



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Department for Energy Security & Net
Zero

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Angus Brendan MacNeil MP
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero
Committee
House of Commons
London
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16 October 2023

Dear Angus,

I am writing to inform you that today we have published an update to the UK's Fusion Strategy: *'Towards Fusion Energy: the next stage of the UK's fusion strategy'*.

Fusion energy has great potential to deliver safe, sustainable, low carbon energy for generations to come. It is sometimes described as the ultimate energy source, based on the same processes that power the sun and stars.

Our overall objectives have not changed since the first UK Fusion Strategy was published in 2021, we remain focused on developing a thriving fusion sector in the UK and demonstrating commercial fusion power through the STEP project. But this update takes account of the rapidly changing context in which fusion energy is being developed, particularly in the private sector, and ensures the UK adapts to remain at the forefront of this transformational technology.

You will of course be aware that the Government has decided to put in place an ambitious fusion R&D programme as an alternative to associating to Euratom Research & Training. This strategy sets out more details of that programme, "Fusion Futures", investing up to £650m to strengthen the UK's leadership in fusion energy and support the entire UK fusion sector.

Measures in this programme include:

- Up to £200 million for a Fuel Cycle Testing Facility, to develop technology in breeding fuel for fusion power plants, which will provide opportunities for the UK to become a world leader and exporter in tritium intellectual property;

- Up to £200 million for vital R&D ensuring industry can develop and design components for future fusion powerplants;
- Up to £50 million for growing and improving the Culham campus in Oxfordshire, building new premises to create vibrant concentrations of fusion companies, and helping drive inward investment into the UK;
- Up to £55 million for a Fusion Skills Programme, to train over 2,200 people over the next five years by working with business and universities to expand fusion training programmes;
- Up to £35 million additional funding for the Fusion Industry Programme (FIP), a challenge fund supporting UK companies to develop new technologies;
- Up to £25 million to enhance international collaborations on fusion R&D, to export UK expertise and make best use of global knowledge to accelerate fusion energy;
- Up to £18 million for a Technology Transfer Hub, strengthening connections between the UK's leading research organisations and other programmes worldwide, with a focus on commercialising fusion research;
- Up to £11 million to further support the STEP programme and upskill UK industry to help deliver it.

The ambitious programme aligns with the core principle of international collaboration as set out in the UK's updated Fusion Strategy and we remain very open to collaboration with the EU and other international partners.

I will place a copy of the updated Fusion Strategy in the Libraries of the House.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

ANDREW BOWIE MP

Minister for Nuclear and Networks