

# Hot bottle

## New device shows promise for nuclear fusion

**United Press International**  
 LOS ALAMOS, N.M. — Scientists at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory are making final adjustments on a device they hope will take them one step closer to development of a virtually limitless supply of energy.  
 The device is a 7-foot wide, donut-shaped tube wrapped by 12 magnetic discs the size of truck tires and fed by a seemingly endless supply of electric cables. It is called simply "ZT-40."

Technically, ZT-40 is a "toroidal magnetic bottle," a device which in larger form may be used to power nuclear fusion reactors.  
 Scientists throughout the world are currently working on several different approaches to achieve controlled fusion reactions.

Fusion reactions like those in the sun occur when two light elements collide, fuse under intense pressure and heat to form a heavier element, releasing energy in the process. In theory, that energy would be used to heat water and then power a steam turbine to produce electricity.

Unlike the atom-splitting fission reaction used in today's nuclear power plants, nuclear fusion is considered cleaner and less dangerous. Scientists see tremendous potential in fusion reactors. The basic

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elements which will be used to fuel fusion reactors are deuterium and tritium, different forms of the element hydrogen.  
 "The potential payoff in this program is so enormous for civilization that we can't allow this possibility to go untried," said Dr. Harry Dreicer, head of the LASL Controlled Thermonuclear Research Division.  
 ZT-40 is just one step in many aimed at developing a workable fusion generating plant. But the steps remaining are difficult ones and best estimates are that the ultimate device won't be operating until the early part of the 21st century.  
 The key problem facing development is that fusion reactions only occur at extreme temperatures, up to 100 million degrees centigrade, making it impossible for the reaction to come in contact with any material known to man.  
 ZT-40 is an experiment to contain the reaction within a magnetic field and keep it away from the walls of the chamber where the reaction occurs.  
 Dreicer said the first injection of reactants into the ZT-40 was made Oct. 5. He said the device currently is undergoing testing and debugging.  
 It is hoped that the preliminary work can be completed so that by April 1 "we can have a more or less full-fledged operation," he said.

### GSA official charged with bribery

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — A former high-ranking government administrator was charged with bribery as a result of an investigation into charges that he and others cheated taxpayers out of more than \$415,000 by setting up inflated or phony General Services Administration contracts.  
 Named in felony "information" charges filed in U.S. District Court Tuesday was Robert Stevens, a former contracts specialist at the GSA Region III headquarters in Washington.  
 Assistant U.S. Attorney William

S. Block, who filed the charges, said they involve \$850,000 in contracts for which only \$435,000 in work was actually performed. Of the more than \$415,000 in alleged fraud, government employees allegedly received \$350,000 in cash and gratuities.  
 Sources said the filing of "informations," rather than the return of grand jury indictments against the 11 men involved, was an indication they have agreed to plead guilty and to tell what they know about other corruption within the agency in return for more lenient treatment.

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