

Conference Announcement for Members of the National Association of Science Writers:

“Cold Fusion”: Exciting New Science and Potential Clean Energy

The announcement of a new source of energy by two chemists in 1989 attracted global attention. Their results implied that small systems can be used to produce power with densities greatly in excess of those available from chemical reactions, such as burning coal or oil products. It appeared possible to generate energy from nuclear reactions triggered at low energies, without building multi-billion dollar high-energy plasma machines. The reported results, and difficulties in reproducing them, lead to an intense scientific controversy. Many people quickly concluded that the initial experiments were wrong. This view is still widely held because few people have kept up with the significant experimental progress in the field.

A few hundred scientists world-wide have continued to investigate the subject, and to meet periodically at international conferences. Thousands of experiments since 1989 have been conducted and reliable experimental reports are widely available. The extensive empirical evidence supports the conclusion that there is a physical effect, which can produce significant heat. Power densities, exceeding even those of fission reactors, have been observed in some table top experiments. Indeed, the origin of the “excess” energy now appears to be nuclear. Confirming this remains a major and challenging research issue. There are also many other experimental challenges, and the underlying physical mechanisms are not yet understood theoretically.

This is one of the most exciting, but still little known areas in science today. The field also has real promise for the engineering and sales of distributed nuclear power sources for home and mobile applications. Production of clean water is one of the most attractive possibilities. Experiments to date have shown that the active mechanisms do not produce significant prompt radiation or residual radioactivity. That is, the potential power sources could be clean and green.

The 14th International Conference on Cold Fusion will be held in Washington DC from 10 to 15 August 2008. The web site for this scientific conference is www.iccf-14.org. Many of the pioneers of the field, several of them from abroad, will be at the conference. Remarkable new scientific results will be reported and discussed. The conference web site has links to several web sites with much information on “cold fusion”, including the several names by which the field is now known.

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