

Fusion Technical Working Group (FUS-TWG)

Kickoff Meeting

Friday, April 17, 2026; 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT

Discussion Summary

Welcome and Project Staff Introductions

- The facilitator from Eastern Research Group (ERG), a NYSERDA contractor, welcomed TWG members and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Department of Public Service (DPS) staff introduced themselves and explained that they are working together on the Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development in New York (Master Plan).

TWG Member Introductions

- TWG members introduced themselves and described their interest in participating in the FUS-TWG.
- TWG members highlighted their expertise across fusion topics, including research, materials science, regulatory policy, workforce development, and industry engagement.

Overview of Advanced Nuclear Development in New York State

- NYSERDA presented an overview of New York State’s energy policy and the development of the Master Plan.
 - New York State is experiencing increasing electricity demand driven by electrification and economic growth. Nuclear energy is being evaluated as a reliable, zero-emission resource to support grid stability.
 - Current long-term scenarios include 2 to 3 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear capacity by 2040 and up to 5 GW by 2050.
 - Governor Hochul has directed the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to develop at least 1 GW of nuclear energy in Upstate New York.
 - The Master Plan includes multiple study areas, including technical feasibility, regulatory considerations, workforce and supply chain, and fusion.
- NYSERDA provided an overview of its innovation program.
 - The NYSERDA innovation program has invested \$1.2 billion in energy innovation in the state, supporting 700 companies, generating \$1.5 billion in private investment, and creating 1,700 jobs.
 - NYSERDA is closely monitoring industry developments in fusion, which has distinct technical challenges, fuel requirements, supply chain needs, and commercialization gaps when compared to fission.

- TWG member feedback:
 - High-temperature superconductor manufacturing and firms specializing in superconducting materials and ceramics have a strong presence in New York State.
 - Inertial fusion requires precision optics and lasers, and there is a strong optics/laser ecosystem in Western New York.
 - New York State has a high level of technical expertise across labs, academia, and industry.

TWG Charter Review

- The facilitator reviewed key elements of the FUS-TWG Charter, including the composition of the TWG, and member roles and responsibilities. TWG members are expected to provide technical input and expertise to support the Fusion Study within the broader Advanced Nuclear Master Plan.
- TWG members agreed to the rules set forth by NYSERDA including that the TWG is invitation only. Members will not disclose the identity of anyone in the group or attribute quotes to an individual without their permission. Slides are draft findings and not for public distribution. Organizations involved in the meetings will be listed on publicly available notes and acknowledged in the study for contributing expertise.

Fusion Study Overview

- The Brattle Group, the contractor researching and writing the Fusion Study for the Master Plan, presented the planned approach and scope of the Fusion Study. The study is focused on identifying opportunities for New York State to support fusion development and evaluating how fusion fits within the state's broader energy portfolio.
- The study is largely based on publicly available data and databases.

Overview of the Fusion Industry

- Solestiss, a Brattle subcontractor, presented an overview of the fusion industry and recent growth trends. The presentation explored the private fusion industry as well as challenges to commercialization.
- Recent technological advances, including high-temperature superconductors, high-performance computing, and improved plasma modeling, are accelerating fusion development globally. The growth is playing out in different ways across international, national, and state-level economies.
- TWG member feedback:
 - Advancing fusion will create a strong demand for superconductors, precision optics, and laser systems. Although New York State does not presently have vertically integrated fusion companies, the developing partnerships between national/international fusion companies and New York-based research institutions demonstrate potential for growth in the industry presence in the state.
 - New York also could have a significant role in the fusion supply chain based on its current strong position in components for the fusion supply chain.

Moving Forward

- NYSERDA and ERG will continue to convene the TWG to gather member input on key technical, policy, and commercialization topics related to advancing fusion energy.

Action Items and Next Steps

Task	Assigned to	Target date
Share survey with TWG members to complete.	ERG/NYSERDA	April 20, 2026
Share meeting materials (slides, meeting summary) with TWG members via email or SharePoint.	ERG/NYSERDA	May 1, 2026
TWG members return the completed survey via email.	All TWG members	May 4, 2026

Participants

Member Organizations

- Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Fusion Consultants
- Idaho National Laboratory
- Kinectrics
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Stony Brook University
- Tritium Solutions, Inc.
- University of Rochester

New York State Staff

- Alyse Peterson, NYSERDA
- Andrew Kincaid, DPS
- Charles Burns, New York State Department of Health
- Daniella Piper, NYPA
- Emily Barkdoll, DPS
- Erich Scherer, NYSERDA
- Jessica Dealy, NYSERDA
- Katherine Thomas, NYSERDA
- Laura Welch, Empire State Development
- Liam McAuliff, NYSERDA
- Rob Habermann, DPS

Contractor Team

- Audrey Njo, ERG
- Cheryl Keenan, ERG

Jay Brister, Solestiss
Kaitlin Schneider, ERG
Patty Bubar, Solestiss
Sarah Sofia, Brattle Group