

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

KEY RESULTS OF THE PLENARY TABLE

“FUSION MADE IN GERMANY: DREAM OR FUTURE REALITY?”

— *Germany races to turn fusion from promise to power.*

Germany's bid to host the first fusion power plant comes at a moment when scientific promise is colliding with industrial reality. The panel argues that success now hinges on raising technology readiness, building a full supply chain, de-risking private investment and coordinating international efforts – otherwise fusion risks stalling between breakthrough experiments and commercial viability.

Fusion is rapidly evolving from long-term research into a competitive global industry. Governments, start-ups and established engineering firms are entering the field, and Germany brings strong scientific foundations and political momentum to the race. The task ahead is to turn this momentum into an industrial ecosystem capable of delivering a real power plant in a crowded international landscape.

THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

1 — Build a dedicated fusion industry and supply chain now.

Create long-term industrial partnerships so that German and European companies can deliver components at scale, rather than assembling bespoke research machines from scratch each time.

2 — Target public funding at raising technology readiness levels.

Use mission-driven funding programmes to move critical fusion technologies from mid-range technology readiness levels into demonstrators.

3 — De-risk private investment and support fusion-specific technologies.

Design risk-sharing instruments, guarantees and procurement schemes that give companies confidence to invest in components with no obvious second market, while enabling early revenues and spillover uses where possible to keep industrial partners committed.

4 — Keep multiple fusion pathways open while standardising shared technologies.

Support both magnetic and inertial confinement in the near term, while converging on common standards, safety frameworks and enabling technologies that can be used across different reactor concepts and in international projects.

5 — Turn fusion into a societal project.

Invest in public dialogue, regional development around prospective sites and cross-disciplinary recruitment from fields such as AI and quantum physics, so that fusion gains the political backing, talent and social licence needed to move from laboratory ambition to commercial reality.



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space

PANELLISTS

David Gann

Chairman, UK Industrial Fusion Solutions

Frank Nürnberg

Global Head of Sales Optics, Heraeus Covantics

Peter Schroth

Head of Division Fusion Research, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)

Hartmut Zohm

Department Head, Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics

Melanie Windridge

CEO, Fusion Energy Insights, Moderator

CONTACT

Falling Walls Foundation gGmbH

Kochstraße 6–7
10969 Berlin

Web: www.falling-walls.com

PARTNER REQUEST

Dr. Andreas Kosmider
Managing Director
andreas.kosmider@falling-walls.com
Phone: +49 30 609 883 97 28
Mobile: +49 172 273 75 77

PRESS REQUEST

Felix Mihalek
PR Manager
phone: +49 30 60 988 39 780
mail: felix.mihalek@falling-walls.com



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FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

This event is supported by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.

CONTACT

Falling Walls Foundation gGmbH

Kochstraße 6–7
10969 Berlin

Web: www.falling-walls.com

PARTNER REQUEST

Dr. Andreas Kosmider
Managing Director
andreas.kosmider@falling-walls.com
Phone: +49 30 609 883 97 28
Mobile: +49 172 273 75 77

PRESS REQUEST

Felix Mihalek
PR Manager
phone: +49 30 60 988 39 780
mail: felix.mihalek@falling-walls.com



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