This document is to suggest a primary goal for the alternates program. Given that there are clear national, and international, urgent societal needs for a reliable source of clean energy, with near-zero carbon footprint, I would suggest that this goal should be:

"To enable an earlier (or even much earlier) implementation of fusion power than is now envisioned for the conventional or advanced tokamak lines of development."

The alternates program ought to place the strongest emphasis on approaches, concepts, or techniques which shorten the development path to fusion. A secondary emphasis, certainly, ought to be on approaches which make the final product more attractive.

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