Press Release

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Comments:

39th ITER Council Meeting: ITER Sustains Strong Project Execution

ST PAUL-LEZ-DURANCE, France (19 November 2026) – The ITER Council welcomed continued strong performance of the ITER project reflected in the progress of assembly, installation, commissioning, licensing, quality and resource management. In the face of the challenges and successes of the first-of-a-kind project, Council members re-emphasized the value of ITER's mission and reiterated their commitment.

Continued strong project progress: At the Council's thirty-ninth meeting on 18–19 November 2026, ITER Director-General Pietro Barabaschi reported on the progress of the ITER project. The Council welcomed the significant progress achieved by the ITER Organization and Domestic Agencies since the last meeting and expressed its appreciation for the overall project execution under Baseline 2024.

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The Council acknowledged the significant progress in assembly and installation activities, including the continued sub-assembly and installation of sector modules ahead of the Baseline 2024 Level-1 Schedule. Six of the nine vacuum vessel sector modules are now in place in the tokamak pit, and a seventh is expected later this month. Strong project performance indicators also reflected continued discipline in project execution and resource management, with 212 Level-1 milestones achieved against a target of 202.

The Council further noted progress in commissioning activities, including the first successful gyrotron pulses and the start of long-pulse operation. It also acknowledged continued progress at the Magnet Cold Test Facility, where another superconducting coil was successfully cooled and energized, supporting preparations for further testing and commissioning. Members recognized the accreditation of the ITER Static Magnetic Field Laboratory under the ISO/IEC 17025 standard in July 2026, underscoring the continued strengthening of technical capabilities supporting the project. The Council also noted progress in quality management through the joint efforts of the ITER Organization and Domestic Agencies under the Quality Leadership Team framework and Quality Improvement Road Map.

Licensing and regulatory engagement: The Council acknowledged continued progress in the ITER Organization's engagement with the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR). Members appreciated the constructive and technically robust exchanges, including progress in the licensing roadmap and the submission of a request to update the regulatory framework to allow for the progressive authorization of ITER operations. The Council also noted progress toward obtaining the regulatory clearances by ASNR required for tokamak assembly. Members recognized the importance of the on-time release of the assembly hold point, noted the positive outcomes of recent regulatory inspections, and acknowledged the continued preparations for the updated Preliminary Safety Report planned for 2027.

ITER Member support: Council Members re-emphasized the value of the ITER mission and resolved to continue working together to facilitate ITER's success. The Council noted the challenges and successes of this first-of-a-kind project and expressed its strong commitment to actively supporting the ITER project's success.

About ITER

ITER is designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power and will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility. Fusion research is aimed at developing a safe, abundant, and environmentally responsible energy source based on the process that powers the Sun and stars. ITER is also a first-of-a-kind international collaboration that serves as a scientific and technological foundation for the growth of a global fusion

industry. As host, Europe contributes almost half of the cost of construction, while China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States contribute equally to the remaining costs. The ITER project is under construction in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, in the south of France. For more information, visit: www.iter.org.