

FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR HEAVY ION FUSION*

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Despite growing concerns about climate modification due to human activities, the rapidly growing economies of China and India, and the increasing volatility of the MidEast, there is presently no real national commitment today to the development of Fusion energy. The present location of the Office of Fusion Energy within the Office of Science also naturally emphasizes nearer term scientific objectives particularly in the the areas of Plasma Physics and High Energy Density Physics rather than the broad science and technology needs of Fusion energy development. The Heavy Ion Fusion program must find a way to navigate through these issues-dealing with today's focus while not forgetting the mission and unifying objective of the program. The challenges and opportunities facing HIF will be discussed as well as possible strategies to move the program forward.

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