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### **German fusion start-ups join forces**

**Proxima Fusion, Gauss Fusion and Focused Energy bundle their research efforts**

**Darmstadt / Hanau / Munich, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – In an effort to make faster progress in fusion energy, Proxima Fusion, Gauss Fusion and Focused Energy are bundling their research and development activities in several areas. This was agreed by the three German fusion start-ups on the sidelines of the "3rd Forum Fusion Deutschland" at the Federation of German Industries in Berlin.**

The strategic cooperation of the three companies will lead to more concentrated competence, which will make it possible to work together on future-oriented technologies in Germany and Europe and to accelerate their development toward market maturity.

Even though Gauss Fusion and Proxima Fusion both pursue a magnet-based fusion approach and Focused Energy a laser-based fusion concept, the cooperation will result in increased clout for further technological leaps on the way to the commercialization of fusion energy.

The collaborative partners not only aim to work together on technical issues, but also to address general challenges together. For example, they plan to collaborate on the development of a binding legal and the regulatory framework, to support the education and training of specialists, and to work toward broad and informed acceptance of fusion energy among the public.

To further this goal, the #Fusionista movement has already been launched, targeting the public and especially the younger generation, whose future is strongly affected by the availability of baseload, renewable, clean, and safe energy.

### **Strengthening world-class research and transfer to industry**

Not only the companies involved benefit from the collaboration, but also Germany and Europe. The global collaborations are opening up new opportunities for research and development and for the international exchange of know-how.

### **Important signals to politicians and investors**

Investors can be sure that their investments will be successful in the long term thanks to rapid and effective transfer from the research sphere to practical applications. The growing collaboration among three leading German fusion start-ups also sends important signals to politicians at the state, federal and EU levels: German deep-tech start-ups are taking

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responsibility and offering innovative solutions to achieve the climate protection goals of a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral economy. This alliance will demonstrate how synergies can be used to drive innovation for the benefit of all parties involved.

This collaboration not only develops new technologies and an ecosystem in Germany and Europe, but also creates jobs. After all, bringing these innovations successfully to market requires the best minds from different industrial sectors. The benefit of this cooperation is therefore manifold: Investors profit from long-term successes, politicians can renew their commitment to climate protection and secure energy supplies, and companies create growth potential for the business location through truly innovative solutions.

Milena Roveda, COO of Gauss Fusion says: "To secure the energy supply of the future, we need a smart mix of energy sources. Wind and solar must be supplemented by a further base-load capable form of energy that is also renewable, secure and emission-free. Fusion energy will do all of that."

"The energy crisis and the dramatic speed of climate change have brought home the need to develop additional renewable energy sources as quickly as possible. Working together, we can accelerate the realization of fusion power plants," says Lucio Milanese, co-founder and COO of Proxima Fusion.

Prof. Markus Roth, CSO and co-founder of Focused Energy, adds: "Internationally, the know-how exchange is becoming increasingly important. This is the only way to master global challenges such as climate change. This close collaboration among leading fusion startups in Germany has the potential to become the driving force for a sustainable future in Germany, Europe, and globally."

### **About Focused Energy**

Focused Energy is a German-American company spun out from TU Darmstadt in 2021 that will enable safe, clean, and nearly inexhaustible energy production through laser-based nuclear fusion in just a few years. The young company is based in Darmstadt and in Austin/Texas and employs the best minds from relevant research institutes and universities in Europe and the USA. Focused Energy leverages its founders' experience in fusion research over the past 30 years, coupled with the speed of a young German-American company and private investment, to bring laser-based fusion to market and satisfy the world's hunger for energy. <https://focused-energy.world>

### **About Gauss Fusion**

Gauss Fusion is a greentech venture founded in 2022 by companies from Germany, France, Italy and Spain with extensive experience in fusion technology. The European industrial initiative aims to bring the first gigawatt-class fusion power plant online in Europe. It is characterized by its high level of industry expertise and close collaboration with renowned European research institutes and experienced technology experts. These include CERN, the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics (IPP) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Under the motto "Fusion with Integrity".



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### About Proxima Fusion

Fusion will be one of the greatest breakthroughs of this century. Proxima Fusion is working to develop power plants via optimized stellarators, devices that form magnetic cages for high-energy matter. Proxima is the first-ever spin-out company from the Max Planck Society Institute for Plasma Physics, which built and operates the most advanced stellarator on the planet, W7-X. Research over the past decade has now set the stage for Proxima to leverage modern optimization tools and design capabilities, and accelerate fusion. With W7-X reaching high-performance in continuous operation, uniquely among fusion concepts, Proxima Fusion is catalyzing the creation of a new fusion ecosystem in Europe. Connecting partners from industry and academia, the Proxima Fusion founding team, coming together from the Max Planck Society, MIT and Google, is now entering the race for fusion energy to turn stellarators into economically viable fusion power plants.

### Contact

Michael Zell  
Fink & Fuchs AG  
Berliner Straße 164  
D-65205 Wiesbaden

T: +49 611 74 13 1-(0) 57  
E: [focused-energy@finkfuchs.de](mailto:focused-energy@finkfuchs.de)