

Korea's 'artificial sun' achieves a record 48 seconds at 100 million degrees. Why does it matter?

Korea's 'artificial sun', KSTAR, recorded a plasma operation with a temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds, a new step in nuclear fusion research.

Korea's "artificial sun" broke its own record during a plasma operation in which temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius were supported for 48 seconds, a promising new step toward nuclear fusion.

The Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research or KSTAR had previously set a record of reaching 100 million degree plasma for 30 seconds in 2021, the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy (KFE) said in a statement.

Nuclear fusion happens when two light atoms' nuclei merge to form a single heavier one, generating a huge release of energy.

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