The article called “Lockheed’s Fusion Promise: What we know so far”, published by Popular Science magazine on October 17th, talks about a prototype for a nuclear fusion energy reactor, which has been a dream for a long time among scientists. The project promises renewable and clean energy, without the byproducts that the current nuclear plants produces. Tom McGuire, the Lockheed project lead, tells that the reactor might run at 200 million degrees, but the big problem is how to contain all this heat and power that the fusion will produce. Even though McGuire says his team is able to fix the problem and find the right way to contain the energy that it will create and that all the previous research work to their advantage, a lot of different scientists all over the world believe that they will fail just like everyone who has tried before. If they succeed and it actually works, the second problem comes: how to make it work by its own, and this is the item he has not answered yet and everyone is waiting for him to.

The first point I would like to talk about in this writing, is the problem that the group of scientists are facing in this moment: how to contain the energy. All of us have seen in some movie or a series that the energy reactor might cause a problem and the world is in danger, well, I suppose there must be a reason why they say that. I think that all the previous works have failed because of the same reason, they cannot keep the energy and the heat inside the reactor. In order to keep everyone safe maybe they should wait a few years and keep making it better, that way no one gets hurt. I know exists an energy scarcity that should disappear, but if these people who are working with this reactor is in danger they should not turn it on if they are not sure.

Secondly, there is a matter of history behind all of this and that make everyone to be suspicious about the energy reactor. As far as I am concerned, no one has succeeded making work a reactor of this nature. I do not know the reasons because I have never look into it, but I have heard that it is because they have never been able to turn it on without putting in danger the people around. History does not work their advantage because some people are scared of the consequences it could cause, and the fact that they have not published any new research does not help us to be more trusting. I think they should share their information and accept the suggestions they could receive.

Finally, I would like to talk about the problem they will have to face when they solve the first one. They do not know how it is going to work and if it works correctly, they have no idea of how they are going to make it work by its own. This is a huge problem, because it would be a waste of money and time if they actually make it work but then they cannot keep it working.

To conclude this writing, I would like to say that I do not completely agree with this reactor. It has a lot of problems and they are not sure if it is going to work. This team is not accepting suggestions and they do not want to share their information, which is selfish from my point of view. They should ask for help if they are not sure so no one gets hurt, and maybe it could work and make the energy scarcity disappear.

Written by María José Verdugo Vilches

Link: http://www.popsci.com/article/science/lockheeds-fusion-promise-what-we-know-so-far