

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Comments:

ITER takes shape

Cadarache, 18 November 2010 - On 17-18 November, the ITER Council (IC), the Governing Body of the ITER Organization, convened for its seventh meeting. The meeting in Cadarache, France, brought together representatives of the seven ITER Members: China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States under the chairmanship of Evgeny Velikhov (Russia) and an observer from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In recognition of his life-long contribution to ITER, a moment of silence was dedicated to Dr. Toshihide Tsunematsu, Vice-Chair of the ITER Council and Member of the Management Advisory Committee (MAC), who passed away in September.

china ITER Director-General Osamu Motojima presented a status report of the ITER project. The project entered the Construction Phase immediately after the Baseline was approved at the extraordinary IC on July 28, 2010. This report included a new strategy for cost savings and cost containment.

eu

india The Council welcomed the actions taken by the Director-General since his appointment and commended the strong collaboration between the ITER Organization and the Domestic Agencies towards cost containment and cost savings. The ITER Council noted with approval the recent progress and pace of development within the ITER Organization. This includes extensive work at the ITER site and the placement of high-tech manufacturing contracts in all ITER Parties, including the Vacuum Vessel which is a critical path component. In total, 46 procurement arrangements representing 60% on the total value of the project have been signed.

japan

korea

russia

usa

The Council encouraged further efforts by the ITER Organization and the Domestic Agencies to improve coordination and to reduce costs. The Council approved the Annual Work Plan and the Budget for 2011. The Chairs of the ITER Council and its subsidiary bodies were re-elected.

First Foundation Stone Ceremony for the Headquarters Building

Outside the meeting, the Council members and experts, Domestic Agency Heads, together with representatives of the local communities, were invited to celebrate the official start of construction of the Headquarters Building. On this historic occasion, the Chair of the ITER Council, Academician Evgeny Velikhov, stated: "this is a very important moment in the history of ITER; it is the day our dream begins to take shape". The Director-General of the ITER Organization, Prof. Osamu Motojima emphasized: "We are now ready to bring a Sun to Cadarache. Work is now progressing on the platform and in the factories where ITER components are being manufactured. It is my duty to keep construction on schedule so that the First Plasma can be achieved before the end of the year 2019".

Finally, the Director-General thanked the Host Party, European Union, represented by Mr. Robert-Jan Smits for its strong support.



BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS RELEASE

ITER will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility and is designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power. ITER is also a first-of-a-kind global collaboration. Fusion is the process which powers the sun and the stars. When light atomic nuclei fuse together to form heavier ones, a large amount of energy is released. Fusion research is aimed at developing a safe, limitless and environmentally responsible energy source. The ITER project is sited at Cadarache in the South of France.

Further information at: www.iter.org