

Grant funds threatened by sequester

Institute predicts lower research, exploring financial alternatives

By Austin Hess
NEWS EDITOR

With over 70 percent of MIT's yearly research funding coming from the federal government, the federal budget sequester will have a significant impact on research at the Institute.

The sequester, a set of across-the-board cuts on certain defense and non-defense spending categories, was meant as an unwanted consequence to encourage Congress to make a budget deal to prevent it. Since Congress failed to make a deal, the cuts began March 1.

Yesterday, Stand With Science and Global Education and Career Development hosted a panel to discuss the effect of the federal budget sequestration on science research at MIT. The panelists included Maria T. Zuber, MIT's Vice President for Research, William B. Bonvillian, Director of the MIT Washington Office, and Samuel O. Brinton G, MIT student and Executive Director of Stand With Science, who helped moderate the discussion.

According to Bonvillian, Barack Obama's FY14 budget proposal, made in April, would end the sequester, but he said it is unlikely to be approved.

Zuber said that Defense R&D will be cut by 7.3 percent, while non-defense R&D will be cut by 5.1 percent, though the National Science Foundation will only experience a 2.1 percent cut.

She said that agencies are still deciding an implementation strategy since many did not plan for how to deal with the cuts, expecting the sequester to not take place. "The lack of guidance from agencies is causing frustration among some faculty," said Zuber.

Less funding for research

Zuber predicted "a decrease in the research volume on campus of about 3 to 4 percent" due to the sequester. The federal government provided \$473 million in funds for research on MIT's campus in FY12.

Harder hit, Zuber said, would be MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, which received \$844 million

Sequestration, Page 11



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Members of the MIT community enjoy the Feast at Steer Roast this past Saturday. The weekend-long event, hosted by Senior House, included mud-wrestling and musical performances by various bands.

Course 18 moving

Temporarily relocating to E17, E18

By Anthony Yu
STAFF REPORTER

Handing in math problem sets may now require more exercise. In late June or early July, the entire Department of Mathematics will be moving to E17 and E18 as their current space in Building 2 undergoes a significant renovation. Undergraduate math majors have already experienced the effects of the construction, with their undergraduate lounge moved to the Compton Room, opposite 26-100, this past January. For the duration of the construction, the lounge will remain in the Compton Room. As for the rest of the department, all faculty, staff, and graduate student offices will be moved to the new "swing space" in E17 and E18, which will be shared with the Department of Economics, whose space in E52 is also being renovated.

Consequently, some recitations and professor office hours will be farther away from main campus. "I guess [the move] is inevitable. I guess I can just take the Tech Shuttle to Ames Street and walk there now. Being able to stop for food truck food is a plus" said Jennifer J. Wu '16, an undergraduate mathematics student.

One benefit of the new location is the close proximity to restaurants in Kendall Square, where students may choose to congregate instead. "There might be a cultural shift in the department for the next couple years," said Department Head Michael Sisper. Graduate students will experience the greatest improvement in office space after the renovation, temporarily trading tight office spaces for cubicles.

The 10 classrooms currently

Math moves, Page 9

Survey: Students, though stressed, are glad to be at MIT

Results from the Student Quality of Life Survey are now available online. In early March 2013, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 invited all students enrolled at MIT to participate. Over 54 percent of the graduate and undergraduate population responded to at least part of the survey before it closed on April 3, 2013.

90 percent of respondents reported being somewhat or very satisfied with being a student at MIT, and almost 82 percent said they would choose to come to MIT if they could decide all over again.

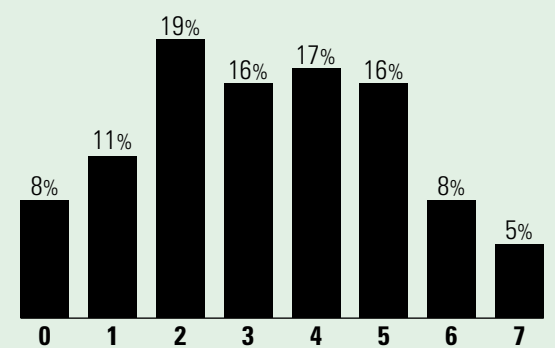
Students were also asked to describe the atmosphere at MIT across 13 dimensions. For each dimension, the survey provided a pair of words and students ranked MIT's climate on a six point scale. For most word pairings, students were more likely to select positive words over negative words, such as "Exhilarating" over "Boring," and "Friendly" over "Hostile." However students were also much more likely to select "Stressful" over "Calm" — 87 percent of students chose 1, 2, or 3, on a scale of Stressful(1) to Calm(6).

When asked how many of the past seven days students got enough sleep, 34 percent of graduate students and 42 percent of undergraduates reported that they felt well-rested fewer than three days per week. Nearly 50 percent of all respondents said they felt exhausted (not as a result of physical activity) four days or more over the past week.

Visit <http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/sql.html> to find more survey highlights or a complete summary of the survey results.

—Stephanie Holden

Number of days per week MIT students get enough sleep to wake up feeling rested



VANESSA TREVINO—THE TECH

Dr. John H. Sununu '61 discusses his political career as White House Chief of Staff under former president George H.W. Bush, the highest political position in America achieved by an Arab-American. Sununu received the World Contributor Award at the 2013 MIT Arab Students Organization Science and Technology Achievement Awards banquet on Saturday, May 4.

IN SHORT

Pre-registration for summer and fall classes is open! Pre-register by May 31 to avoid a \$50 fee.

Do you know your academic rights? A complete list of regulations can be found at <http://ua.mit.edu/policy/educational-policy/>. To report an academic violation, visit <http://violations.mit.edu>.

The deadline to cancel summer housing is May 10. Cancellations after that date are subject to a late fee.

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WORLDVIEWS: ASK A-THEIST

Is there an absolute right or wrong? **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

THE TECH'S NBA PREDICTIONS

Miami Heat expected to advance to Round 3. **SPORTS, p. 12**



INSPIRASIAN SPRING SHOWCASE

Asian dance groups perform in this year's spring showcase on Sunday. **PHOTO, p. 7**

THE SECRET LIVES OF RESEARCHERS

Getting better at the important skill of asking questions. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8**

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Israel and Turkey negotiate compensation in flotilla raid

By Isabel Kershner
THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — Talks here Monday between Israeli and Turkish officials over compensation for a deadly Israeli commando raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla almost three years ago demonstrated that while relations between the two countries are improving, they will not be as warm as they once were.

The Turkish delegation, led by the undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Feridun Hadi Sinirlioglu, was the highest level diplomatic mission to visit Israel since relations were frozen. But the Turks kept a low profile and the sides put out a brief statement revealing little about the discussions other than to say that an agreement was near.

Israeli officials and analysts say they do not see a return to the intimate Israeli-Turkish alliance of past decades, when the Israeli, Turkish and U.S. navies carried out joint exercises in the Mediterranean and Israeli fighter jets trained in Turkey's relatively vast airspace.

Yet bilateral trade is thriving and in recent months Turkish exporters have started using Israel as a trade corridor, with Turkish shipping lines docking in Israeli ports, then transporting goods overland to Jordan and other Arab countries in order to bypass the bloody civil war in Syria.

"This is not so much about going back to the old alliance," said Gallia Lindenstrauss, an expert on Turkey at the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University, "but about lowering the level of hostility between the two countries."

Israeli officials view the trade corridor as an important, even strategic,

development. Lindenstrauss said it showed Turkish recognition of Israel as a stable partner when much of the Middle East is in turmoil.

Any improvement in the atmosphere between the leaders, she added, would be likely to contribute to increased cooperation at the unofficial level.

Turkey used to be Israel's closest ally in the region and its most important partner in the Muslim world. But relations began to sour over Israel's three-week offensive against the Hamas militant group controlling Gaza in the winter of 2008-09, which came after years of rocket fire by Gaza militants against southern Israel.

Up to 1,400 Palestinians were killed during the campaign, hundreds of them civilians, and the prime minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, accused Israel of attempted genocide.

The strategic partnership plummeted further in May 2010 when eight Turks and an American of Turkish descent were killed after Israeli commandos met resistance aboard a vessel seeking to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza. Turkey sharply downgraded its diplomatic and military ties with Israel in September 2011, angrily expelling the Israeli ambassador after Israel refused to apologize.

President Barack Obama brokered Turkish-Israeli reconciliation when he visited Israel in March, urging renewed cooperation between the two important U.S. allies as the deterioration in Syria threatened to spill over and destabilize the broader region.

As part of the agreement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Is-

rael officially apologized for operational mistakes that led to deaths in the raid and promised compensation and a further easing of restrictions on Gaza. Once the terms of compensation have been reached, Israel and Turkey are meant to normalize ties and dispatch envoys to each other's nations.

But few here expect a drastic turnaround in military cooperation.

More likely, an Israeli official said, was a sharing of assessments and intelligence on the Syrian issue, perhaps not bilaterally, but in a regional framework, with Jordan, presided over by the United States.

"The apology was not an easy decision for Israel," said another Israeli official, who also asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. "The prime minister took the decision in order to restore the relationship and create a normalcy in relations. It is our hope that the Turks will respond in kind."

In view of the potentially explosive situation in Syria and grave concern about the chemical weapons stockpiles there, he added, "we would like ideally to have a more open and honest conversation with the Turks about how to meet these challenges."

At the same time, trade between the two countries peaked at \$4 billion in 2011, split almost evenly between imports and exports, according to Israel's Ministry of Economy, up from \$300 million in 1997 after a free trade arrangement was signed.

A ministry report said that private trade was not affected by the flotilla episode, although government and defense contracts had dropped off.

Close election leaves Malaysia prime minister's fate cloudy

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Though it held on to power in the election Sunday, the governing National Front coalition suffered an important loss: For the first time in 44 years, it failed to win more than 50 percent of the popular vote. Analysts said it left Prime Minister Najib Razak's position far from secure.

Najib and his National Front coalition, which has governed Malaysia since independence in 1957, won 133 of the 222 seats in Parliament on Sunday, aided by favorably drawn district boundaries. News of the victory prompted Malaysian stocks to surge nearly 8 percent Monday, and the country's currency, the ringgit, jumped in value.

Both had been depressed by signs that the National Front was in greater danger of losing power than ever before. As it was, the three-party opposition People's Alliance took seven seats from the National Front, extending the gains it made in the last election in 2008, when the Front lost the two-thirds majority that had allowed it to amend the constitution at will. The 2008 vote hastened the resignation of Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as prime minister the next year, giving way to Najib. The leader of the People's Alliance, Anwar Ibrahim, said Monday that the latest election was marred by fraud and that his coalition would challenge the results of some races.

—Joe Cochrane, *The New York Times*

Senate backs wider Internet tax collection

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan coalition in the Senate easily passed legislation Monday to force Internet retailers to collect sales taxes for state and local governments, sending the issue to the House, where anti-tax forces have vowed to kill it.

But the 69-27 vote in the Senate will give the measure significant momentum. Hundreds of retailers are flying to Washington this week to pressure House lawmakers and counter the arguments of small-government groups, including Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform, which wields great influence in the House.

"After 20 years, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel for our brick-and-mortar businesses," said Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., the bill's House sponsor. "Saving local retail business depends on it, and it's now up to the House to act."

The Marketplace Fairness Act is a rarity in Washington these days, a significant tax measure that has split anti-tax groups in Washington from reliably Republican Main Street businesses outside the capital. That divide has given the measure at least a chance to reach President Barack Obama, who supports it.

The legislation would allow states to force online retailers with more than \$1 million in annual out-of-state sales to collect sales taxes from all customers and remit those taxes back to state and local governments. States would have to provide software to help calculate the taxes for thousands of jurisdictions.

—Jonathan Weisman, *The New York Times*

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TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Members of the Wang YMCA Dance Troupe spread their bright pink fans during their performance of a popular Chinese folk song.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Ladies of MIT Asian Dance Team wave long ribbons as part of their ribbon dance.

ASIAN DANCE TEAM

MIT Asian Dance Team presented their third annual Boston Asian Performing Arts Festival "Inspirasian" at Kresge Auditorium this past Sunday. The event featured performances from numerous groups, including MIT Syncopasian, Lion Dance, Dance Revelasian, and the Wang YMCA organization.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

MIT Asian Dance Team portrayed the passing of the four seasons in a year in "Seasons," the event's last performance. Here, a dancer displays the "devastation and destruction" of autumn.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Performers of Dance Revelasian, magnolias in hand, present a minority dance from the Dai Tribe of Yunnan.



EMILY KELLISON-LINN—THE TECH

Music by two South Korean artists, Wonder Girls and T-Ara, are showcased in the first act by MIT Asian Dance Team.



TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

MIT Asian Dance Team performs "Oynasun" in the style and dress of the people of Xinjiang, a rugged region in western China.

As Main group is renovated, E17 & E18 'swing space'

Math offices, classrooms temporarily relocating to E17, E18 as Building 2 renovations continue

Math moves, from Page 1

used for recitations on the first floor of Building 2 will be replaced by six similarly-sized classrooms in E17. In addition, there will be a space specifically dedicated to handling problem set submissions, replacing the usual pset boxes.

Since being built in 1916, Building 2 has yet to see a significant overhaul. The Department of Mathematics has been actively including everyone affected in renovation decisions. According to Barbara Peskin, Course 18 academic administrator, "we're trying to gather input from all of those who are affected: undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff. We want to do this right."

According to MIT Capital Projects, the main themes of the renovation will be "renovation and renewal" and "enhancement of life and learning," with sustainability playing a central role.

Once the Building 2 project is finished, "From the (math) graduate student's perspective, [the renovation] will be quite stunning," described Sipser. Currently, the graduate student offices are dispersed throughout Building 2 with some offices in the basement. According to the MIT School of Science, the renovation will ensure that there will be more collaborative spaces with graduate student and faculty offices opening out to meeting areas after the renovation.

In the new building, use of space will be more efficient. With the digitalization of journals and books, less space is needed for offices. "The target faculty office size will around 240 square feet. Some of our faculty have spaces over 300 square feet right now." Undergraduates can expect to return to an updated lounge area.

Vital to the interior space is bringing the building up to modern standards.

There will be a new elevator as well as wider staircase to replace the steep and narrow stairs by 2-190. Regardless of the eventual interior design, half of the renovation budget will dedicated to the exterior, according to Peskin. The century old building will receive new windows, masonry, and be significantly restored. Final designs were scheduled to be set last summer. However, it is now expected that the design plans will be finalized later this summer.

The renovation of the Department of Mathematics may become a pilot project for the renovation approach to all the main group buildings, which are approaching their hundred year anniversary in 2016, according to MIT Capital Projects. As the Main group is renovated over the coming years, the swing space will serve as temporary office and classroom space for displaced departments like Mathematics and Economics as their space is updated.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

The Department of Mathematics is moving to buildings E17 and E18 due to construction.

Solution to Crossword

from page 5

BOSS	ICECAPADES
INTO	PAULREVERE
SPAS	SPLATTERED
MAT	BORERS RING
ARENA	IRATE DOE
ROBOTS	USNEWS
CLAP	MAANDPA
KERR	ALGAE SOAP
	OURTOWN SILL
PROBST	THALIA
HER	OPTED OUSTS
ETAS	HOLING PAM
LOCOMOTIVE	GILA
POLLINATES	ALIT
SLEEVELESS	SLAV

Solution to Techdoku

from page 6

4	5	6	1	3	2
1	2	3	4	6	5
5	6	1	2	4	3
6	1	2	3	5	4
3	4	5	6	2	1
2	3	4	5	1	6

Solution to Sudoku

from page 6

9	7	2	4	5	6	8	1	3
8	5	1	2	3	9	6	4	7
3	4	6	8	7	1	5	9	2
6	3	9	7	1	5	4	2	8
2	8	5	3	6	4	1	7	9
4	1	7	9	8	2	3	6	5
5	6	3	1	9	7	2	8	4
1	9	4	5	2	8	7	3	6
7	2	8	6	4	3	9	5	1

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mit dance troupe

Student arrested in Boston bombings seeks release

Former UMass Dartmouth student Robel K. Phillipos accused of lying to the authorities

By Katharine O. Seelye
and Jess Bidgood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON — Robel Phillipos, the former University of Massachusetts student who is accused of lying to the authorities investigating the Boston Marathon bombings, will seek to be released from federal custody on Monday, his lawyers said in court papers filed over the weekend.

The lawyers said that Phillipos, 19, had nothing to do with the bombings and was frightened and confused when he was interrogated about going with two other friends to the college dorm room of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the two chief suspects in the case, and removing a backpack and fireworks that the investigators consider to be evidence. The other suspect, Tsarnaev's older brother, Tamerlan, 26, died after a shootout with the police.

As Washington gears up this week for its first hearings on the Boston Marathon bombings, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said Sunday that he believed the brothers did not act alone.

"It's very difficult to believe that these two could have carried out this level of attack with this level of sophistication and precision acting by themselves, either without training from overseas or having at least facilitators here at home," King, a former chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, said on the CNN program "State of the Union."

Noting that there were multiple explosive devices involved, he added: "No, I think there had to be assistance, and that's why the FBI, I think, is going after this so vigorously and effectively."

So far, only Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been charged in carrying out the

Tsarnaev brothers arrived with three friends at a funeral home in Worcester, Mass., to prepare Tamerlan's body for burial, although the question was where. "I'm dealing with logistics," said the uncle, Ruslan Tsarni, a businessman from Maryland who said he had not seen either of the

Phillipos, who attended high school with Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was questioned a number of times without a lawyer present, his lawyers wrote.

bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 260 others on April 15 near the finish line of Boston's prestigious race. His brother, Tamerlan, died after the brothers tried to elude the authorities; according to his death certificate, he was killed by gunshot wounds and blunt trauma after being hit by an SUV driven by Dzhokhar as he fled.

The FBI on Sunday conducted another search of Tamerlan Tsarnaev's apartment in Cambridge. A senior law enforcement official, who asked not to be identified, said that it was a routine follow-up search, but did not elaborate on what, if anything, the FBI found.

Gordon Lindley, who lives across the street from the building, said he saw what appeared to be law enforcement officials, including two to three men wearing FBI jackets, carry at least a dozen boxes to a large truck.

Also on Sunday, an uncle of the

Tsarnaev brothers in about five years. "A dead person needs to be buried — that's what tradition requires, that's what religion requires, that's what morals require."

Peter Stefan, the owner of the Graham Putnam & Mahoney Funeral Parlors, has been criticized for accepting the body. On Sunday, a small group of protesters gathered with American flags and signs with phrases like "Bury this terrorist on US soil and we will unbury him."

Stefan has been unable to find a cemetery willing to accept the body and said he planned to call cemeteries with areas reserved for Muslims, as well as the city of Cambridge, Mass., where Tsarnaev lived. "There is no other place to be buried," Tsarni said. "He lived in America."

But the Cambridge city manager, Robert W. Healy, pre-emptively issued a statement on Sunday urging Stefan and the family not to make

such a request. "I have determined that it is not in the best interest of 'Aðpeace within the city' to execute a cemetery deed for a plot within the Cambridge Cemetery for the body of Tamerlan Tsarnaev," said Healy, who said that federal officials should handle it.

Tsarni emerged wearily from the funeral home's work room after spending hours washing and wrapping his nephew's body with three of his friends. "We did what we have to do, something no one else could have done," he said. "Now all we need is a little luck."

Tsarni said he had had little contact with Tsarnaev's immediate family, although he had spoken to the brothers' father. "He's not really in a reasonable state of mind," Tsarni said. He had not spoken to Katharine Russell, Tamerlan Tsarnaev's 24-year-old widow. "I wanted to," said Tsarni. "She's been the closest person to him."

The uncle said he planned to visit Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who is in a medical prison center at Fort Devens, Mass. "This is another person left all to himself," Tsarni said. "There's no one to be next to him."

Phillipos is to appear in U.S. District Court in Boston on Monday and will ask to be released on bond, his lawyers said. In a criminal complaint filed last week, federal investigators said that Phillipos had given three different versions of events on the night of April 18 — the day that the

FBI released photographs of two men whom the authorities had identified as suspects — until he admitted that he and two other friends had gone to Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's dorm room on the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

The other two friends — Azamat Tazhayakov and Dias Kadyrbayev, originally from Kazakhstan — have been charged with obstruction of justice and destroying evidence, and each face a five-year prison sentence and \$250,000 in fines. They are to appear in court next week. Phillipos, an American, faces a stiffer sentence: eight years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Phillipos' lawyers, Derege B. Demissie and Susan B. Church, said in the court papers that the charges against their client were "refutable."

They said that he was no longer enrolled at the college and had not seen Dzhokhar Tsarnaev or the others for two months. Then, by "sheer coincidence and bad luck," he happened to be on campus for a seminar on April 18. Phillipos, who attended high school with Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was questioned a number of times without a lawyer present, his lawyers wrote.

"This case is about a frightened and confused 19-year-old who was subjected to intense questioning and interrogation, without the benefit of counsel and in the context of one of the worst attacks against the nation," the lawyers wrote.

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Somerville, MA



Zuber, Bonvillian talk sequestration

MIT faces loss of federal funding, third of C-Mod staff to be laid off

Sequestration, from Page 1

in federal support last year and focuses on research for defense applications.

MIT administrators are exploring ways to keep research at MIT thriving even as the cuts threaten more grant applications.

"The typical length of time for a [National Science Foundation] proposal is three years. If you are in year 1 or year 2, there is a high chance that your funding this year could be reduced," Zuber said. But the "unlucky people who are in the third year" face the additional possibility that their funding won't be renewed at all. "The provost and I and the deans are trying to think of ways to invest funds in order for the PIs to keep their proposals as competitive as possible."

Alcator C-Mod, a prominent project losing funding, will announce layoffs of a third of its staff.

She said she hadn't met a "smart graduate student who is now on the street" just yet, but that very serious effects of the sequester may be seen in the future.

"The effects of this erosion might not be seen a week or even a year from now, but ten years from now they will be greatly seen," Zuber said.

Zuber feels optimistic that MIT can deal with the cuts better than other institutions. "We're doing more to help our researchers than any of the other plans I've seen for the other universities. There's going to be a smaller pie, and we're going

to need a larger share of the pie."

"We have been out in front in going to the private sector [for funding]. I think we're way ahead of our peers," Zuber said.

Still, Zuber and Bonvillian emphasized the importance of reaching out to lawmakers. "If we were to ignore the situation in Washington, it would be devastating."

~25 laid off from C-Mod team

One of the most prominent projects to face the loss of federal funding is the Alcator C-Mod experiment at the Plasma Science and Fusion Center, which will announce layoffs of around a third of its 70-person staff today, according to director Earl Marmor. The experiment itself, one of only a handful of U.S. plasma facilities, has been slated for shutdown by the Department of Energy's budget proposal for FY 2014, although this has yet to be approved by Congress.

Most of the 25 students working at Alcator C-Mod already have enough data to finish their theses, according to PSFC director Miklos Porkolab. These students are mostly fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-year PhD students, Marmor said, since the group stopped taking in new students more than a year ago.

According to Porkolab, MIT is working hard to make sure to make sure that graduate students working on the project can finish their degrees, possibly with help from similar research facilities.

Zuber said there are efforts to work with the Department of Energy to consider ways to continue to fund C-Mod, but the discussions are limited since some of the relevant officials have not yet been confirmed to their positions.

Leon Lin contributed reporting.

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ON

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