Editorial

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This Special Edition of the Journal of Fusion Energy comprises papers from the 2008 Innovative Confinement Concepts Workshop hosted by the University of Reno, Nevada. In total there were 43 invited talks, and 100 posters representing most of the innovative fusion concepts that are funded and in operation in the US, some from abroad, and some new ideas that were presented in a ‘Skunkworks’ session.

During the last 15 years, planning for the US Fusion Energy Sciences Program has been very consistent. A ‘three-legged’ approach has been promoted in almost all of the official planning documents: investigate plasma

science; push towards a burning plasma experiment; and retain concept innovation as a central theme of domestic research. This planning has lead to a healthy portfolio approach, and a range of innovative fusion concepts that consistently produce value science and hold promise of an economic solution. Presently, ~20 innovative concepts are being investigated, with many new ideas still arising and being tried out. Since 1998, 100s of innovators in the field of fusion energy sciences have been meeting every 18 months to share their results and new ideas: written proceedings are published here for the third time.

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