

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION COMMUNITY

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BACKGROUND NOTE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND UNITED STATES TO DO FUSION RESEARCH UNDER IEA

The European Community and the United States will do joint research in the area of thermonuclear fusion at a facility to be built in Los Alamos, New Mexico, according to an agreement both participants signed July 9 with the International Energy Agency (IEA).

This \$25 million Intense Neutron Source will allow testing of materials to be used in fusion reactors. It is scheduled to be operational by 1981.

The European and the US nuclear fusion programs are comparable in size and technological level, and this agreement is the first one to formalize EC-US cooperation in this field. The Community is the IEA coordinator for fusion research.

The European Community will provide highly specialized personnel for the engineering construction and the utilization of the new Los Alamos facility. The capital cost will be met entirely by the United States.

Another part of the same agreement provides for the exchange of information on nuclear safety. Since 1975, the Community has been making an inventory of research into nuclear safety. This inventory will now be made available to all members of the IEA.