

**DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL  
U.S. BURNING PLASMA ORGANIZATION**

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A new national organization is being formed to advance the scientific understanding of burning plasmas and ensure the greatest benefit from participation in burning plasma experiments. This organization will use broad fusion research community participation to help coordinate relevant burning plasma research in the US program. In a range of reviews and studies of the fusion program, there has been a recognized need to organize and coordinate burning plasma studies to optimize our participation in burning plasma experiments on ITER. Such an effort will also foster the community ownership of burning plasma research and participation in the ITER program. This US Burning Plasma Organization (USBPO) will be used to bring coherence to a wide range of related activities in the fusion program. Some of the expected activities of the USBPO are: enhance coordination as needed for ongoing activities such as the major facility programs, international collaborations, the ITPA, theory and modeling, VLT, TTF, SciDac, etc.; advocate for burning plasma program activities; assist in performing ITER physics and technology tasks; plan for the research program on ITER; and integrate burning plasma experiment participation with the broader domestic program. Establishing the USBPO will be an evolutionary activity that will grow as the fusion program progresses to burning plasma experiments in ITER in the coming years. Input from the US fusion research community is being sought to optimize community involvement in developing this new activity.