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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Will fusion transform our energy future? Victoria lecture

There is no doubt that our growing energy demand will require a significant transformation of the current supply system, including new generation capability and cleaner, more sustainable sources.

Fusion – the source of energy contained in our sun – could meet such demands, according to one of Canada’s leading experts on fusion energy, Dr. Allen Offenberger.

While the idea of generating power from fusion energy is not new, a newer approach employing lasers promises imminent ‘ignition’ without the problematic byproducts of carbon fuels.

“Inertial fusion energy (IFE),” says Offenberger, “will have a profound influence on energy, environment and economic strategies worldwide.”

The IFE process uses high-intensity laser bursts to compress tiny fuel pellets to extremely high temperatures and density, triggering fusion and releasing large amounts of energy.

Offenberger will be in BC this coming week for a special public lecture on the latest developments in fusion technology. Hosted by the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS), this free event will take place at the University of Victoria on Tuesday, January 24.

WHAT: Public lecture by Dr. Allen Offenberger – *New developments in inertial fusion energy*

WHEN: 2:30pm – 3:30pm, Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

WHERE: Room 660, Engineering & Computer Science (ECS) Bldg., University of Victoria

Additional Biographical Information: Dr. Offenberger is professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Alberta and a past president of the Canadian Association of Physicists. He is a founder of the Alberta/Canada Fusion Energy initiative aiming to build a national capability in this important future energy technology based on strong working linkages with international centres, and has served on many international scientific advisory & research grant committees, editorial boards, and as a consultant to university, government & industrial institutions.

Note to editors: Media are invited to attend the lecture. Interviews with Dr. Offenberger can be arranged before or after the lecture by contacting PICS communications staff.

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