DOE Mentions Technology Behind The Home Nuclear Reactor In Funding Opportunity

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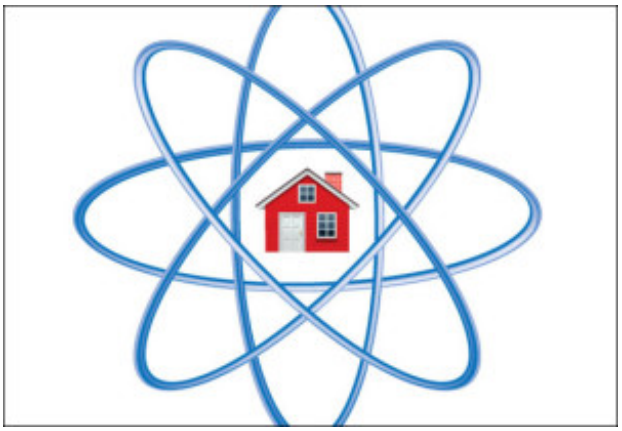

The Department of Energy included low energy nuclear reactions—which NASA scientists have said could fuel home nuclear reactors—among other representative technologies in a $10 million funding opportunity it announced last fall.

The brief mention in the document from DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) is being heralded by observers of low energy nuclear reaction (LENR) technology as a significant development.

"This first-ever direct invitation from the Department of Energy for submission of proposals to fund this research marks a significant point in the field's history," according to Steven Krivit of New Energy Times, a news site devoted to low energy nuclear reactions.

Lewis Larsen, the Chicago physicist who co-authored the Widom-Larsen theory of low-energy nuclear reactions, called the mention "a stunning reversal of a longstanding policy."

"The U.S. Dept. of Energy's transformative ARPA-E is now — for the first time ever — finally open to proposals for U.S. government funding of innovative LENR research," Larsen said in an email.

I wrote about the potential of low-energy nuclear reactors last year after prominent NASA scientists endorsed the technology:

"It has the demonstrated ability to produce excess amounts of energy, cleanly, without hazardous ionizing radiation, without producing nasty waste," said Joseph Zawodny, a senior research scientist at NASA's Langley Research Center.

"The easiest implementation of this would be for the home," he said. "You would have a unit that would replace your water heater. And you would have some sort of cycle to derive electrical energy from that."

A low-energy nuclear reactor offers an extra neutron to stable elements like nickel, carbon, or hydrogen to produce heat, electricity, and stable by-products like copper or nitrogen. It does not produce ionizing radiation nor radioactive waste.

LENR technology has suffered from confusion with *Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann*'s "cold fusion" *experiment*, which has largely been dismissed by the scientific community.

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