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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Notice 03-19; Research in Innovative Approaches to Fusion Energy Sciences

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES) of the Office of Science (SC), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), announces its interest in receiving grant applications for research in innovative approaches to fusion energy sciences. All individuals or groups planning to submit applications for new or renewal funding in Fiscal Year 2004 should submit in response to this Notice.

Specifically, projects funded under this Notice should be responsive to the MFE Goal 2 of the Report of the Integrated Program Planning Activity for the DOE OFES Program (IPPA 2000), Report DOE/SC-0028 (<http://vlt.ucsd.edu/IPPAFinalDec00.pdf>). The Goal calls for resolving outstanding scientific issues and establishing reduced-cost paths to more attractive fusion energy systems by investigating a broad range of innovative magnetic confinement configurations, as recommended in the report on "Priorities and Balance within the Fusion Energy Sciences Program" by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), September 1999 (<http://vlt.ucsd.edu/revisedpanel.pdf>). Proposals exploring new and innovative approaches for creating compact plasmas with high β and high temperatures in pulsed or steady state, and for the active control of magnetized plasmas are particularly welcome. Research involving highly innovative experimental approaches to improve our understanding of magnetized plasmas, and exploration of highly innovative plasma operations in support of proof-of-principle and higher performance plasmas in support of the above Goal, may also be considered. Although the main thrust of the research efforts funded under this Notice is experimental, consideration will also be given to applications that are directed at scientific assessment of new concepts

and approaches that are not ready for experimental investigation.

Applications for research on existing large facilities, or initiatives in Inertial Fusion Energy should not be submitted in response to this Notice.

Due to the limited availability of funds, Principal Investigators with continuing grants may not submit a new application in the same area(s) of interest as their previous application(s) which received funding. A Principal Investigator may submit only one application under this Notice.

OFES may also solicit proposals from time to time under separate announcements of Initiatives to support coordinated, goal-directed community efforts. These Initiatives will be funded to achieve specific programmatic and scientific aims and will be subject to requirements that are different from those of this Notice. Such grants, if funded, will be subject to periodic reviews of progress.

DATES: To permit timely consideration for awards early in Fiscal Year 2004, applications submitted in response to this Notice must be received by DOE no later than 4:30 p.m., May 1, 2003. Electronic submission of formal applications in PDF format is required using a minimum number of files.

Applicants are requested to submit a letter-of-intent by April 4, 2003, which includes the title of the application, the name of the Principal Investigator(s), the requested funding, and a one-page abstract. These letters-of-intent will be used to organize and expedite review processes. Failure to submit a letter-of-intent will not negatively prejudice a responsive formal application submitted in a timely fashion. The letters-of-intent should be sent by E-mail to the following E-mail address: john.sauter@science.doe.gov and the Subject line should state: Letter-of-intent regarding Program Notice 03-19.

ADDRESSES: Formal applications in response to this solicitation are to be electronically submitted by an authorized institutional business official through DOE's Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) at: <http://e-center.doe.gov/>. IIPS provides for the posting of solicitations and receipt of applications in a paperless environment via the Internet. In order to submit applications through IIPS, your business official will need to register at the IIPS website. It is suggested that this registration be completed several days prior to the date on which you plan to submit the formal application. The Office of Science will include attachments as part of this Notice that provide the appropriate forms in PDF

fillable format that are to be submitted through IIPS using a minimum number of files. Color images should be submitted in IIPS as a separate file in PDF format and identified as such. These images should be kept to a minimum due to the limitations of reproducing them. They should be numbered and referred to in the body of the technical scientific grant application as Color image 1, Color image 2, etc. Questions regarding the operation of IIPS may be e-mailed to the IIPS Help Desk at: HelpDesk@pr.doe.gov, or you may call the help desk at: (800) 683-0751. Further information on the use of IIPS by the Office of Science is available at: <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html>.

If you are unable to submit an application through IIPS, please contact the Office of the Director, Grants and Contracts Division, Office of Science, DOE at: (301) 903-5212 in order to gain assistance for submission through IIPS, or to receive special approval and instructions on how to submit printed applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Germantown Building, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290. Dr. Francis Thio is the Team Leader for the ICC Program. Specific contacts for each area of interest within the ICC program, along with telephone numbers and Internet addresses, are listed below:

1. *Spherical torus:* Dr. Don Priester, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-3752, or by Internet address: don.priester@science.doe.gov.
2. *Stellarator, electric tokamak, levitated dipole configuration, innovative research in tokamaks:* Dr. Charles Finfgeld, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-3423, or by Internet address: Charles.Finfgeld@science.doe.gov.
3. *Reversed Field Pinch, field reversed configuration, spheromak, magnetized target fusion, electrostatic confinement, plasma heating:* Dr. Francis Thio, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4678, or by Internet address: francis.thio@science.doe.gov.
4. *Configuration with strong shear flow stabilization:* Dr. Curt Bolton, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301) 903-4914, or by Internet address: curt.bolton@science.doe.gov.
5. *Active and passive plasma control:* Dr. Steve Eckstrand, Research Division, SC-55, Telephone: (301)