

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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BERNARD BIGOT IS THE NEW ITER DIRECTOR-GENERAL

PARIS, France (5 March 2015)—At an Extraordinary Meeting held in Paris on 5 March 2015, the ITER Council appointed Dr Bernard Bigot as the next Director-General of the ITER Organization, succeeding Prof Osamu Motojima.

Dr Bigot, a distinguished scientist, was the Chairman and CEO of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, CEA (*Administrateur Général, Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives*) and was also the High Commissioner for ITER in France before he joined the ITER Organization. Dr Bigot has had a long and distinguished career and a record of close involvement with ITER. He is an experienced senior manager of large programs and projects, a leader capable of finding common ground among ITER Members, an excellent communicator, and he is highly respected by the fusion research community. He has taken up his duties as Director-General immediately.

china

eu

india

japan

korea

russia

usa

In 2014, faced with slippage in the schedule, the ITER Council decided to establish a new baseline for the project (scope, schedule and cost). Development of the new schedule began under Director-General Motojima. Director-General Bigot is continuing this effort and plans to provide a new baseline at the ITER Council meeting in November 2015.

The transition of the project from its design completion phase to its full construction phase motivated the early handover from Prof Motojima to his successor Dr Bigot. Prof Motojima, appointed Emeritus Director-General of the ITER Organization by Dr Bigot, is leaving ITER with the gratitude of the ITER Council and after having made significant contributions to this critically important, and very complex, international endeavour.

Prof Motojima said: “I am pleased by the ITER Council decision to appoint Dr Bigot as the next Director-General and I would like to heartily express my congratulations to him. I appreciated the warm acknowledgement given to me today, and it is my great honour to have the title of Director-General Emeritus conferred on me.”

The ITER Council endorsed the Action Plan presented by Dr Bigot, which addresses and is in line with the recommendations of the most recent Management Assessment and stresses the importance of delivery of the revised project baseline.

Dr Bigot said: “The whole world needs innovative technologies to assure its long-term sustainable supply of energy. Magnetic confinement fusion is one of the most promising options. I am deeply honoured for the possibility of contributing to the large, international and ambitious research program that is ITER, which has innovation as its aim. Be assured that I will do my best to meet the expectations of the ITER Members.”



BACKGROUND TO THE PRESS RELEASE

ITER—designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power—will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility. Fusion is the process that 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, abundant and environmentally responsible energy source.

ITER is also a first-of-a-kind global collaboration. Europe will contribute almost half of the costs of its construction, while the other six Members to this joint international venture (China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA), will contribute equally to the rest. The ITER Project is under construction in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, in the south of France.

See our [on-line album](#) for photos of the March 2015 Extraordinary Council. Consult the [biography](#) of the new ITER Director-General, Bernard Bigot.

For more information on the ITER Project, visit: <http://www.iter.org/>