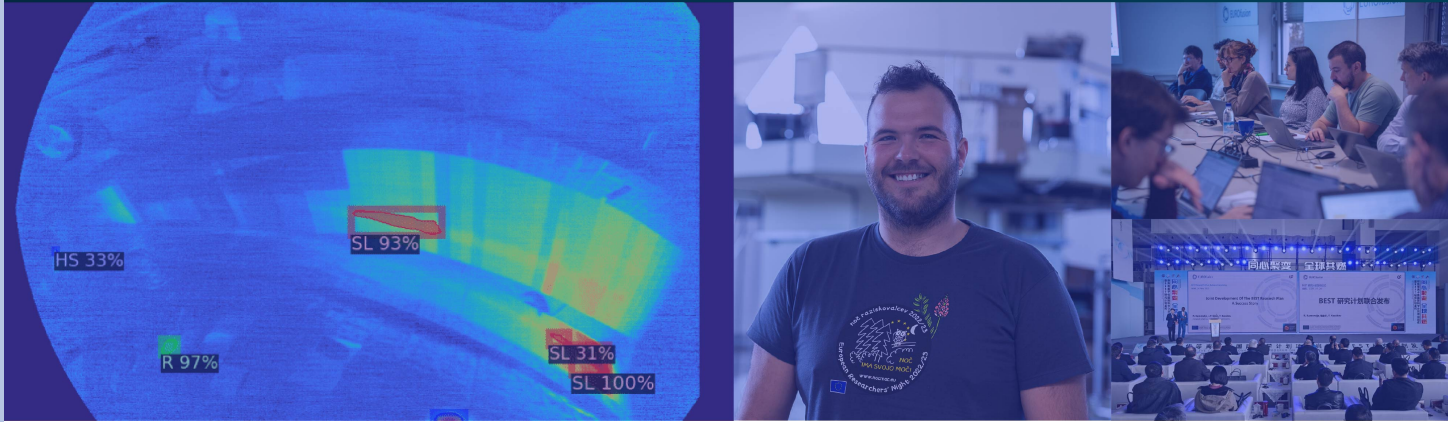


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EUROfusion's Fusion in Europe Newsletter
December 17, 2025



Dear Reader,

Have you already put up your Christmas tree? **EUROfusion** is ending the year with a **gift box** full of inspiring stories, achievements, and collaborations!

Our December newsletter celebrates the **pioneers and researchers** who keep striving to solve the ultimate riddle: bringing the power of **the Sun down to Earth**.

Let's start with our **Polish trailblazers**:

Bartłomiej Jabłoński, MSc, and his supervisor **Prof. Dariusz Makowski** from Łódź University of Technology (TUL) recently marked a milestone. For the first time ever, **artificial intelligence** was applied during an experimental campaign at **Wendelstein 7-X**. The AI analyzed infrared images and flagged potential overheating at the experimental wall, proving how smart tools can support fusion experiments. Next, from **Slovenia**: meet **Julijan Peric**, winner of the **Fusion Engineering and Design Student Award** for his work at the **Katana** facility. His research uses activated water from a fission reactor for diagnostic studies that will benefit **ITER**.

Looking forward, when **ITER** operates, **DEMO** will follow. The first demonstrational fusion power plant was recently the topic of an international meeting, reflecting the momentum in **European fusion research**. Combined with the **joint EUROfusion-China cooperation** on the **BEST tokamak** and newly set research priorities, it's clear that Europe is accelerating toward its fusion energy goals.

For details on all three meetings, scroll down!

On a more local scale, we spotlight the **Danish cross-sector fusion conference** and the **12th Fusion Day in Austria**, showing that detailed, hands-on work today fuels tomorrow's international collaborations.

With all these stories, consider them **small presents** under your virtual tree or in this case, in your inbox.

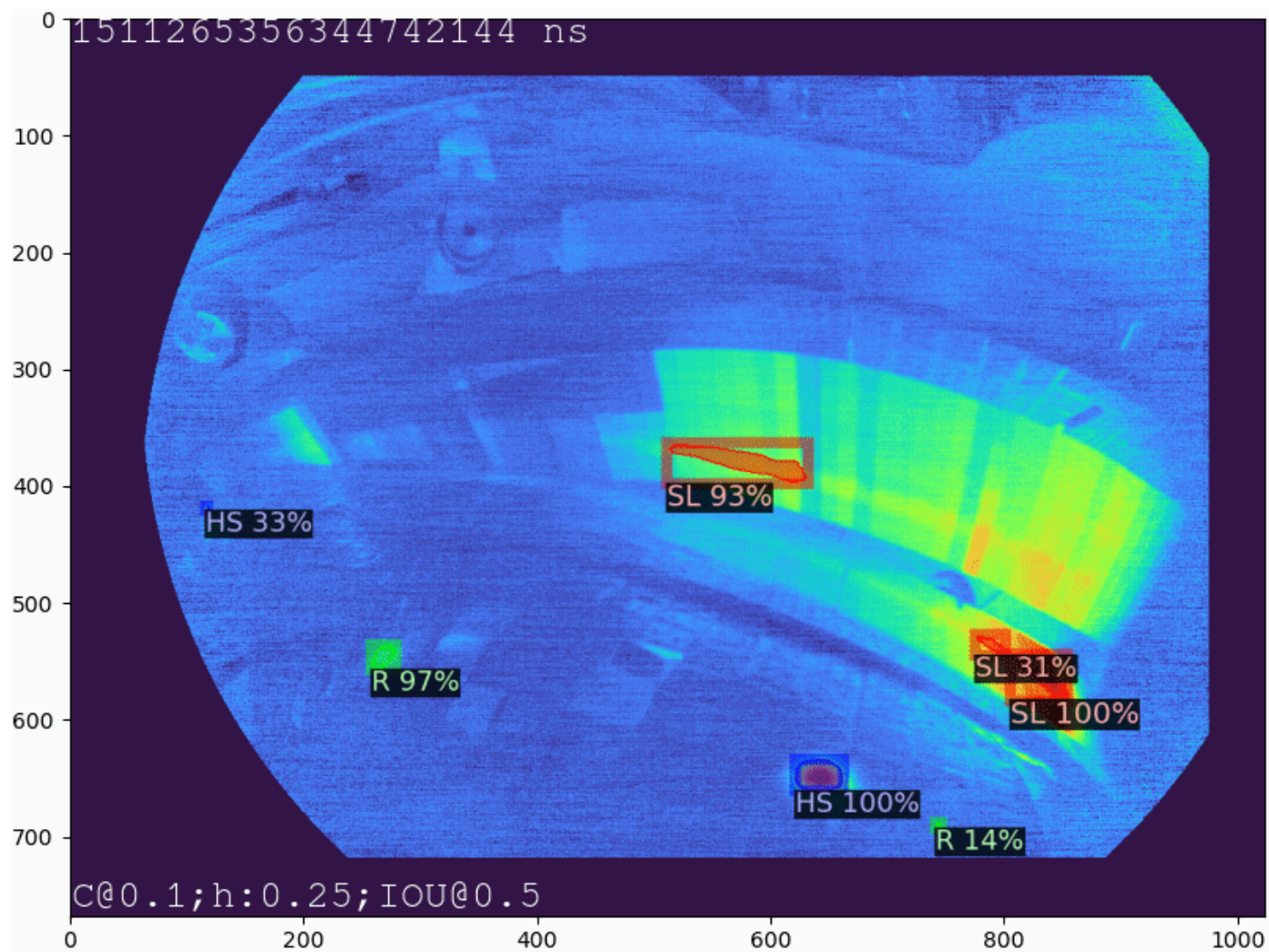
We'll return in 2026 with even more inspiring updates. Until then, **we wish you a joyful end of the year**: May your personal energy resources recharge for a fresh start!

Warm regards,
The EUROfusion Team

Highlights

There is exciting pioneering work being done at EUROfusion. Among the first researchers to experiment with artificial intelligence directly during an operational fusion campaign are Bartłomiej Jabłoński, MSc, and his supervisor Prof. Dariusz Makowski from Łódź University of Technology (TUL). Their work, conducted in close collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics (IPP) in Greifswald, was made possible through a EUROfusion Engineering Grant. The picture below shows infrared footage from fusion experiments at the stellarator W7-X, where the AI model automatically detects and labels different heat events on the reactor surface. The letters mark what the AI sees, such as strike lines (SL), reflections (R), hot spots (HS), and leading edges (LE).

👉 [Read more!](#)



KATANA - a Strong sword for ITER

Julijan Peric has just received the *Fusion Engineering and Design Student Award* at the International Symposium on Fusion Nuclear Technology (ISFNT) for his work on KATANA, an experimental facility in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Named after the Japanese sword, the facility uses activated water from a fission reactor to generate a stable neutron and gamma source for diagnostic research, the kind of measurements that will help ITER. Sometimes, you really do have to cut things to fuse them.

👉 [Read more!](#)



EUROfusion news



Progress on the First Fusion Power Plant

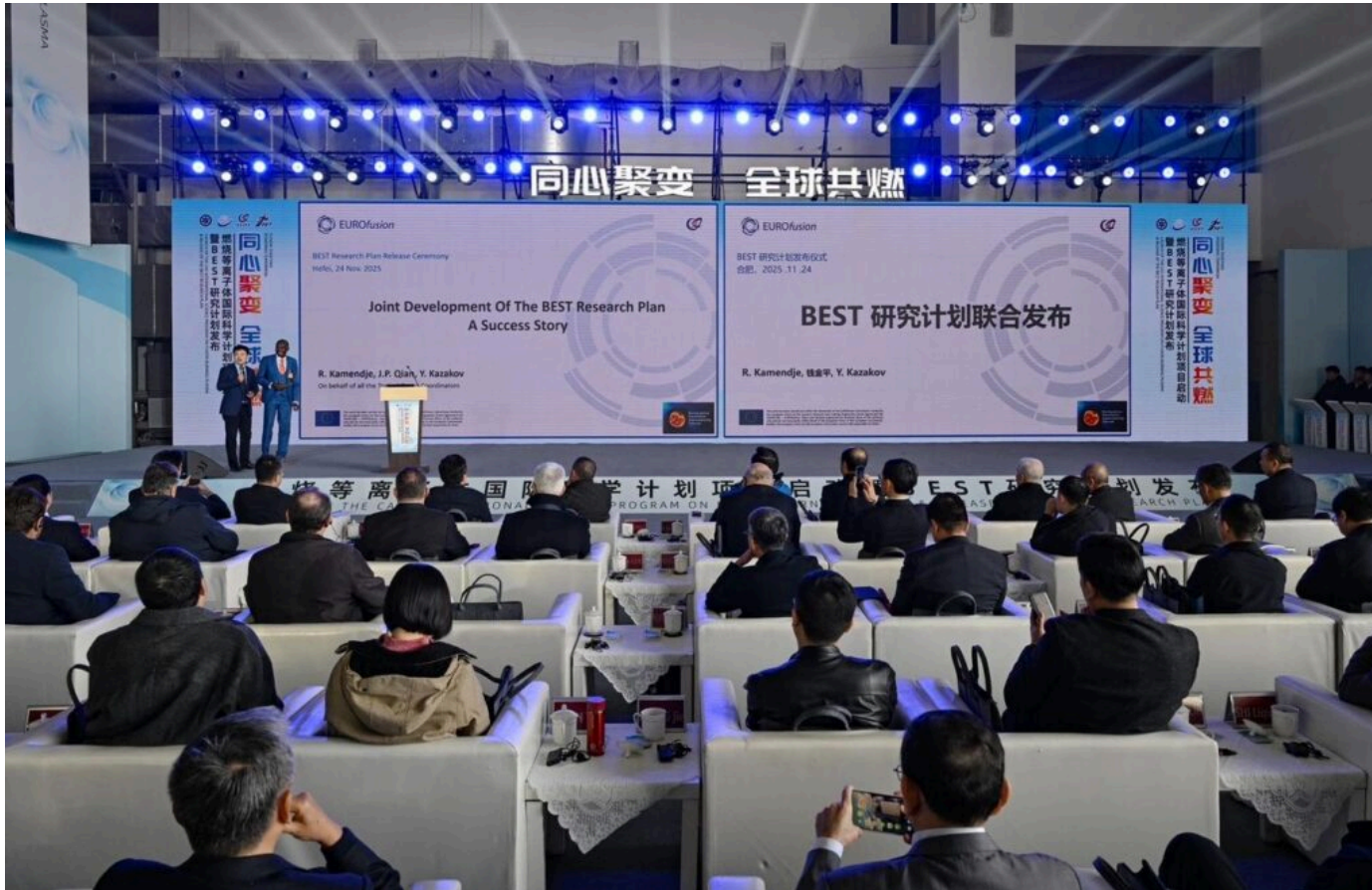
Europe has taken an important step toward making fusion power a reality. In November, international scientists and engineers met to review progress on DEMO, Europe's planned fusion power plant designed to deliver electricity to the grid. Over four days, experts assessed how well the different pieces are coming together. A key takeaway was growing confidence that complex fusion designs can be simplified and coordinated without losing performance. With stronger collaboration across Europe and increasing design maturity, DEMO is now seen as a credible step toward a future fusion pilot plant.

[Learn more](#)

23 New EUROfusion Grants for Europe's Young Fusion Talents Announced

EUROfusion has selected another round of support for brilliant talents: nine **Bernard Bigot Researcher Grant (ERG)** and fourteen **Engineering Grant (EEG)** recipients from

leading institutions across Europe are going to be supported for the next years in their work. These prestigious grants recognise scientific excellence, innovation, and diversity.

[Learn more](#)

EUROfusion and China Strengthen Relationships Through BEST Research Plan

The picture shows this year's research plan premiere ceremony at the Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, China. EUROfusion and ASIPP celebrated their research plan for the Chinese Burning Plasma Experimental Superconducting Tokamak (BEST), hoping to reach breakthrough results for fusion while exploiting the “best” regarding burning plasma and supporting technologies out of this machine which is currently under rapid construction.

[Learn more](#)

120 scientists met in Lausanne to push Europe's approach to fusion energy

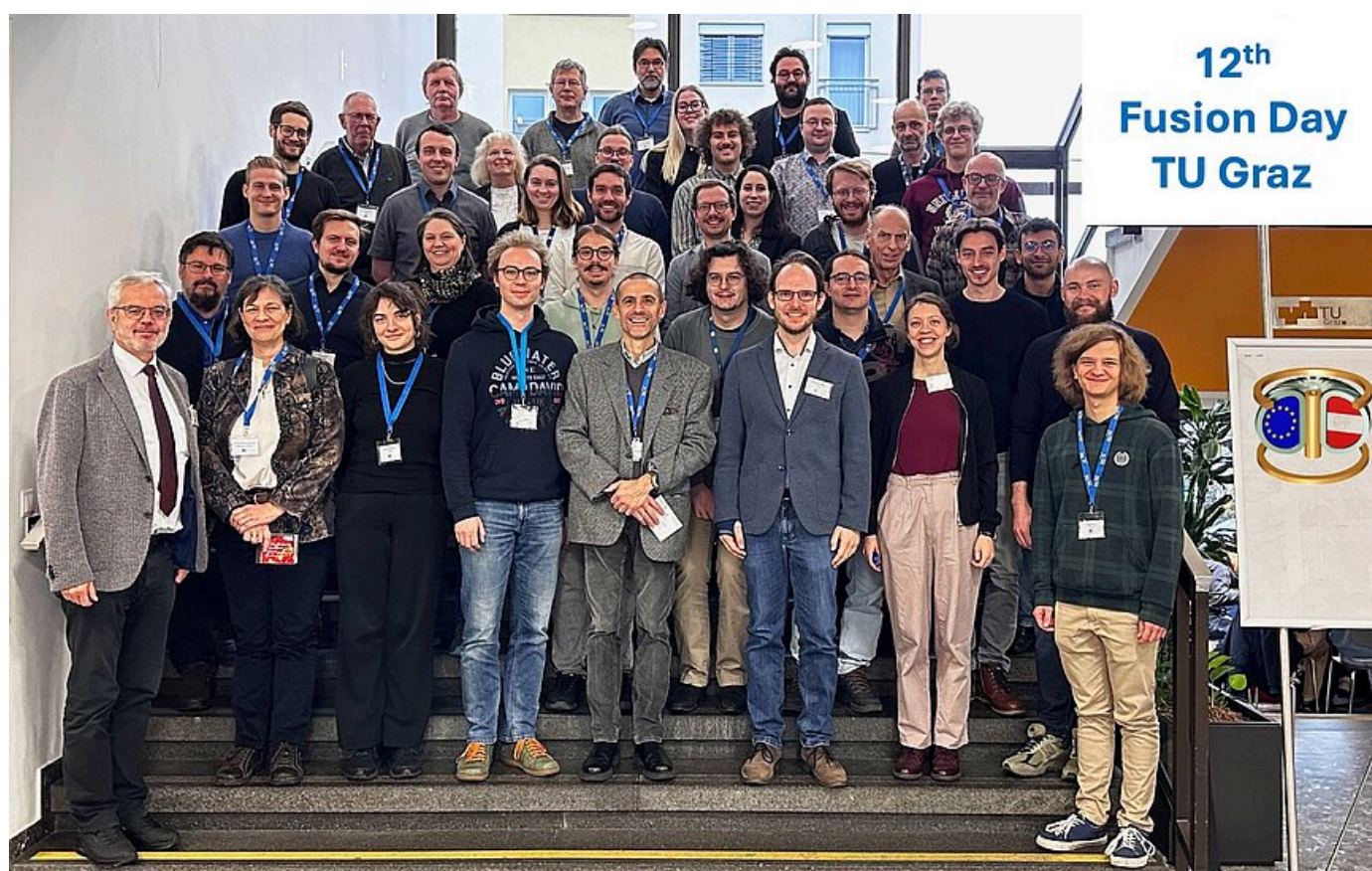
Behind every fusion breakthrough is careful planning. In November, more than 120 scientists from across Europe met in Lausanne to decide which fusion experiments should take priority over the next two years. By reviewing the status of Europe's major fusion machines and evaluating hundreds of proposed experiments, the group worked to ensure that time, funding and expertise are used where they matter most. A strong focus was placed on learning as much as possible from past experiments, including data from the now-closed JET facility, while preparing new campaigns on next-generation devices. This coordinated approach helps Europe move faster and smarter toward the long-term goal of producing clean, reliable fusion energy.

[Learn more](#)



Learning about Denmark's strong engagement in fusion research

At Denmark's first cross-sector fusion conference, hosted by IDA (**Ingeniørforeningen, IDA – the Danish Society of Engineers**), experts from industry, universities, technology centres and the media came together to explore how fusion energy could shape a sustainable future. Participants learned about the global state of fusion research and the growing role of private companies, while also discovering Denmark's strong academic contributions and untapped industrial potential. Although fusion power plants are still in development, progress today depends on close collaboration between researchers and businesses. With the right partnerships, Denmark is well placed to become a key player in the emerging fusion technology market.



12th Fusion Day in Austria

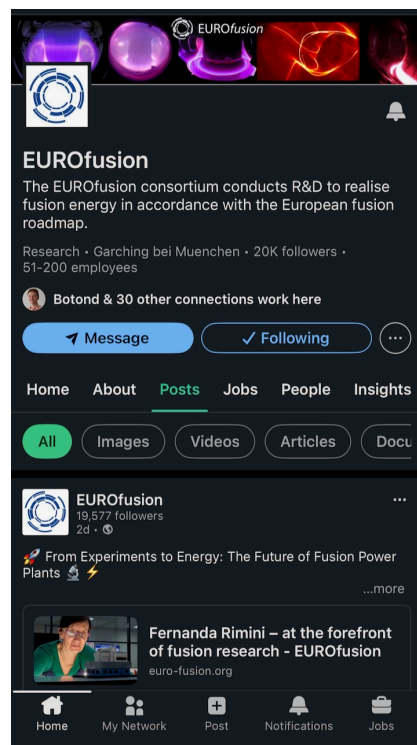
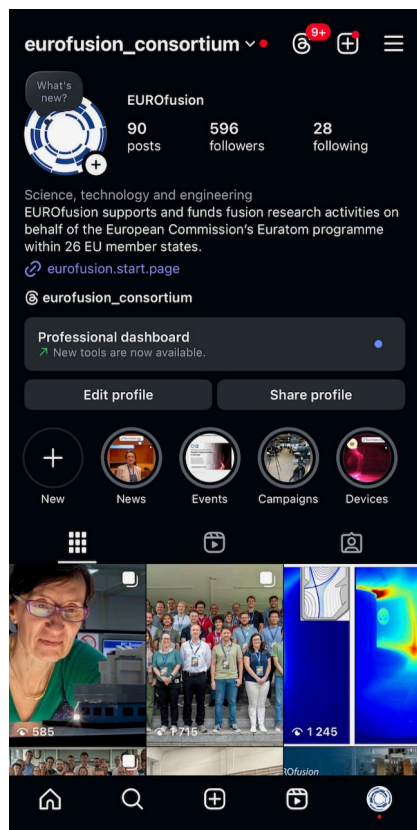
Austria's fusion research community came together in Graz for the **12th Fusion Day on 21 November 2025**. Organized annually by the Austrian Fusion Research Unit, this event brought researchers from across Austria to share their latest work, discuss ideas, and strengthen collaboration. Highlights included presentations by early-career scientists and a keynote talk by EUROfusion Programme Manager Dr. Gianfranco Federici on building a credible path to deliver fusion energy – “not just a promise.” The

event fostered lively scientific exchange and reinforced Austria's active role within the broader European fusion effort

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This work has been carried out within the framework of the EUROfusion Consortium, funded by the European Union via the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Grant Agreement No 101052200 — EUROfusion). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.