

# LA PULCE DI VOLTAIRE

## CULTURA E POLITICA

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### Fusione nucleare a freddo

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Ritorna la questione della fusione a freddo, con contorno di polemiche sulla mancanza di studi imparziali e verifiche sugli esperimenti condotti da Martin Fleischmann e Stanley Ponsdal 1989 a oggi. Ne parla -criticamente- il Professor Frank Close della Oxford University:

"Nothing's really changed in 20 years. I'm not at all surprised that something is being said today," Professor Close told BBC News. "It is an interesting date in the calendar of wrong results that claim to be science."

Many of the details of Pons and Fleischmann's original electrolytic cell feature in more recent work, including the type of metal used in the cell's electrodes and water made from a heavy isotope of hydrogen. One wholly new approach will be explained by researchers from Hokkaido University, who have seen unexplained heat production in a chamber filled with compressed hydrogen and a chemical called phenanthrene.



NIF, the world's largest laser, is designed to initiate nuclear fusion

Professor Close said that many inexplicable phenomena have arisen in the 20 years since Pons and Fleischmann's announcement that have been tagged with the "cold fusion" moniker.

"If I come up with a weird phenomenon and call it cold fusion, I know that reporters will be interested. Convincing the scientific community is another matter entirely." (BBC News)