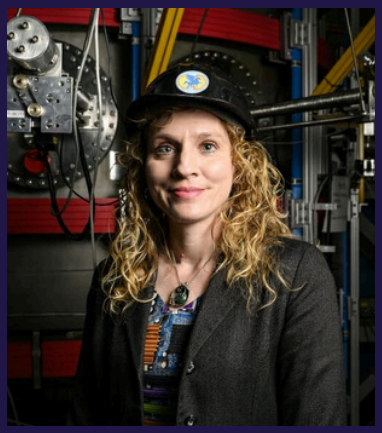
NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine



Stephanie Diem, PhD

Assistant Professor
Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dr. Stephanie (Steffi) Diem is an experimental plasma physicist and fusion energy researcher who studies ways to heat plasma to temperatures 10x hotter than the sun and magnetically confining it for fusion energy development. She is an assistant professor in the Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a former research scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the Fusion Energy Division. Diem is the Principal Investigator of the new U.S. DOE funded Pegasus-III Experiment, a fusion energy and plasma science experiment focused on studying innovative plasma startup techniques in an effort to reduce the cost and complexity of future fusion power plants and started an interdisciplinary team investigating the societal-environmental-economic-technological impacts of fusion energy systems.

Diem was a speaker at the 2022 White House Summit on Developing a Bold Decadal Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy, appointed by the U.S. Department of State as a 2024 U.S. Science Envoy, is a member of Cohorts 2021 and 2024 of the New Voices of the National Academies and is the recipient of the 2023 Excellence in Fusion Engineering Award by the Fusion Power Associates. Diem received her PhD in Plasma Physics from Princeton University and BS degrees in Nuclear Engineering and physics from UW–Madison.