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The NCSX fabrication project is in the middle of coil construction, has received all the vacuum vessel segments, and is on schedule for First Plasma in 2009. Stellarator physics has advanced as a result of experimental and theoretical developments since NCSX construction began. The ARIES group is completing its study of an attractive compact stellarator reactor, ARIES-CS, and identified a set of physics R&D needs. There have been important management developments as well, including a new plan to operate NCSX every-other year, alternating with NSTX. The first NCSX research forum is scheduled for December, to start development of the NCSX collaborative research team and to prepare for the start of NCSX research activities in FY09.

1. We ask the PAC's advice on our plans for this important transition, and our research goals and plans for the first NCSX experimental campaigns.
2. We invite the committee's comments on how the NCSX research plan addresses the Aries-CS R&D needs and will impact the development of the stellarator configuration.