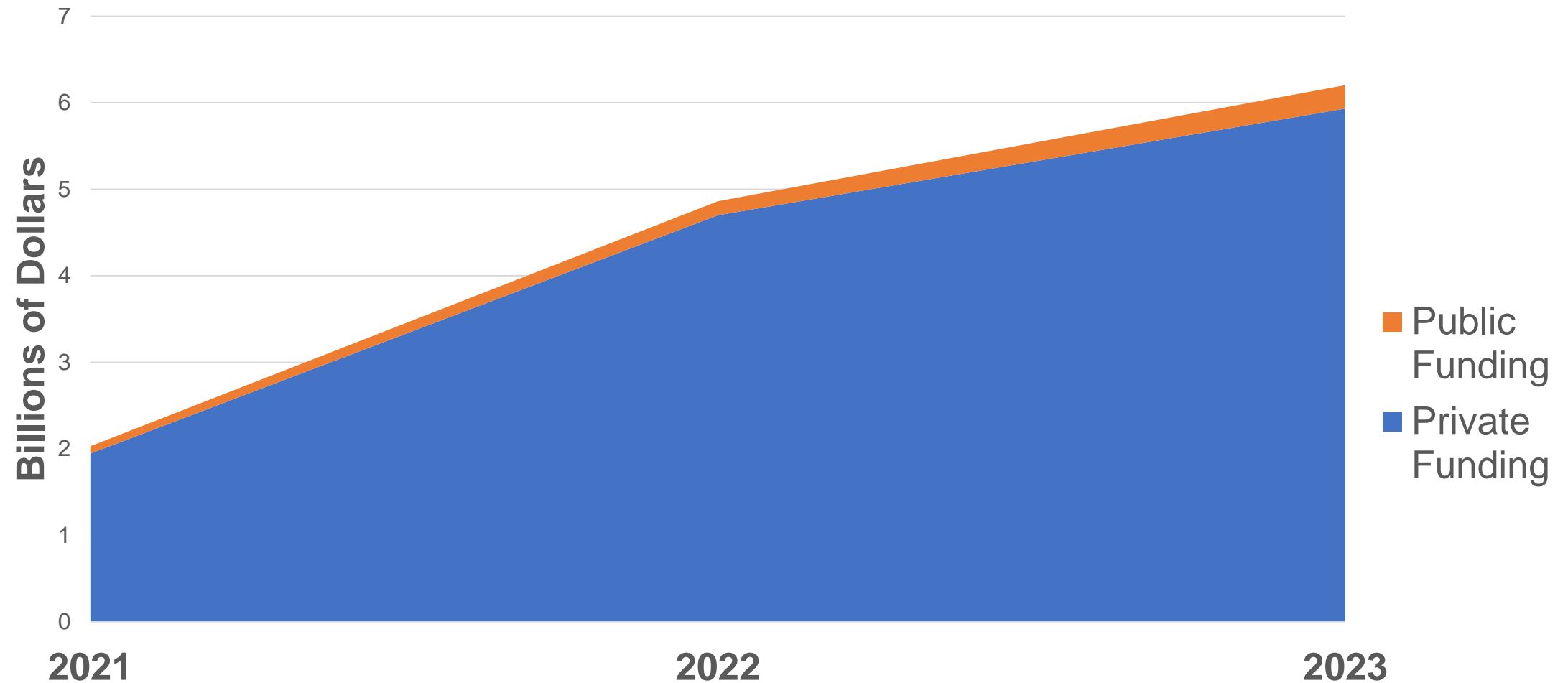


# Variety of Approaches



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <span style="color: blue;">●</span> <b>1</b> Dense Plasma Focus  | <span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>1</b> Muon-catalyzed fusion with high density fuel                            |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>1</b> Direct laser-driven pB11   | <span style="color: darkgreen;">●</span> <b>2</b> Magnetic-electrostatic confinement                                  |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> <b>1</b> Epicyclotron: a hybrid beam background approach   | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> <b>1</b> Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion (MagLIF)                                |
| <span style="color: lightorange;">●</span> <b>1</b> Electro-centripetal confinement with magnetic plasmas not in thermodynamic equilibrium | <span style="color: darkorange;">●</span> <b>1</b> Plectonemic reconnection   |
| <span style="color: peachpuff;">●</span> <b>3</b> Field Reversed Configuration   | <span style="color: lightorange;">●</span> <b>1</b> Poloidal magnetic confinement, e.g. Levitron, LDX, Intrap         |
| <span style="color: black;">●</span> <b>1</b> Hypervelocity Gradient Field Fusion  | <span style="color: darkgrey;">●</span> <b>1</b> Pulsed magneto-plasma pressurized confinement                        |
| <span style="color: grey;">●</span> <b>1</b> Laser-driven inertial confinement   | <span style="color: bluegrey;">●</span> <b>1</b> Shock-driven inertial confinement                                    |
| <span style="color: darkgrey;">●</span> <b>1</b> Laser-driven Direct Drive Inertial Confinement Fusion                                     | <span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>1</b> Spindle cusp, superconducting shielded-grid Inertial Electric Confinement |
| <span style="color: lightgrey;">●</span> <b>1</b> Levitated Dipole   | <span style="color: black;">●</span> <b>6</b> Stellarator   |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> <b>1</b> Magnetic mirror  | <span style="color: lightgrey;">●</span> <b>6</b> Tokamak/Spherical Tokamak/Advanced Tokamak                          |
| <span style="color: brown;">●</span> <b>1</b> Mirror machine   | <span style="color: darkgrey;">●</span> <b>2</b> Z-pinch  |
| <span style="color: darkred;">●</span> <b>1</b> Magnetized target fusion   | <span style="color: black;">●</span> <b>1</b> N/A   |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> <b>1</b> Modified Stellarator   |   |

# Private Funding Growth 2021-2023





# Notable investments since last survey



\$23<sub>m</sub>  
THEA  
Energy

\$250<sub>m</sub>  
TAE

\$79<sub>m</sub>  
Kyoto  
Fusioneering

\$55<sub>m</sub>  
Energy Singularity  
Fusion Power  
Technology

\$200<sub>m</sub>  
ENN

\$50<sub>m</sub>  
SHINE  
Technologies

\$41<sub>m</sub>  
Avalanche

\$22<sub>m</sub>  
n-Tao

\$20<sub>m</sub>  
General  
Atomics

\$67<sub>m</sub>  
Focused  
Energy

# Why Now?

*Fusion is READY*



**Today's Scientific and Technological Advances Enable Breakthroughs**

## New Materials

New materials, including High Temperature Superconductors, advanced lasers, new alloys, power management chips, and more enable smaller, cheaper machines.

## High Speed Computing & AI

Advances in computing power allow advanced modeling and the application of artificial intelligence to experiments.

## Scientific Understand of Plasma Physics

Breakthrough fusion experiments at NIF and elsewhere will bring greater fidelity to models and enable faster experimentation.

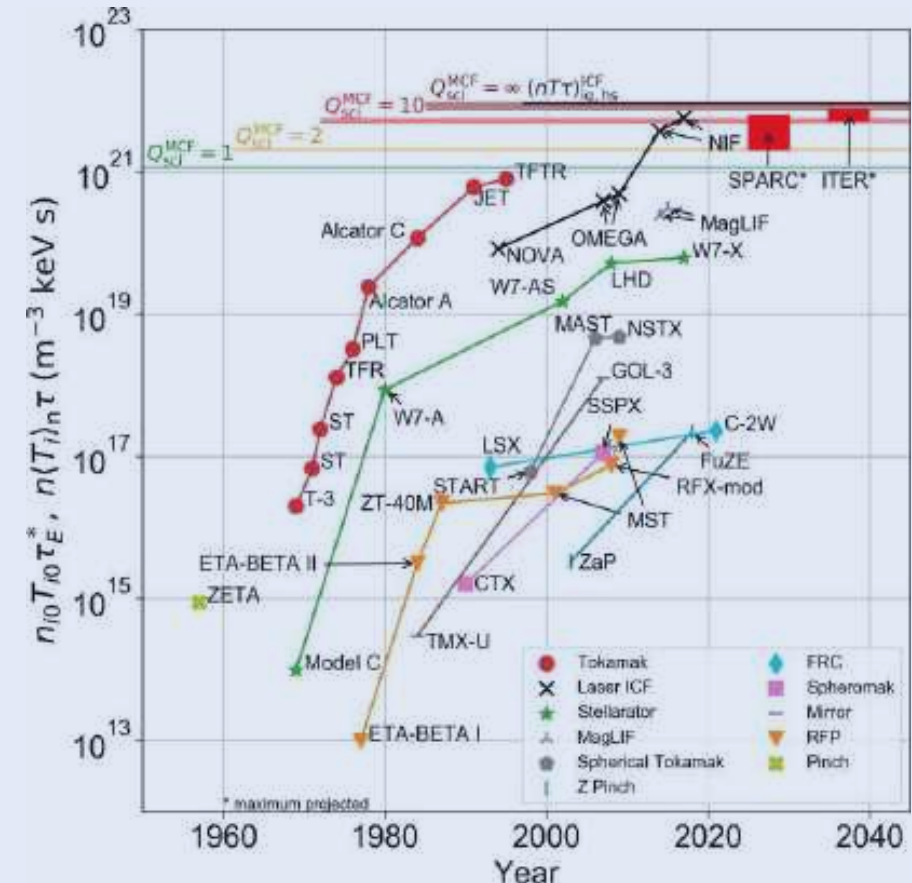
## Advanced Manufacturing

Will allow quick and cheap production of components in complex shapes and with new materials.

## Business Model Improvement

The application of the Silicon Valley-style venture capital has injected funding, urgency, and greater tolerance of risk.

**Historical progress shows continuous advances towards fusion energy**



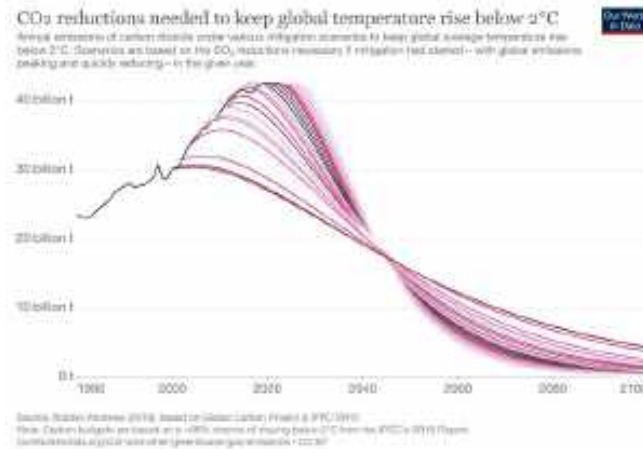
# Why Now?

*The world NEEDS fusion*



## ***Fusion is a Climate Solution***

Meeting the world's climate goals are **almost impossible** without massive deployment of zero-emissions dispatchable power.



## ***Fusion provides Energy Security***

Fusion energy will **break the geopolitics of energy**, so that no dictator can control the price of energy. Fusion energy will be manufactured, not mined.



## ***Fusion is a Business Opportunity***

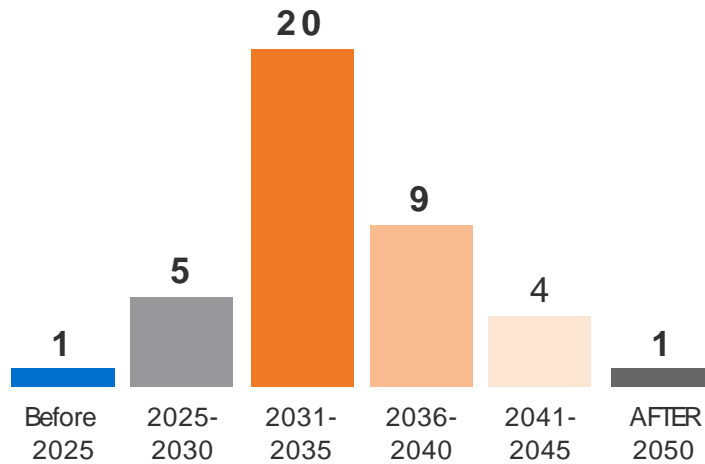
Bloomberg: fusion energy industry could be valued at **\$40 trillion**

McKinsey: fusion could be **“dominant”** source of energy in Europe by 2050

Fusion companies already are spending over \$500m per year



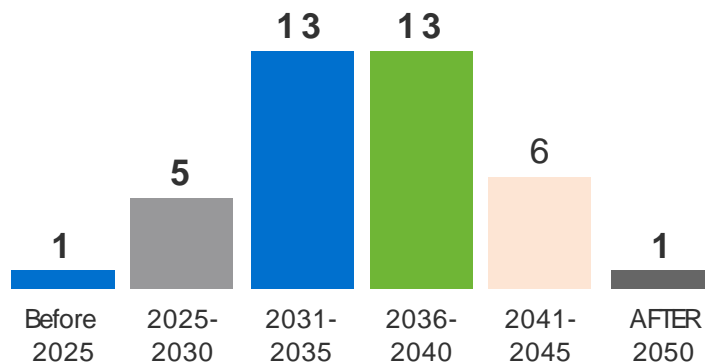
When will the first fusion plant deliver electricity to the grid? (40 responses)



# Growing Confidence

- 88% expect fusion power on the grid in the 2030s or before

When will the first fusion plant demonstrate a low enough cost/ high enough efficiency (Q) to be considered commercially viable? (40 responses)



- 84% expect commercial cost competitiveness on same schedule

# Industry's Timeline



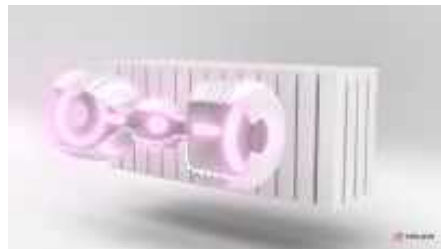
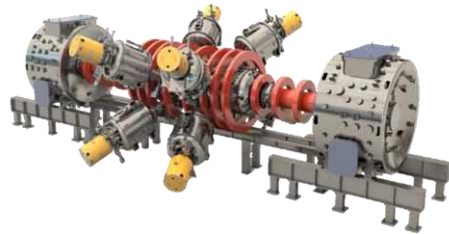
60 years  
of  
research

- Scientific basis for fusion energy



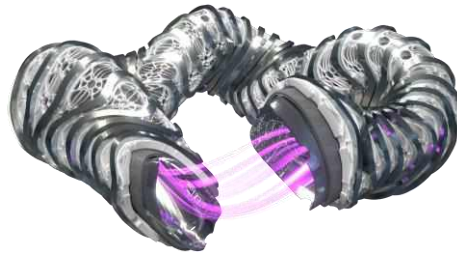
Mid 2020s

- Scientific Proof of Concept



Late  
2020s

- Design and build Pilot Plants



Early  
2030s

- Operate Pilot Plants, first sales



Mid 2030s

- Commercial Fusion, rapid scale-up to global deployment

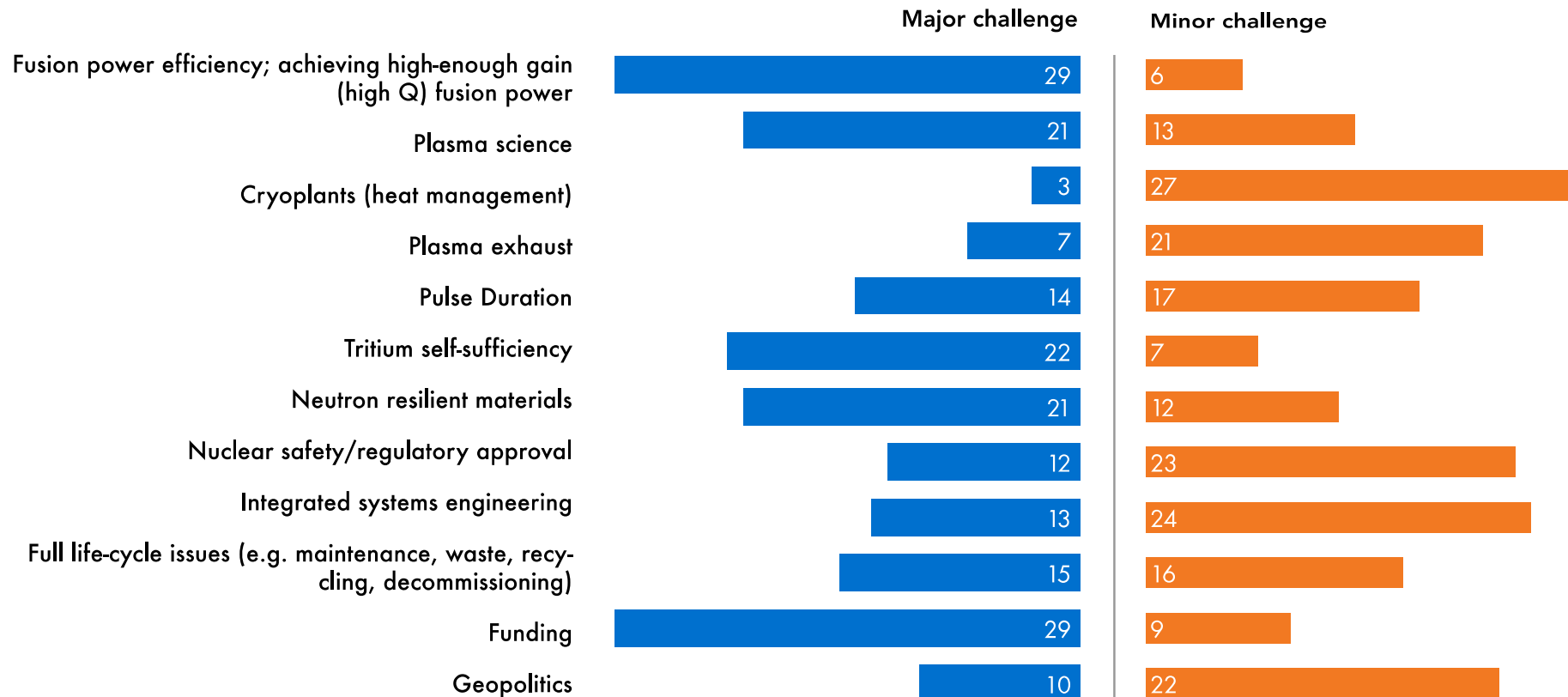




# Expecting Challenges



What do you see are the main challenges for fusion energy up to 2030?  
(38 Responses, non-reported answers indicate not seen as a problem/don't know)



# FIA Supply Chain Report: *Key Findings*



- Fusion developers spent **over \$500m** on their supply chain in 2022, and that will grow to over \$7bn per year by the time they build their “First of a Kind” power plant, and potentially trillions in a mature fusion industry (timescales for this range from 2035-2050).
- *Technological diversity in fusion*: there is not a fusion “supply chain” – there are fusion “supply chains”
- High value supply chain needs are primarily **specialized precision manufactured components**
  - Steady-state Magnetic = high-powered magnets + resilient materials
  - Pulsed power = power electronics and semiconductors
  - Laser IFE = specialized laser & optics components
  - Fusion Fuel Cycle = Lithium blanket
- Biggest challenge = balancing suppliers’ scale with business risk.
  - Fusion companies need suppliers to invest in scale ahead of demand, but suppliers are reluctant to do so without confirmed commitments or clear timelines.
  - Chicken vs Egg?

**FUSION**  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

## The Fusion Industry Supply Chain:

Opportunities and challenges

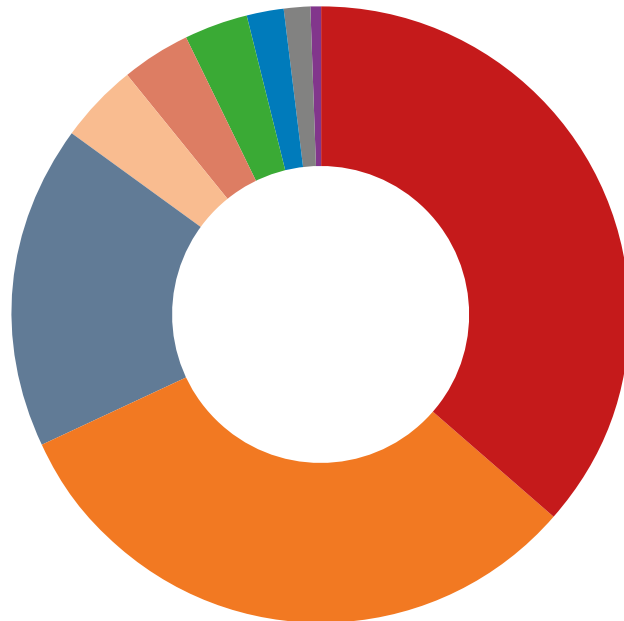


# Industry Growth



- \$500 million per year industry today -> \$7 billion in a decade

Declared annual spending on supply chain by fusion companies



- Specialized components - non-fusion specific (e.g. vacuum pumps) **\$176,490,000**
- Raw materials **\$154,345,000**
- Contract engineering **\$82,650,000**
- Specialized components - fusion specific (e.g. magnets, lasers) **\$19,665,000**
- Commodity 'off-the-shelf' components **\$18,085,000**
- Software **\$16,085,000**
- Professional services **\$9,475,000**
- Contract construction **\$6,255,000**
- Fuel **\$1,870,000**

# Supply Chain Needs



- Manufactured Products, not resources
- Vacuum technology
- Materials to withstand the fusion neutronic environment
- Software to control plasmas and electronics
- Experience to build big things

Current demands from the fusion supply chain (26 responses. Answered 'critical' or 'important').

See Appendix 1 for expanded table.

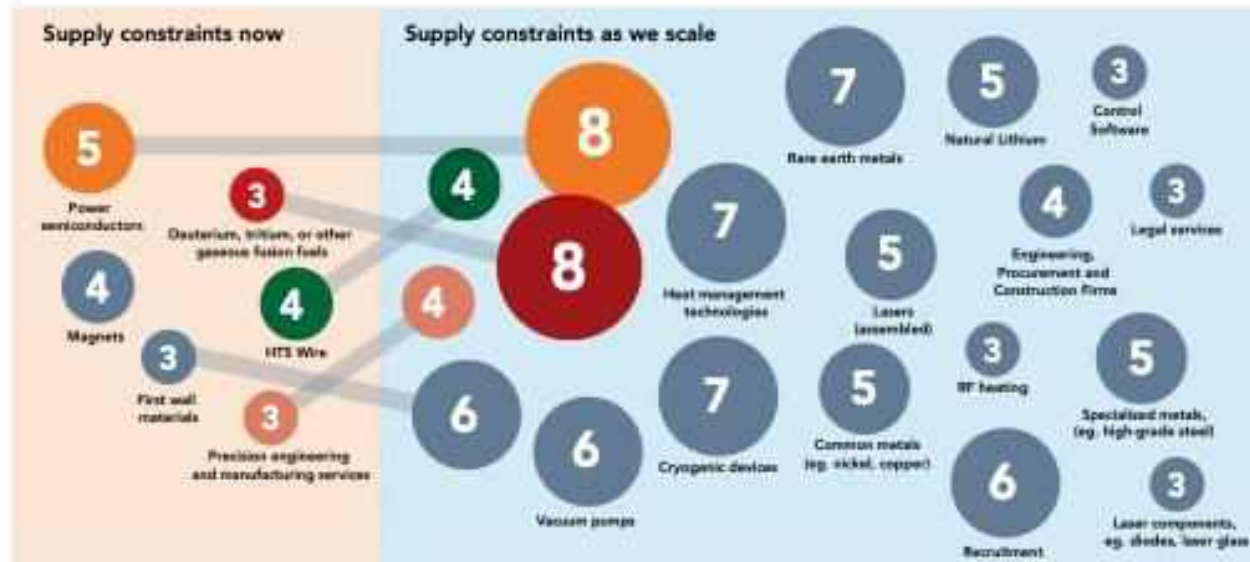
	Critical/important
Vacuum pumps	24
Precision engineering and manufacturing services	24
Control Software	21
Power semiconductors	20
Deuterium, tritium, or other gaseous fusion fuels	19
Recruitment	19
Specialized metals, e.g. high-grade steel	17
Common metals, e.g. nickel, copper	16
Engineering, Procurement and Construction Firms	16
Heat management technologies	14
Natural Lithium	14
First wall materials	14
Legal services	14
Cryogenic devices	13
Magnets	12
RF heating	10
Lithium (enriched)	10
High Temperature Superconducting (HTS) Tape	9
Lasers (assembled)	6
Rare earth metals	6
Laser components, eg. diodes, laser glass	5

# Supply Chain Needs Will Grow



Number of companies expressing concerns about current and future supply constraints (only categories with 3+ responses included below).

See Appendix 1 for expanded data.



Demand increase for fusion components over next ten years (26 responses. Answered 'critical' or 'important').

See Appendix 1 for expanded table.

Order of magnitude/  
significant increase

Vacuum pumps	14
Precision engineering and manufacturing services	14
Heat management technologies	13
Deuterium, tritium, or other gaseous fusion fuels	13
Engineering, Procurement and Construction Firms	13
Recruitment	13
Power semiconductors	12
Specialized metals, e.g. high-grade steel	12
Control Software	12
First wall materials	11
HTS Wire	10
Magnets	10
Cryogenic devices	10
Natural Lithium	10
Lithium (enriched)	8
Legal services	8
RF heating	7
Rare earth metals	7
Common metals, e.g. nickel, copper	6
Lasers (assembled)	5
Laser components, eg. diodes, laser glass	5



# FIA's Principles for Accelerating Fusion



## Public Private Partnerships

The private sector should have access to the scientific research that governments have pursued for decades. Public-Private Partnerships that include government support to private fusion companies can rapidly accelerate fusion development by driving new private financial support.

## Ensuring Regulatory Certainty

The regulatory regime for fusion should be predictable, proportional to the risk, and supportive of innovation, while also giving confidence about ensuring public safety and security. Fusion energy regulation must be permanently separated from fission regulation and should not require lengthy permitting process for every facility.

## Incentives to Build a Global Fusion Energy Industry

The FIA supports efforts across the private, public, and philanthropic sectors to accelerate tomorrow's fusion power economy. Fusion does not need special status or excessive subsidies but should have a level playing field as it grows into a new industry.

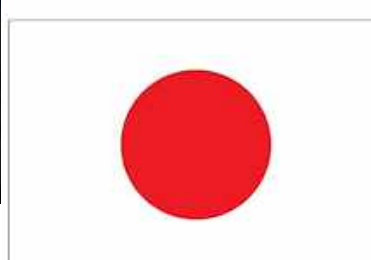
# Geopolitics of Fusion



中国工程物理研究院 核能所 核聚变部



Z-FFR 总体结构示意图



# France's Central Role in Fusion



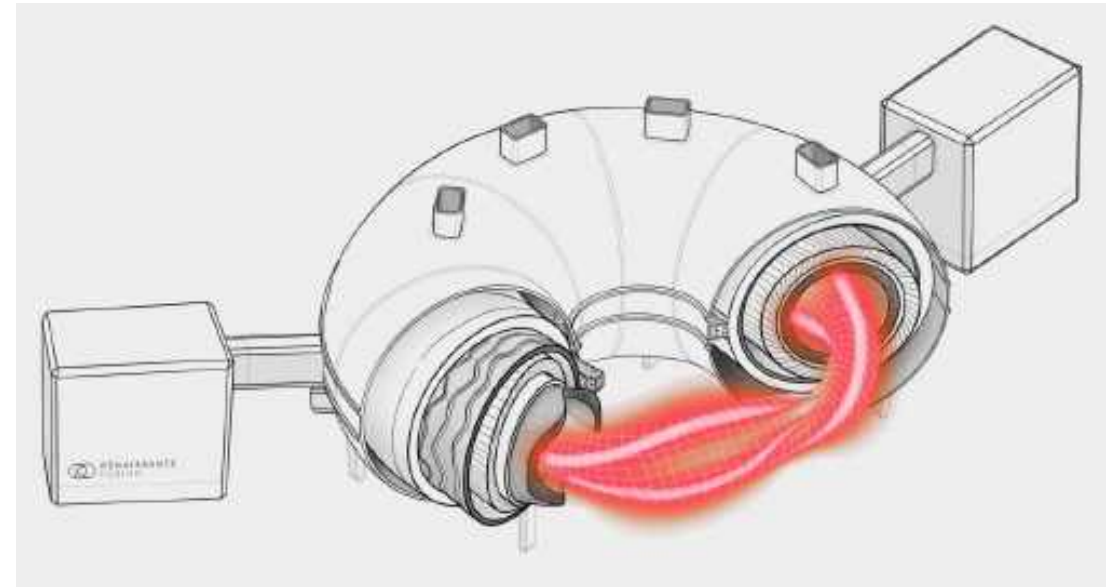
Fusion was listed by President Macron as one of five strategic industries the European Union must create dedicated industrial strategies for finance.

- **Macron:** *the European Union must create a dedicated industrial strategy for Fusion*





# France's Central Role in Fusion: Private Sector



# Results: FIA's Vision for the 2030's

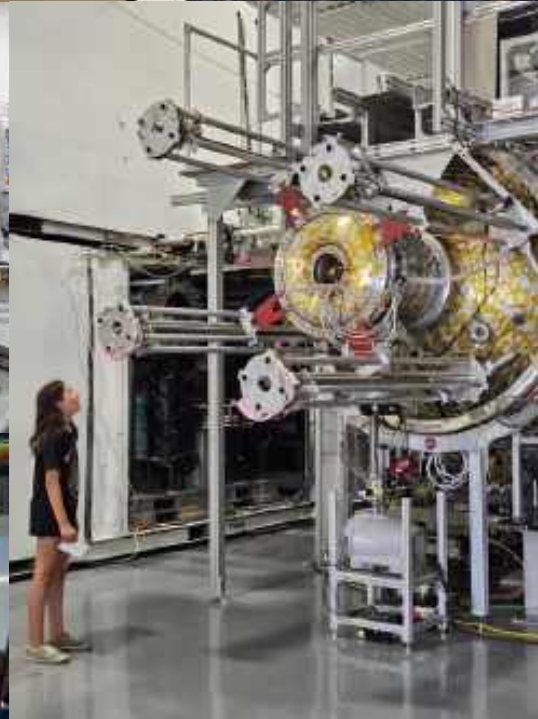


- **Industry** builds multiple fusion pilot plants of different sizes, technologies, and fuel cycles, preparing to scale-up into a globally-leading export industry.
- **Fusion Supply Chain** grows to over \$7 billion per year industry (already over \$500 million today)
- **Governments** support fusion commercialization push with world-leading science, computing power, and test facilities - the **infrastructure** that enables a fusion industry.
- **Research Universities** form the backbone of the **fusion workforce** and train the next generation.





# Progress





# Thank You

*For more information, contact [Andrew Holland](mailto:aholland@FusionIndustryAssociation.org), FIA CEO:  
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