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**WRTP | BIG STEP partners with Realta Fusion to address workforce needs of emerging industry sector**

**Madison, WI (July 10, 2023)** – WRTP | BIG STEP, Wisconsin's leading workforce intermediary, is excited to announce its partnership with Madison-based Realta Fusion to help address the current and future workforce needs for the fusion energy industry.

After completing a first round venture capital raise that brought in $9 million, the company secured a $3 million U.S. Department of Energy award that included partnership funding with WRTP | BIG STEP.

"Our partnership with Realta Fusion positions us at the forefront of the nation’s effort to develop a clean economy workforce development," said Lindsay Blumer CEO of WRTP I BIG STEP.

“Our history working with jobseekers from diverse backgrounds and connecting them to training programs and pre-apprenticeships will ensure that all individuals have equal access to opportunities in the evolving landscape of new technology."

The collaboration aims to build a strong and diverse talent pipeline, focusing on developing pre-apprenticeships and training programs that welcome individuals from all backgrounds into the clean economy.

“We see massive potential for Wisconsin to take a lead in the nascent fusion industry. It’s going to be huge this century and we have an opportunity to be at the heart of it,” said Kieran Furlong, CEO of Realta Fusion. “Wisconsin has both cutting-edge fusion research and a long history of innovative manufacturing. If we successfully combine those with a skilled workforce, the global hub for fusion can be right here”.

With first-round funding in hand, Realta Fusion aims to bring its first fusion energy system online within the next 10 years. Themachinery they will develop requires a skilled workforce, including maintenance technicians, millwrights, electricians, and other specialized roles to build and maintain the equipment.

Recognizing the potential of this partnership, WRTP | BIG STEP and Realta Fusion are working together to build the necessary competencies and pathways required for success in this evolving sector. By combining their respective strengths, the organizations aim to develop comprehensive training programs and pre-apprenticeships that equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in these in-demand roles.

This collaboration represents a forward-thinking approach to workforce development, as it presents a unique opportunity to create an entirely new pathway within the vertical. By focusing on the clean economy and new technology, WRTP | BIG STEP and Realta Fusion aim to contribute to sustainable and environmentally friendly industries while also fostering diversity and inclusivity.

For media inquiries please call (414) 937-3602

**About WRTP | BIG STEP**

The Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) was created in the 1990s to renew Milwaukee’s traditional industrial base after the recovery of manufacturing, retirement of an aging workforce, and diversification of the regional economy created a growing skills shortage. Since combining with the Building Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program (BIG STEP) to form WRTP | BIG STEP, we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit workforce intermediary dedicated to connecting people to family-sustaining jobs.

**About Realta Fusion**

[Realta Fusion](https://realtafusion.com/) is an early-stage fusion energy company which spun out of a large ARPA-e funded project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The company raised a successful seed financing round in May 2023 led by Khosla Ventures and is an awardee of the Department of Energy’s Milestone Fusion Program. Realta is developing compact magnetic mirror fusion generators as the lowest capex and least complex path to commercially competitive fusion energy. Realta is targeting the need to decarbonize industrial process heat as the fastest path to full-scale deployment of this technology. The company is based in Madison, WI.

<https://youtu.be/Q9_z4T-CwnA>