Preparation and execution of Deuterium-tritium experiments in JET with the ITER-like wall J. Mailloux on behalf of JET contributors*

2016-2021: JET TFL for Integrated Operational Scenario UKAEA JET science programme leader

*see the author list of list of J Mailloux *et al.* Nucl. Fusion 62 (2022) 042026 https://doi.org/10.1088/1741-4326/ac47b4





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EUROfusion Preparation and execution of Deuterium-tritium experiments in JET with the ITER-like wall J. Mailloux on behalf of JET contributors



+ JET operator





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JET provides key contribution to ITER





JET bridges gap from medium size tokamaks to ITER

With unique set of capabilities:

- Tritium handling
- ITER-like wall (ILW): beryllium & tungsten wall
- Plasma current up to 4MA & heating power up to 40MW
- ITER relevant D-D & D-T neutron fluence
- Shattered Pellet Injection
- Improved set of diagnostics

D-T: key step to prepare fusion power plant operation



Fuel of nuclear fusion reactors



D-T experiments inform:

- Plasma physics & operation
- First wall lifetime & fuel retention
- Material & components irradiation
- Tritium cycle
- Waste management
- Regulatory aspects

→ Impact design and preparation
 of nuclear power plants operation
 & decommissioning

Outline



- 1. JET operations
 - Motivation for JET-ILW
 - JET systems
 - T&D-T ops constraints
- 2. Preparation and execution of scenarios for sustained high fusion power
- 3. Some DTE2 results
 - Isotope impact
 - Integrated scenarios
 - energy record and alpha particle results

Summary



JET characteristics





Major / minor radius (m)	2.96 / ~0.8-0.9
Max plasma current (MA)	4.5 (3.5 in DTE2)
Max toroidal field (T)	3.9
Discharge duration (s) with high input power	Up to 20s flat top
Main fuel	H / D / T / He Pellets: H, D
Extrinsic impurities	N (not in D-T), Neon, Ar
Ion Cyclotron Heating with ELM resilience	~ 6MW / 25-56 MHz
Neutral Beam Injection after recent upgrade	≤ 34 MW (D / T) ≤10 MW (H) < 25 MW (He)

Previous D-T experiments

- Previous D-T experiments:
 - 1991 PTE JET
 - 1994-96 TFTR (US)
 - 1997 DTE1 on JET
 - (2004 Trace T exp. on JET)
- Demonstrated:
 - D-T Fusion
 - Plasma behaviour affected by use of D-T mixture
 - Clear α effects seen on TFTR, but JET results ambiguous
 - Too high retention of tritium by carbon first wall components
 → impacted ITER decision of first wall materials



Europa's support to ITER

Key part of Europe's support to ITER

JET-ILW: W divertor & Be main

• Main goals:

chamber

•

- Confirm reduced fuel retention
- Assess compatibility with ITER relevant scenarios
- D-T integrated operation
- Accompanied by several enhancements (e.g. heating power) & refurbishments

Plan for JET with ITER-like wall started 2006



J. Paméla *et al.,* J. Nucl. Mater. 363–365 (2007)



JET operations: control room



Main roles:

- Engineer in charge ensure ops within safe limits
- Session leader(s) prepare & input pulse parameters
- Scientific co-Ordinator(s) lead experiment
- Diagnostic co-Ordinator
- **PDO** for RTCC
- **Operators** for HVPS, Heating and fuelling, Diagnostics, etc
- etc

First plasma in JET-ILW on 24th Aug 2011



Pulse preparation done well before the day of execution

JET operations

- Safe and co-ordinated operation of JET systems
- JET operation instructions (JOIs) define permitted operating space
- Exceptions (blue forms) can be approved after assessment of risks vs scientific benefits
- Machine lifetime is a controlled scarce resource

Example:

- JOI 1.1 & 1.2 limit I_P*B_T & vessel forces
- The limits have been determined on the basis of a JET reliability assessment report and lifetimeto-leak analysis for:
 - Machine vertical port welds
 - ILW components
 - Pre-ILW components



Lifetime-to-leak analysis for representative configuration



- lifetime to leak for representative low and high δ configurations
 - Recent example of risky experiment: 4MA baseline in 2020 D campaign
 - \rightarrow Disruption budget allocated
 - \rightarrow Prescribed cautious steps in I_P, B_T
- Additional limitations may constraint I_{P} increase, e.g. high δ configuration used for integrated seeding scenario with S-P on vertical tiles limited to 3.2 MA by divertor coils current capability
- JOI address other machine or people safety • risks

Pulse design and validation includes checking JOI limits not exceeded J. Mailloux| IIS2022| San Diego | 25-29th July 2022 | Page 11

Key tritium capabilities: heating and fuelling



5 Tritium Injection Modules (TIMs) (only 1 module in DTE1)



T can be fed to both Neutral Beam Injection Boxes (only 1 in DTE1) P_{NBI} upgraded to 34MW



→ Capability for 100% high power Tritium experiments
 → More flexibility for experiment & pulse design

Key tritium capabilities: Active Gas Handling



Lässer R. et al 1999 Fusion Eng. Des. 46 & 1999 Fusion Eng. Des. 47

- → 69g Tritium on site for T and DTE2 (21g in DTE1)
- → T&D-T experiments used 1kg T overall: 240g (TIMs) and 763g (T-NBI) (100g in DTE1)

- Stores, supplies and recycles T going to and from JET systems
- AGHS Plant capabilities limits:
 - Operational days (10 days in 4/5 weeks for T reprocessing & accounting)
 - daily tritium budget: 44barL (11g)

→ Needed to budget experiments and minimise pulse tritium consumption, e.g.:

- Plasma initiation in H or D
- Pulses shortened to minimum needed for conclusive results
- Detect and stop dud plasmas
- Prepare pulse schedule in advance

JET operations: Real-time control capabilities



- Several Real-time measurements and calculations available, e.g.:
 - ELM frequency calculation (spectroscopy)
 - Te hollowness factor calculation (ECE)
 - Radiation and radiation tomography via Neural Network applications
 - Surface temperature from NIR cameras (wide-angle view and tile 6)
 - GIM/TIM flow calculation within PDLM
 - LIDAR and High Resolution Thomson Scattering
- The real-time central controller (RTCC) can drive gas, pellets, NBI and RF, including during a Jump To Termination (JTT)
- Plasma Event Triggering Avoidance and Mitigation (PETRA) runs event detectors and checks conditions to raise alarms
- RT early detection of unhealthy plasmas and JTT response was integral to scenario development for DTE2 to reduce risk of damage from disruptions
- Also used routinely to avoid wasting tritium or neutrons budget: dud detection with controlled pulse stop

D vs T & D-T experiments

- D, H, He: ops 5 days a week, 2 shifts/day
- Sessions-based preparation
- Scarce resource (budget for disruptions, high TF, high tile temperature or energy, etc.) approval required
- Duty SL prepares pulses with the SC & team the week before

D vs T & D-T experiments



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- Sessions-based preparation
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- T & D-T: 10 ops days in 3 weeks, + 2 weeks for T reprocessing & accounting
- 'Pulse-based' preparation with several experiments per session
- Each scientific goal attributed pulse(s), T and neutron budget, additionally to usual scarce resources
- Reference SL submit detailed pulse(s) for approval ≥4 weeks ahead, with predicted T & neutron
 - Must have D reference executed with TIMs (in D) & relevant RTC schemes
 - Must have demonstrated tolerable disruption rate, etc

Successful T & D-T campaign despite many challenges



- Machine issues frequently interrupted the campaigns
- Sustained D-T NBI \approx 30MW available only in last D-T cycle
- Having the detailed pulse prepared in advance helped with the frequent timeline re-optimisations, though the pulse approval process would gain in being streamlined
- COVID-19 meant all scientists had to participate remotely



Part 2 - Preparation and execution of scenarios for sustained high fusion power

JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2



JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2



JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2





- Integrated seeded plasma
- for clear α effects or isotope effects
- Set of H, D, T campaigns to study the impact of isotope mass in preparation for DTE2 and ITER
- Plasmas addressing specific physics questions to better prepare ITER – including clarifying impact of parameters not ITER relevant, e.g. high rotation

Development requirements for high P_{FUS} scenarios

D experiments

- Demonstration in deuterium of sustained high fusion power in JET-ILW with:
 - Divertor plate temperature within limits
 - Tolerable high Z impurity content
 - Detrimental MHDs avoidance
 - Tolerable disruption rate and/or impact
 - T-ops constraints (TIMs, tritium and neutron saving methods, etc.)

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Strategy:

- 2 routes pursued to maximise chances:
 - Baseline, 'high current' route
 - Hybrid, 'High beta' route
- Large amount of experimental time in D to scenario development
 - Included documenting impact of gas & power to prepare strategy in case of unexpected behaviour in D-T
- Pure tritium experiments helped to prepare response to isotope effects
- 'Predict first' approach guided experiments

Baseline scenario development to high I_P in JET-ILW



D experiments



- ILW up to 2014: lower confinement for I_p>2.5MA than equivalent plasmas in JET with C-wall
 - W in the plasma → high gas to reduce W source → loss of performance
 - loss of C as intrinsic impurity
 → impact on edge radiation
 and transport

Baseline scenario development to high I_P in JET-ILW



D experiments



- ILW up to 2014: lower confinement for I_p>2.5MA than equivalent plasmas in JET with C-wall
- ILW 2016: Confinement recovered at 3MA, thanks to:
 - D pellets pace ELMs → flush
 impurities
 - Low fuel injection, for improved pedestal and core confinement
- ILW 2019-2020: successful recipe extended to 3.5MA, with clear progress at 3.6-4MA
- Recipe not relevant to ITER baseline flat-top but could be in ramp-up & ramp-down

High performance at high I_P compatible with ILW

Dedicated effort to reduce disruption rate in Baseline



Baseline disruptions (D plasmas)



- High disruption rate in baseline plasma motivated dedicated disruption avoidance effort
- Most disruptions during ramp-down, when near H-L threshold: high radiation leads to back transition & loss of ELMs accelerate impurity accumulation & lead to disruption
- RTC schemes implemented to identify 'unhealthy' plasmas by monitoring:
 - Radiation peaking or high edge radiation detected with fast tomographic reconstruction (NN)
 - Proximity to H-L threshold (next slide)
- Overall disruption rate not significantly reduced though taking place at lower I_P

Optimised termination algorithm for baseline plasmas



D experiments

Disruption avoidance during plasma termination by controlling power and gas



- Algorithm monitors proximity to H-L and density limit and acts on power and gas requests
- Successfully applied in several 3 MA flat top baseline cases
- Application at higher current so far much less reliable because of reduced margin in input power vs P_{RAD}

Best baseline sustained performance



D experiments



- Best sustained performance for 3MA
- Equivalent D-T fusion power: 8MW
- Good 3.5MA reference also obtained though slightly less performing
- Overall disruption rate high:
 - 3MA: 60% in 2015–2016 to 20% in 2019-2020
 - ≥3.5MA: 70% in 2020
- Baseline D-T experiment given go ahead after detailed review of disruption data because of high scientific value

Baseline scenario: reduced operational space in D-T



50/50 D/T results

- Very few pulses because of low availability of high P_{NBI}
- Good access to H-mode after reoptimisation to compensate for combined isotope effects
- Stopped by too high impurity radiation due to less effective W flushing by ELMs
 - higher density in D-T + higher impurity radiation → reduced operational space
 - Complex interplay between MHD modes, sawtooth instability, energetic particles & radiation
- More time needed in D-T!



D. Frigione, L. Garzotti, F. Rimini, D. van Eester

Hybrid Scenario overview





CD Challis et al., EPS 2022

D experiments

- Equivalent D-T fusion power: 8MW
- Disruption rate reduced to 5%

[#]neglects gas system response time

Impact of isotope mass on Hybrid ramp-up



D/H experiments



CD Challis et al.,NF 60 2020

- q-profile evolution sensitive to main ion isotope mass in Ohmic current ramp phase of JET 'hybrid' plasmas due to impurities
- Can lead to disruptions:
 - Central cooling Reduced or reversed magnetic shear 2/1 tearing mode Locked mode
- Strategies developed to avoid I_P ramp disruptions in T & DT plasmas due to q-profile changes
 - Increase plasma density to restore temperature peaking
 - Early pulse termination when hollow temperature profile detected

Prediction of impact of tritium on q



q₀ increases with isotope mass due to core radiation

 Increased W sputtering and/or reduced ion temperature (e-i decoupling)

• Effect compensated by increasing density during Ohmic ramp phase

CD Challis *et al.,* EPS 2022 D & T predictive modelling done before T experiments



T plasma profile matched to D reference



 Ohmic tests used to tune q-profile

- D reference repeated using T:
 - ➤ Hollow T_e profile
 - Locked mode
 - > MGI triggered

CD Challis et al.,

EPS 2022

- Mitigated disruption
- D plasma q-profile matched in T by increasing density, as predicted



Hybrid scenario optimised for sustained performance



high initial gas flow low initial gas flow



radiation over plasma cross-section at t=11s

D experiments

- Initial Hybrid experiments in JET-ILW 2011-2014: good confinement but not sustained due to impurity accumulation
- Optimisation of ramp-up phase led to high pedestal ion temperature & clear demonstration of outwards W convection at plasma edge → 'impurity screening'

Increases confidence that this will take place in ITER as predicted (R. Dux *et al.*, PPCF 56 (2014) & Nucl. Mat. and Energy 12 (2017))

J. Garcia et al., IAEA 2021 A. Field, submitted to NF

Hybrid scenario: sustained performance





- Hybrid scenario run for the first time in D-T
- Successful sustained pulse after reoptimisation
- Fusion energy record for 50/50 D/T plasmas (42MJ)
- Analysis on-going to disentangle effects on edge and core, and identify isotopic and α effects

Fusion power confirms predictions made before DTE2





50/50 D/T results

- Predict-first approach applied as part of preparing for DTE2
- D-T fusion power achieved in hybrid plasmas is in range predicted, when taking into account power available
- Also for baseline scenario (not shown)
- Improvements to models and codes needed to reproduce details of the experiments
Fusion power boosted by optimising heating & fuel mix





- Fusion reactions from JET 50/50 D/T plasmas NBI comprise 'thermal' and 'non-thermal' D+T reactions
- Non-thermal part can be maximised with D-only-NBI in plasma with high tritium
- Further boost with Ion Cyclotron Radiofrequency heating of D ions
- → Significantly more fusion power at same plasma energy

[predictions carried out for T_e = 10keV and T_i = 12 keV] with TRANSP [1] [1] Goldston R.J. et. al., 1981 J. Comput. Phys. 43; Breslau J, et al., 2018 TRANSP Computer Software (https://transp.pppl.gov/index.html)

DTE1 Fusion energy record surpassed



#99869 (2.3MA/3.45T) Hybrid with ~50/50 D/T NBI and plasmaCD Challis, J. Hobirk, A. Kappatou, E. Lerche#99971 (2.5MA/3.86T) Hybrid with D-NBI in T-rich plasmaM. Maslov, E. Lerche



- Fusion energy record surpassed with hybrid scenarios
- Demonstrates compatibility of ILW with sustained high fusion performance



Part 3 – other DTE2 results with impact on ITER IRP

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Isotope mass impacts properties in all regions of tokamak plasma 🔘







Detailed W sputtering measurements in H, D, T, DT

- Unique set of JET W-erosion experiments in H, D, T and D-T, combined with ERO2.0 PWI simulations, provide improved predictions of W erosion in ITER
- Support JET operation and interpret challenging W behaviour in T & DT
 - [S Brezinsek et al., PSI 2022]

- W sputtering caused by:
 - a mix of impinging hydrogenic (H,D,T) and impurity ions (Be)
 - Be sputtering increases with isotope mass (see previous slide)
 - a mix of intra-ELM (E_{in}>500 eV) and inter-ELM sputtering (E_{in}<500 eV)
 - CAPS as additional minor channel for erosion identified via WH, WD, WT molecules

[E Pawelec et al., EPS 2021]

Increase of total W source from H → D → T measured on JET-ILW



Impact of fuel mass clarified in T&D-T experiments



- Power threshold for accessing H-mode lower at higher fuel mass
- Unique dataset to test hypothesis on underlying physics

G. Birkenmeier et al., EPS 2022

- Plasma pedestal density (& pressure) higher at higher fuel mass
- Improved diagnostic capabilities since DTE1 allow better understanding of role of pedestal

L. Frassinetti et al., EPS 2022

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Integrated neon seeded scenario in deuterium





- Confirmed high divertor radiation with neon as predicted by SOLPS-ITER
- Compatible with high fusion performance
- Inherently small ELMs
- Compares favourably to nitrogen

→Influential results for ITER decision on seed gas



Ne seeded radiative H-mode achieved in D-T



50/50 D/T results



- Ne seeded scenario performed for the first time in D-T, with ITERrelevant Be/W wall
 - Sustained pulse with detached divertor plasma & high radiated fraction
- \rightarrow Confirms neon as promising for ITER
- More time in D-T with sustained high power needed to
 - Confirm improved confinement & small ELMs with neon as seen in D
 - Test our understanding of isotope mass effects on seeded plasma & detachment physics

Clear observation of instabilities triggered by α -particles





50/50 D/T results

- DTE2 included a range of experiments designed to ensure clear α effects observed
- Dedicated 'afterglow' scenario to test models used to predict αdriven instabilities in ITER
 - Inspired by TFTR D-T afterglow experiment (R. Nazikian *et al* PRL 1997)
- α triggers high frequency modes before and during afterglow -Only observed in D-T plasmas

ITER relevant D-T RF schemes demonstrated



50/50 D/T results



Efficient core heating demonstrated with novel RF heating scheme

- Clear increase in T_i with ICRF
- Increased neutron rate & Generation of α -particles
- JET DTE2 provided unique chance to validate this technique & to investigate other ITER relevant ICRF heating schemes

Y. Kazakov, M. Nocente

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Summary

- Tritium constraints required a change to experiments management and pulse preparation & validation
- Integrated scenario operation impacted by higher isotope mass, but required few adaptation shots thanks to preparation strategy
- Record sustained high $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{FUS}}$ obtained and compatibility of high D-T performance with ILW demonstrated
- Sustained baseline & disruption-free ramp-down not demonstrated
- Preliminary 'lessons learnt' for ITER FPO:
 - Needs to take into account isotope mass impact on PWI, SOL, pedestal, core in codes & control
- Months & years of analysis & modelling needed before fuller implications of D-T results understood and applied in preparation for ITER RP execution & future reactors

Final JET experimental campaigns in 2022-2023



- JET scientific programme under EUROfusion WPTE leadership. TFLs: E. Joffrin, M. Wischmeier
- WPTE: Research Topics across machines with experimental time on AUG, JET, MAST-U, TCV, WEST
- JET D campaigns in 2022-2023 includes
 - 14 sessions for 'RT22-04: Physics-based machine generic systems for an integrated control of plasma discharge', SCs: F. Felici, L. Piron, B. Sieglin
 - 13 sessions for 'RT22-05: Physics of divertor detachment and its control for ITER, DEMO and HELIAS operation', SCs: M. Bernert, D. Brida, H. Reimerdes, N. Fedorczark



Additional slides

Improved diagnostic capabilities compared to DTE1



- better spatial and temporal edge coverage
- ➔ Improved edge/divertor spectroscopy
- ➔ Better diagnosed fusion quantities, e.g.:
 - TAE antenna (α instabilities)
 - Neutron camera & spectrometer
 - γ-ray tomography
 - Fast Ion Loss Detector (alpha losses)
 - high-resolution sub-divertor residual gas analyser for measuring H, D, T, ⁴He & ³He

J. Figueiredo et al., IAEA FEC 2018



Final enhancements installed & commissioned in 2019-2020

Fusion power confirms predictions made before DTE2





- Predict-first approach applied as part of preparing for DTE2
- D-T fusion power achieved is in range predicted, when taking into account power available
- Improvements to models and codes needed to reproduce details of the experiments