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EU sure of nuclear prize



Europe seems to be still confident of winning a coveted nuclear fusion project.

Research commissioner Philippe Busquin at the weekend said Europe's fusion research would double from 2007 to 2013 – a feat only possible if the EU wins funding for the project, known as ITER.

A choice has to be made between Cadarache in France and the northern Japanese village of Rokkasho-mura, but international players have so far failed to make up their minds.

Russia and China back the EU in preferring Cadarache, but the USA could undermine them with its backing for a Japanese site. UK prime minister Tony Blair on Saturday said he “hoped to see the siting issue resolved in the next few months”.

And Busquin said he wanted a decision before the end of the summer. The research commissioner was speaking at the Jet (Joint European Torus) fusion centre in the UK.

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