

Laser Fusion as a promising pathway to fusion energy

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With the recent demonstration of fusion ignition and burn and the first energy gain from controlled fusion reactions, the laser-based fusion approach has become a promising concept for fusion energy. While not supported in Germany until a few years ago, Germany has a huge potential in taking the lead on laser-fusion research, based on its excellent science and technology in optics and lasers. Focused Energy is a US/German Startup company, spin-off the Technische Universität Darmstadt that has gathered the world experts in laser fusion in the last two years.

I will review the recent results at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory National Ignition Facility and sketch a pathway from this groundbreaking result to a first fusion reactor prototype.