

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [China Outspends the U.S. on Fusion in the Race for Energy's Holy Grail](#)

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Tweet: An early American lead in fusion research may be "slipping away" as China spends around \$1.5B annually on fusion research, about 2x the US government fusion budget. China could catch up to US "magnetic fusion capabilities in three or four years."

Summary: Scientists familiar with China's fusion facilities said that if it continues its current pace of spending and development, it will surpass the U.S. and Europe's magnetic fusion capabilities in three or four years. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, a Virginia Democrat and co-chair of Congress's Fusion Energy Caucus, said that much U.S. fusion spending goes to legacy programs, "not the cutting-edge stuff." "In China, from what we can tell, most of their billion and a half is actually going to build stuff that would compete with Helion or Commonwealth Fusion," Beyer said, referring to two of the largest private fusion firms in the U.S. For decades, China had "almost nothing" of a fusion program, said Dennis Whyte, a professor of engineering at MIT, who for several years sat on Chinese fusion advisory committees. It took China about 10 years to build a world-class fusion science program and national labs. "It was almost like a flash that they were able to get there," Whyte said. "Don't underestimate their capabilities about coming up to speed."

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Primary Topic: Energy

Topics: China, Energy, Innovation/Research, Investment, News article, Productivity

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