

A Powerful Laser for Clean Energy

Haven Daley:

Inside this football-field-sized building about an hour outside San Francisco: the world's largest and most powerful laser, capable of simulating the energy force of a hydrogen bomb and the sun itself.

Arnold Schwarzenegger:

And I can see already my friends in Hollywood being very upset that their stuff that they show on the big screen is obsolete. We have the real stuff right here.

Haven Daley:

Dedicated at a ceremony Friday, the National Ignition Facility can focus nearly two hundred lasers on a single target to create a huge release of energy. The laser's primary purpose is to help ensure the reliability of the nation's aging nuclear weapons, but officials say it could also one day be used to provide a clean, safe form of energy.

Diane Feinstein:

Fusion and fission: this can be used to create carbon-free energy that is, in effect, efficient and cost acceptable, is just a unique, unique concept.

Haven Daley:

The laser took more than a decade to build and 3.5 billion dollars. The facility is expected to ramp up power with a series of experiments over the next year.

Haven Daley:

Haven Daley, The Associated Press, Livermore, California.

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