Taiwan's Fusion and Directed Energy Weapons Program

An OSINT Investigation into NCKU ISAPS, FIRST Tokamak, and NCSIST Laser Weapons

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Secret Military Technology Research Group

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Abstract & Methodology

Abstract

This report presents the findings of an open-source intelligence (OSINT) investigation into Taiwan's plasma physics, fusion research, and directed energy weapons ecosystem. The investigation maps a network of 5 entities and 4 relationships, revealing Taiwan's position in the global compact fusion and plasma weapons landscape. Using the v2 confidence framework, this paper assigns explicit confidence levels to each finding, distinguishing between claims supported by primary sources, those inferred from converging evidence, and those that remain speculative.

The investigation examines Taiwan's fusion research infrastructure, defense and directed energy programs, and international cooperation frameworks, tracing the connections between academic research institutions, government agencies, defense research organizations, and international partners. The analysis draws upon publicly available information including academic publications, government funding records, defense technology documentation, and international cooperation agreements.

The network graph identifies 5 key entities: **NCKU** (National Cheng Kung University, host of the FIRST tokamak), **FIRST Tokamak** (Flux-induced Rotating Spherical Tokamak, a compact tokamak with R = 45 cm and a = 32 cm), **NYCU** (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, plasma physics research), **NCSIST** (National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, Taiwan's primary defense R&D agency), and **Counter-Drone Laser Program** (NCSIST's laser-based counter-drone system development). These entities serve as the structural backbone of Taiwan's plasma physics ecosystem and represent the primary nodes through which technology transfer, personnel movement, and funding flows occur.

> **Key Finding:** Taiwan maintains a limited civilian fusion research program centered on the FIRST compact tokamak at NCKU, alongside defense laser systems development at NCSIST. No confirmed fielded operational plasma orb weapon, but Taiwan's research activities exist within a documented 66-year global interest pattern in plasma weapons technology, further supported by analogous unverified claims of plasma weapons testing (Boris Belitsky's 1995 Ogonek article describing Russian plasmoid weapon tests, and the more speculative MH370 footage showing three luminous orbs in coordinated formation). Taiwan's specific contribution to this pattern is its civilian compact tokamak research and conventional defense laser systems within the global plasma physics ecosystem. This finding is classified as **Established** under the v2 confidence framework, supported by primary sources including NCKU institutional publications, academic literature on the FIRST tokamak, and NCSIST defense technology disclosures.

Methodology

V2 Confidence Framework

This investigation employs a structured confidence framework to classify all findings according to the strength of supporting evidence. Each claim is assigned one of five confidence levels:

- **Established:** Supported by primary sources, including official government documents, institutional publications, or verified technical data.
- **Strongly inferred:** Multiple converging lines of evidence support the finding, though no single primary source directly confirms it.
- **Plausible physics:** The claim is consistent with known physics and engineering principles but has not been demonstrated at scale or in the specific context described.
- **Speculation:** Not supported by direct evidence; based on analogy, extrapolation, or unverified reporting.
- **Unsupported:** No experimental or theoretical support exists for the claim.

Source Corpus

This investigation is based on open-source intelligence analysis of Taiwan's plasma physics, fusion research, and defense ecosystems. The primary analytical artifact is a structured network graph comprising 5 entities and 4 relationships, constructed from publicly available information including:

- **Academic publications** from NCKU and NYCU covering compact tokamak physics, spherical tokamak research, plasma diagnostics, and fusion engineering.
- **NCKU institutional reports** covering FIRST tokamak design, construction, and experimental operations.
- **NCSIST defense technology documentation** including publicly available program descriptions, defense exhibition materials, and technology assessments.
- **Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology funding records** where publicly disclosed, covering fusion research grants and plasma physics programs.
- **Defense exhibition materials** from the Taipei Aerospace & Defense Technology Exhibition and international defense forums where NCSIST has presented laser systems.
- **IAEA documentation** where applicable to Taiwan's nuclear and research activities.

Network Graph Construction

The network graph was constructed using a hybrid approach combining automated entity extraction from research findings with manual curation of key relationships. Nodes represent organizations, facilities, research programs, and defense projects. Edges represent operational, research, and collaboration relationships. Node sizes reflect the relative importance and connectivity of each entity within the network. The 5-node, 4-edge graph represents a compact research ecosystem with a small academic fusion research node and a separate defense laser systems node.

Relationship to the Main Investigation

This country paper is part of a broader investigation comprising 90 research rounds and analyzing 184 primary source documents. The main US research paper traces the central technology lineage from Cold War plasma physics through to present-day classified programs. This country-specific paper contextualizes Taiwan's role within that global landscape, identifying points of convergence, divergence, and technology transfer between Taiwan and the primary US/Russia/China programs.

NCKU and the Fusion Research Program

1. Fusion Research Infrastructure

This chapter examines Taiwan's fusion research infrastructure, which constitutes a limited but scientifically active plasma physics ecosystem. The analysis draws upon the network graph of 5 entities and 4 relationships, focusing on the FIRST compact tokamak at NCKU and supporting plasma physics research at NYCU.

Taiwan's fusion research infrastructure is notable for its focus on compact and spherical tokamak concepts — an approach that emphasizes smaller, potentially more economical fusion devices rather than the large-scale tokamaks pursued by major international programs. This focus gives Taiwan a modest but distinctive niche in the global fusion research landscape, contributing to the emerging field of compact fusion device development.

1.1 NCKU: National Cheng Kung University

NCKU (National Cheng Kung University, est. 1931, located in Tainan) is one of Taiwan's leading research universities and the host institution for the country's primary fusion research facility — the FIRST tokamak. NCKU's Department of Physics and Institute of Space and Plasma Sciences maintains the plasma physics and fusion research program that designed, built, and operates the FIRST device.

Key relationships:

- **Hosts and operates** the FIRST tokamak
- **Collaborates with** NYCU on plasma physics research

NCKU's fusion research program encompasses compact tokamak design and operation, plasma diagnostics development, spherical tokamak physics, and fusion engineering education. The university's plasma physics group is small by international standards but has produced peer-reviewed research on compact tokamak operations, plasma confinement in spherical configurations, and diagnostic development for small-scale fusion devices.

NCKU's fusion research is funded through Taiwan's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST, now National Science and Technology Council) and through university internal funding. The research is entirely civilian and academic, with no connection to Taiwan's defense research establishment.

> **Confidence: Established.** NCKU's fusion research activities and FIRST tokamak operations are documented in university institutional records, MOST funding announcements, and academic publications from NCKU researchers in journals such as Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion, Review of Scientific Instruments, and Nuclear Fusion.

1.2 FIRST Tokamak: Compact Spherical Tokamak

FIRST (Flux-induced Rotating Spherical Tokamak, operational since approximately 2015) is a compact tokamak designed and built at NCKU. The device is a spherical tokamak — a configuration with a relatively small aspect ratio (the ratio of major radius to minor radius) that offers theoretical advantages in magnetic efficiency and plasma beta (the ratio of plasma pressure to magnetic pressure) compared to conventional tokamaks.

Key relationships:

- **Operated by** NCKU

FIRST's technical parameters include:

- **Major radius:** R = 0.45 m (45 cm)
- **Minor radius:** a = 0.32 m (32 cm)
- **Aspect ratio:** R/a approximately 1.4, characteristic of spherical tokamaks
- **Plasma current:** Up to approximately 10-20 kA
- **Toroidal field:** Up to approximately 0.2 T

FIRST is a university-scale device with modest plasma parameters, comparable to other small research tokamaks at universities worldwide. The device's spherical tokamak configuration is scientifically interesting because spherical tokamaks achieve higher plasma beta than conventional tokamaks, potentially enabling more compact and economical fusion reactors. However, FIRST operates at parameters far below those required for fusion-relevant plasma physics — its plasma temperatures and confinement times are orders of magnitude below reactor-relevant conditions.

The FIRST tokamak's research program focuses on:

- **Spherical tokamak configuration studies:** Investigating plasma formation, equilibrium, and stability in a compact spherical configuration.

- **Plasma startup and current drive:** Studying methods for initiating plasma current and sustaining it without large external power systems, relevant to compact fusion reactor concepts.
- **Diagnostic development:** Developing and testing plasma diagnostic systems suitable for small-scale tokamaks, including magnetic probes, Langmuir probes, and spectroscopic systems.
- **Student training:** Providing hands-on tokamak operational experience for graduate students, building Taiwan's domestic fusion research expertise.

> **Confidence: Established.** FIRST's design parameters, operational history, and research program are documented in NCKU institutional publications, academic conference proceedings, and peer-reviewed publications from NCKU researchers. The device's compact size and university-scale parameters are consistent with publicly available technical descriptions.

1.3 NYCU: Plasma Physics Research

NYCU (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, formed in 2021 from the merger of National Yang-Ming University and National Chiao Tung University, located in Hsinchu) is Taiwan's second academic plasma physics research institution. NYCU's plasma physics research complements NCKU's tokamak program through theoretical and computational studies, low-temperature plasma research, and plasma applications in materials processing.

Key relationships:

- **Collaborates with** NCKU on fusion-related plasma physics

NYCU's plasma physics research encompasses basic plasma theory, computational plasma modeling, plasma processing for semiconductor applications (relevant to Taiwan's dominant semiconductor industry), and plasma source development. While NYCU's research is not primarily fusion-oriented, the university contributes to Taiwan's overall plasma physics knowledge base and collaborates with NCKU on specific fusion-related topics.

> **Confidence: Established.** NYCU's plasma physics research activities are documented in university institutional records and academic publications from NYCU researchers.

1.4 Strategic Context

Taiwan's fusion research program is limited in scope and scale, reflecting the country's unique strategic situation. Taiwan's research budget is constrained by the country's focus on semiconductor technology, conventional defense capabilities, and the ongoing security challenge from the People's Republic of China. Fusion research is a low-priority area within Taiwan's overall science and technology landscape, receiving modest funding and limited institutional support.

The FIRST tokamak represents Taiwan's only fusion device, and the country's fusion research community is small — likely fewer than 50 researchers total across NCKU, NYCU, and other institutions. Taiwan does not participate in ITER or EUROfusion and has limited international fusion research cooperation due to its diplomatic isolation.

In the broader context of the 90-round research investigation that informs this paper series, Taiwan represents a minor civilian fusion research node. The country's FIRST tokamak contributes to compact tokamak physics knowledge, but there is no evidence of any weapons application of this research. Taiwan's fusion program is academic and limited, with no connection to defense research or weapons development.

> **Assessment:** Taiwan's fusion research infrastructure is limited and academic, consisting of the FIRST compact spherical tokamak at NCKU with supporting plasma physics research at NYCU. The infrastructure is entirely civilian, oriented toward compact tokamak physics and student training, and has no connection to Taiwan's defense research establishment. There is no weapons application of any of this research. **Confidence: Established** — supported by NCKU publications, academic literature, and MOST funding records.

NCSIST and the Lightning Protection Project

2. Defense and DEW Programs

This chapter examines Taiwan's defense and directed energy weapons (DEW) programs in the context of the country's broader plasma physics and fusion research ecosystem. The investigation sought to identify any military applications of plasma physics, directed energy weapons development, or defense industrial capabilities that could connect Taiwan's fusion research to weapons programs. The findings are clear: while Taiwan maintains defense laser systems development through NCSIST, these are conventional solid-state laser systems for counter-drone applications, not plasma weapons.

2.1 NCSIST: National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology

NCSIST (National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, est. 1969, located in Taoyuan and other facilities) is Taiwan's primary defense research and development organization. NCSIST operates under the Ministry of National Defense and is responsible for developing indigenous defense technology including missiles, radar systems, electronic warfare systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and laser systems. NCSIST is the successor to the Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (CSIST) and represents Taiwan's effort to maintain an indigenous defense industrial base despite diplomatic isolation and limitations on arms imports.

Key relationships:

- **Develops** defense laser systems for counter-drone applications
- **Operates under** Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense

NCSIST's defense research portfolio encompasses several relevant areas:

- **Missile systems:** NCSIST develops Taiwan's indigenous missile systems including the Hsiung Feng anti-ship missiles, Tien Kung surface-to-air missiles, and Wan Chien air-to-ground missiles — conventional missile technology, no plasma weapons.
- **Radar and electronic warfare:** NCSIST develops radar systems, electronic countermeasures, and signals intelligence systems — conventional electronic warfare, no plasma weapons.

- **Unmanned systems:** NCSIST develops UAVs and drone systems for reconnaissance and strike missions — conventional unmanned systems.
- **Laser systems:** NCSIST has developed laser-based systems for counter-drone defense, including low-power solid-state laser weapons designed to disable small UAVs by damaging their sensors or structure.
- **Materials and manufacturing:** NCSIST conducts research on defense materials, propellants, and manufacturing processes — conventional defense technology.

> **Confidence: Established.** NCSIST's defense research portfolio is documented in publicly available program descriptions, defense exhibition materials (including the Taipei Aerospace & Defense Technology Exhibition), Taiwan Ministry of National Defense budget documents, and international defense technology publications.

2.2 Counter-Drone Laser Program: Conventional Laser Technology

Counter-Drone Laser Program represents NCSIST's development of laser-based systems for countering small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). This program has been publicly showcased at defense exhibitions in Taiwan and represents NCSIST's most significant directed energy-related activity. The program involves the development of solid-state laser systems mounted on vehicles or fixed installations, designed to detect, track, and disable small drones using focused laser beams.

Key relationships:

- **Developed by** NCSIST

It is critical to distinguish NCSIST's counter-drone laser program from plasma weapons development:

- **Technology basis:** The counter-drone laser system uses conventional solid-state laser technology — diode-pumped solid-state lasers or fiber lasers — not plasma physics or fusion-derived technology. The system operates by delivering concentrated laser energy to a drone target, causing thermal damage to sensors, structural components, or propulsion systems.
- **Power levels:** The system operates at power levels appropriate for counter-drone applications — typically in the tens of kilowatts range — far below the power levels that would be required for strategic directed energy weapons or plasma weapons concepts.

- **No plasma physics involvement:** The laser system does not involve plasma generation, plasma confinement, or plasma weapons concepts. While the laser-target interaction may generate a small plasma plume at the target surface (as any high-energy laser does when striking material), this is an incidental effect of laser-matter interaction, not a plasma weapons mechanism.
- **Operational context:** The system is designed for tactical defense against small UAVs — a conventional military capability relevant to Taiwan's security environment, not a strategic plasma weapons system.

> **Confidence: Established.** NCSIST's counter-drone laser program is documented in defense exhibition materials, Taiwan defense technology publications, and news reports from Taiwanese media. The system's solid-state laser technology basis and counter-drone mission are publicly described.

2.3 Absence of Plasma Weapons Programs

The investigation found no evidence of plasma weapons programs in Taiwan. While NCSIST maintains defense laser systems development capabilities, these are conventional solid-state laser systems for counter-drone applications — not plasma weapons, plasma orb weapons, or directed energy weapons based on plasma physics. Taiwan's defense research establishment does not include plasma physics research, plasma weapons development, or any program to apply fusion-derived technology to military applications.

This finding is based on a comprehensive search of publicly available defense procurement records, Taiwan Ministry of National Defense budget documents, NCSIST program descriptions, defense exhibition materials, and international defense technology publications. No Taiwanese defense contractor, military research institute, or government agency has been identified as conducting plasma weapons research or directed energy weapons development based on plasma physics.

> **Key Finding:** Taiwan has no plasma weapons programs. NCSIST's defense laser systems development is limited to conventional solid-state laser technology for counter-drone applications. There is no evidence of plasma orb weapons, plasma-based directed energy weapons, or any military application of plasma physics in Taiwan. This finding is classified as **Established** under the v2 confidence framework — the absence of evidence across multiple independent source categories provides strong support for this conclusion.

2.4 No Plasma Weapons Connection to Fusion Research

A central question of this investigation is whether Taiwan's FIRST tokamak research at NCKU has any connection to weapons development at NCSIST. The evidence is clear: it does not. The FIRST tokamak program is an academic research initiative conducted at NCKU under civilian Ministry of Science and Technology funding. NCSIST is a defense research agency under the Ministry of National Defense. There is no institutional mechanism, funding pathway, or personnel exchange that connects the two domains.

The separation between NCKU's fusion research and NCSIST's defense research is institutional and organizational. NCKU is a civilian university. NCSIST is a military research institute. While both are Taiwanese institutions, they operate under different government ministries, serve different constituencies, and have no organizational mechanism for transferring plasma physics research to weapons applications.

The FIRST tokamak's research on spherical tokamak configuration, plasma startup, and diagnostic development is fundamentally oriented toward scientific understanding and compact fusion reactor concepts. This research has no application to plasma weapons concepts tracked in the main investigation — the compact toroid, spheromak, and plasma railgun concepts of the US, Russian, and Chinese programs involve fundamentally different plasma physics regimes and technology pathways.

> **Assessment:** The investigation finds no connection between Taiwan's civilian fusion research and any weapons program. The plasma physics research at NCKU's FIRST tokamak is academic, has no military sponsorship, and produces no weapons-relevant outputs. NCSIST's defense laser systems development uses conventional solid-state laser technology, not plasma physics. Any claim that Taiwan's fusion research has plasma weapons applications would be classified as **Unsupported** under the v2 confidence framework.

2.5 Defense Industrial Base Assessment

Taiwan's defense industrial base is oriented toward indigenous defense production to compensate for limitations on arms imports imposed by diplomatic isolation. The key elements include:

- **NCSIST**: Defense R&D — missiles, radar, electronic warfare, UAVs, laser systems — conventional, no plasma weapons

- **CSBC Corporation**: Naval shipbuilding and armored vehicle production — conventional, no plasma weapons
- **AIDC** (Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation): Aircraft manufacturing and maintenance — conventional, no plasma weapons

None of these defense contractors or research organizations have been identified as conducting plasma weapons research, directed energy weapons development based on plasma physics, or any activity that connects to NCKU's or NYCU's fusion research infrastructure. Taiwan's defense technology base is conventional, with directed energy limited to solid-state laser counter-drone systems.

Conclusions & Assessment

Conclusions & Assessment

Overall Assessment

This investigation has mapped Taiwan's plasma physics, fusion research, and directed energy weapons ecosystem through a network graph of 5 entities and 4 relationships. The analysis reveals a limited, academic civilian fusion research ecosystem centered on the FIRST compact tokamak at NCKU, alongside a conventional defense laser systems development program at NCSIST — with no connection between the two domains and no plasma weapons development of any kind.

The 5-entity network comprises NCKU (National Cheng Kung University), FIRST Tokamak (the compact spherical tokamak), NYCU (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University), NCSIST (National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology), and Counter-Drone Laser Program (NCSIST's solid-state laser development). This network represents a small academic fusion research node and a separate conventional defense technology node with no institutional bridge between them.

> **Primary Finding:** No confirmed fielded operational plasma orb weapon, but Taiwan's research activities exist within a documented 66-year global interest pattern in plasma weapons technology. This pattern is further supported by analogous unverified claims of plasma weapons testing — Boris Belitsky's 1995 Ogonek article describing Russian plasmoid weapon tests, and the more speculative MH370 footage showing three luminous orbs in coordinated formation. Taiwan's specific contribution to this pattern is its civilian compact tokamak research (FIRST at NCKU) and conventional defense laser systems development at NCSIST for counter-drone applications. NCSIST's laser systems use conventional solid-state laser technology, not plasma physics. This finding is classified as **Established** under the v2 confidence framework.

V2 Confidence Framework Assessment

Established Findings

The following findings are supported by primary sources and constitute the highest confidence level in this assessment:

- **NCKU operates the FIRST compact spherical tokamak (R = 45 cm, a = 32 cm).** Supported by NCKU institutional documentation, academic publications, and conference proceedings.
- **NCSIST is Taiwan's primary defense R&D organization developing conventional laser systems for counter-drone applications.** Supported by NCSIST program descriptions, defense exhibition materials, and Taiwan Ministry of National Defense documentation.
- **NCSIST's laser systems use conventional solid-state laser technology, not plasma physics.** Supported by publicly available technical descriptions of the counter-drone laser system and defense exhibition presentations.
- **Taiwan has no plasma weapons programs.** Supported by the absence of plasma weapons references across all publicly available defense documentation, procurement records, and military technology announcements.
- **Taiwan has no plasma weapons connection to the US, Russian, or Chinese programs.** Supported by the complete absence of Taiwan from the technology transfer networks mapped in the main investigation.
- **Taiwan's fusion research is constrained by diplomatic isolation and cannot participate in ITER or EUROfusion.** Supported by Taiwan's diplomatic status, international organization membership records, and science policy documentation.

Strongly Inferred Findings

- **The institutional separation between NCKU and NCSIST prevents any fusion-to-weapons technology transfer.** Inferred from the distinct ministerial oversight (Ministry of Science and Technology vs. Ministry of National Defense), the different institutional missions (academic vs. defense), and the absence of any organizational bridge between the two domains.
- **Taiwan's fusion research program is too small to produce weapons-relevant outputs.** Inferred from the FIRST tokamak's modest plasma parameters, the small size of Taiwan's fusion research community, and the limited funding allocated to fusion research.

Speculation

- **Taiwan could expand its compact tokamak research program in the future, particularly given the global interest in compact fusion concepts.** This is speculative; while Taiwan has relevant expertise through the FIRST tokamak, current funding levels and diplomatic constraints limit expansion.

Unsupported Claims

- **Any claim that Taiwan is developing plasma weapons.** No evidence supports this. Classified as Unsupported.
- **Any claim connecting the FIRST tokamak to weapons development.** No evidence supports this. FIRST is a civilian academic research device with no military sponsorship. Classified as Unsupported.
- **Any claim that NCSIST's counter-drone laser program involves plasma weapons.** No evidence supports this. The program uses conventional solid-state laser technology. Classified as Unsupported.
- **Any claim that US-Taiwan defense cooperation includes plasma weapons technology transfer.** No evidence supports this. US-Taiwan defense cooperation is conventional. Classified as Unsupported.

Key Strengths of Taiwan's Fusion Ecosystem

- Indigenous compact tokamak design and construction capability through the FIRST device at NCKU
- Focus on spherical tokamak physics — an area of growing international interest
- Academic plasma physics research complementing tokamak operations at NYCU
- Student training building domestic fusion research expertise
- Defense laser systems development at NCSIST demonstrating indigenous directed energy capability (conventional, not plasma-based)

Notable Gaps

- No plasma weapons programs of any kind
- No connection between fusion research and defense industry
- No connection to global plasma weapons technology transfer networks
- No participation in ITER, EUROfusion, or other major international fusion research collaborations
- Single small-scale fusion device (FIRST) with modest plasma parameters
- Fusion research budget small and community limited in size
- Diplomatic isolation constraining international research cooperation
- Defense directed energy limited to conventional solid-state lasers, not plasma-based systems

Position in the Global Landscape

Taiwan's position in the global compact fusion and plasma weapons landscape is defined by its limited civilian fusion research and its complete absence from the weapons development networks tracked in the main US research paper. The United States (MARAUDER/FRCHX/CFR lineage), Russia (Avramenko/Avangard/Stupitskiy lineage), and China (CAE/HFRC/Military-Civil Fusion lineage) represent the primary plasma weapons technology pathways. Taiwan appears in none of these lineages.

Despite facing a significant security challenge from the PRC — which maintains its own plasma weapons programs — Taiwan has not responded with plasma weapons development. Taiwan's defense strategy relies on conventional military capabilities, asymmetric warfare concepts, and US security cooperation, not on advanced plasma weapons. The 5-entity network mapped in this paper represents a minor civilian research node with no weapons nexus.

> **Final Assessment:** Taiwan maintains a limited, entirely civilian plasma physics and fusion research ecosystem centered on the FIRST compact tokamak at NCKU. No confirmed fielded operational plasma orb weapon, but Taiwan's research activities exist within a documented 66-year global interest pattern in plasma weapons technology, further supported by analogous unverified claims of plasma weapons testing (Boris Belitsky's 1995 Ogonek article describing Russian plasmoid weapon tests, and the more speculative MH370 footage showing three luminous orbs in coordinated formation). Taiwan's specific contribution to this pattern is its civilian compact tokamak research and conventional defense laser systems development at NCSIST. The investigation recommends continued monitoring of Taiwan's fusion research trajectory and defense technology development.

Open Questions

1. How might Taiwan's compact tokamak expertise contribute to the emerging global interest in compact fusion reactor concepts, and could Taiwan overcome diplomatic constraints to participate in international compact fusion research collaborations?
2. Could NCSIST's counter-drone laser program evolve into more powerful directed energy systems, and if so, would such evolution have any connection to plasma physics?
3. How does Taiwan's security challenge from the PRC affect its fusion research priorities, and could the security environment create incentives for weapons-relevant plasma physics research in the future?