

Restructuring our International Collaborations

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Why Restructure?

- Since 1996, OFES been restructuring all elements of program--but not international!
- Time to acknowledge and increase community participation; previous studies not used well
- Recent US delegation to JET is good case study
- Good opportunity to review our overall international program
- Ned will focus on Major (New) International Collaboration as befits this budget forum

Two Categories of Collaborations

(to keep in mind as we focus on major elements of restructuring)

1. Those funded within ongoing program activities
 - determined by an institution/project to be in its best interest within program funding provided by OFES
 - mutual benefit/reciprocity determined at that level
 - DOE involved necessarily for legal auspices
 - still benefit from technical consultations within US
2. Those funded directly by OFES (Ned's Talk)
 - determined nationally as in US best interest
 - involve multiple organizations, long-term, high cost
 - appear in FY2000 budget lines
 - DOE more directly involved

Organization

- Traditionally, we have organized by agreement, etc.
 - Follows legal framework
 - Understood by partners
 - ‘Straightforward’
 - Personnel assignments in OFES are agreement based
- In many areas, agreements enable comprehensive interactions, e.g., in RFP, Stellarator, FNT, ESE
- But, tokamak agreements were developed on an ‘opportunistic’, not necessarily strategic basis

So--

- Tokamak agreement set is not technically coherent

More on Organization of Category 2

- More rational organization principle:

Use Technical Topics -- as in JET

*[For Category 1, however, no change required, but consultations w/topical 'groups' would be **beneficial**]*

- Clear benefits to technical topic orientation:
 - supports a Science Program
 - depolarizes institutional focuses
 - makes best use of our segmented efforts
 - our strength is in innovation and integration

But--

- Can't ignore reality of agreement frameworks

Vision of Shared Governance

- Look out some years---
 - Collectively, we should be focused on our high priority items for our major collaborations
 - Individually, institutions will be pursuing mutually beneficial collaborations
 - OFES and community working together

Thus--

- Need to make transition from now to then

Transition (for Category 2)

- Now--
 - organized by agreement
 - key people in place by agreement
 - programs of work agreed by agreement
 - genesis often governmental negotiation
 - peer review difficult
- Then--
 - work organized to great extent by technical topic
 - key people leading topical groups
 - programs of work agreed with (informal) thematic aims, approved through (formal) agreements (pending their aggregation)
 - development done on shared governance basis
 - peer review usefully incorporated
 - aimed toward VLT-like situation as appropriate to funding level

Structure for Organization of Category 2 Activities

- Anticipate having
 - Topical leaders for technical focus; linked to relevant domestic groups--how to choose?
 - Contact points for each agreement for practicalities
 - Coordinator(s) working with topical leaders/points of contacts/OFES for coherence
 - Involvement of Category 1 participants welcomed
 - Some form of PAC for balance
 - OFES assignments of tasks to institutions
- Recognize that this approach is used now in various arrangements in part or in whole

Now Starting New International Program Leaders' Forum

- US, EU and RF Leaders formally agreed, JA formally considering idea
- Four leaders met via televideo in November
- Meetings will continue on bi/multilateral bases as appropriate
- Opportunity for sharing new approach to international collaboration
- Opportunity for new forms of overall consideration of our collaboration

Next Steps

- Work out topical orientation while respecting agreement basis
- Reconfirm continuation of Category 1 approach
- Formalize assignments of organizer(s), etc. for Category 2 activities & interested Cat. 1 activities
- Discuss these ideas with EU, RF and JA
- Work toward more peer review, community involvement in our international activities