Update from Commonwealth Fusion Systems

Robert Mumgaard, CEO FPA 2022



1. CFS status

2. Some observations

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2. Some observations

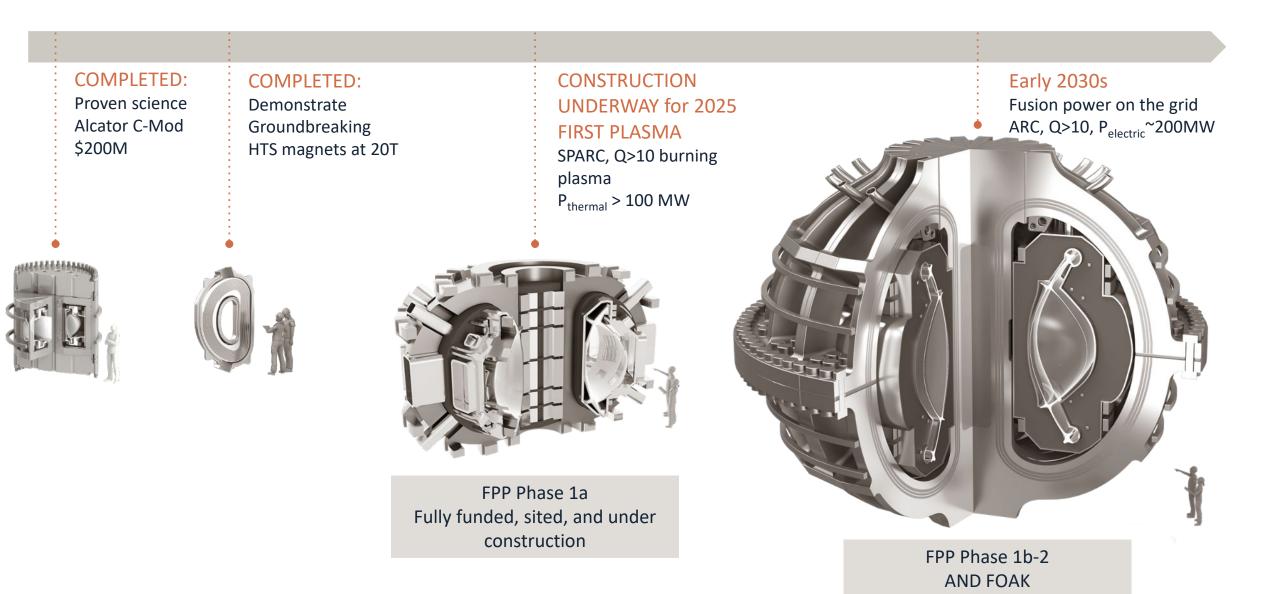
Since Last Year's FPA:

- 39 Gtons CO2 emitted for energy production
 - Most ever
- Climate impacts more evident:
 - Floods in Pakistan
 - Heat in Europe
 - Fires everywhere
 - Power outages in CA
- Market transition for sustainable energy better quantified:
 - \$100-200T of energy infrastructure
- More commitments to net zero by 2050
- Ukraine war highlights energy independence
 - Gas shocks
 - Geostrategic reshuffling
- The world needs fusion more and more --- can we get it to them fast?



Risk retirement in concrete steps





Site search underway

CFS team is growing

- 400 FTEs, ~1000 heads on the projects
- ~100 jobs posted

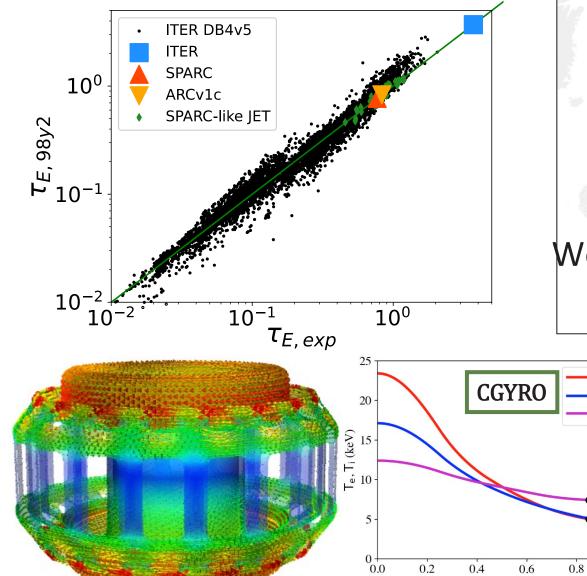






SPARC tokamak design is on track









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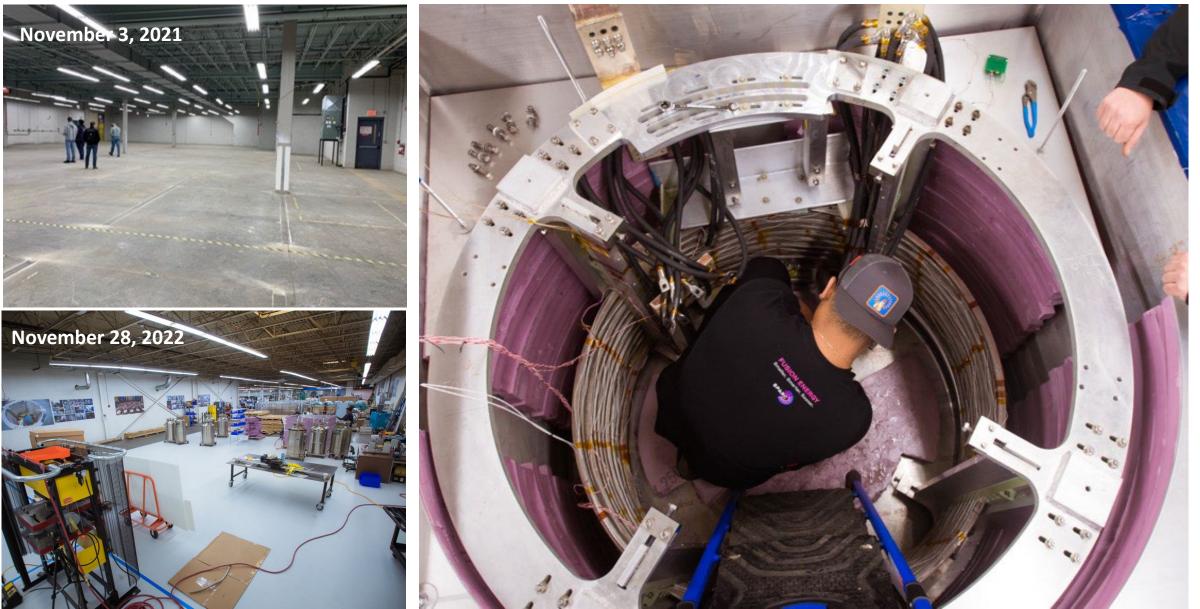
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 $n_{e} \, (10^{20} m^{-3})$

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Magnet tech is looking good





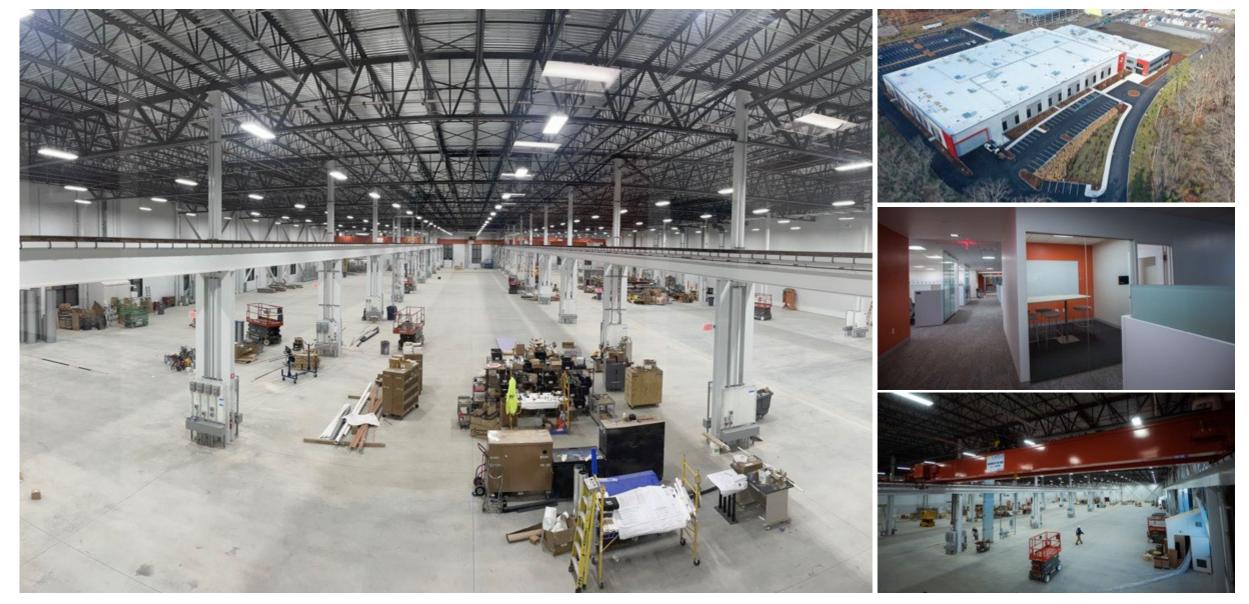
SPARC Magnet components in fab





SPARC Magnet serial production starting





SPARC construction is on track



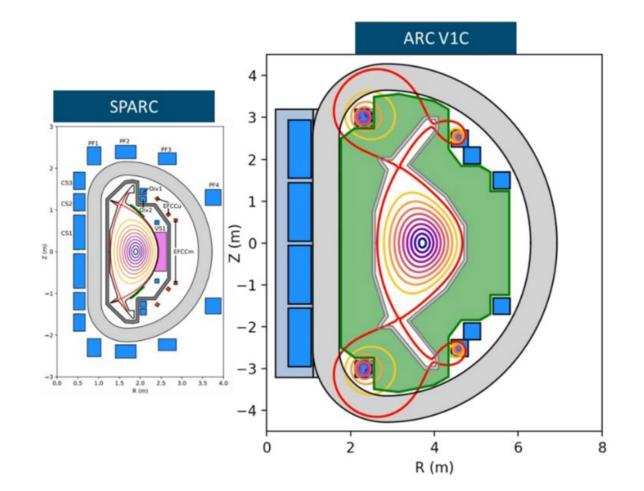


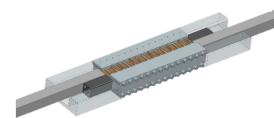
You can build things fast



Ramping up ARC prototypes and siting now









Benchtop-scale superconducting joints that have been fabricated for SPARC magnets





Examples of intermediate-scale, additive manufacturing test articles produced in collaboration with industrial partners

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What are some takeaways from our experience?

- Fusion is a product and people want it today
- Don't assume the future will look like the past in energy markets
- Economics rule everything and are brutal
- The world wants the DC-3, not the F-22
- Good engineers are better than great system codes
- Diversity and workforce from other industries not just fusion
- Go around obstacles, not always through them
- Find what you are good at, partner with what you're not
- If you've been doing the same thing for >10 years now is the time to change or else you'll be left behind

Fusion energy ecosystem scorecard for the year



What	Status	Direction	Comment
Interest			Ok, we got the attention, people care. We should all be cheering on each other.
Science			Better every month/shot. PPPs make the science more available. Still hard to work with ITER
Community plans	(\cdot)		Its all written down and agreed to. But STILL NOT IMPLEMENTED. Get on with it.
Existing US facilities			When and where are we going to look at DIII-D and NSTX and reconcile with FESAC and NAS?
New US facilities	(file)	\sim	Still waiting for some starts! Where is the alignment with the plan?
US leadership		\square	UK is kicking the US's butt with better coordination, better facilities, clearer roles.
US cohesion	(Getting there between some elements. Labs need to figure out their role in the shifting ecosystem. What do we do with PPPL?
Market pull		\sim	Fusion is highly desirable, getting into the conversation about who is going to buy one.
Workforce			In high demand, salaries up ~30%, lots of grad students, need development programs.
Convening			Good convening forums started. How does FPA evolve to be effective in the ecosystem?
Regulation			UK looks appropriate, US in process and we'll know soon.
ITER		\sim	We should all be worried about how to navigate the delay. Tough questions are coming.

From Mumgaard talk at FPA 2021 – still relevant: What will it take for your organization to navigate transition?



Good things to have

- Climate relevant timelines and focus and partnerships
- Speed -- build-test-learn
- Capabilities demonstrated via hardware with solid execution
- Novel collaborations
 - Not just countries, but disciplines
 - Different types of organizations working together
- Commercialization pathway as a key input
- Initiatives and teams ready to do new things
- Organizational creativity and nimbleness
- A "default to action" strategy
- Expanding the pie mentality

Not so good things to keep

- A vague or unvoiced plan that lacks timelines, milestones
- A concrete plan that is not climate or energy transition relevant
- Scientific incrementalism
- Paper studies without hardware execution
- Technical spectacle via bigness, complexity, cathedral building
- Misunderstood roles for public/private not knowing what you want to be when you grow up
- Rent seeking (cost plus etc.)
- Waiting for permission
- Focus on slicing the pie, trying to keep others down

Coming soon

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