

EU signs ITER deal



Negotiations on the ITER international nuclear fusion project have been successfully completed with signing ceremony at the European commission.

The EU and international partners on Wednesday reached a final agreement on the ITER project after years of talks.

“The completion of the negotiation process will bring into life the most significant scientific partnership the world has yet seen,” has said

research commissioner Janez Potocnik.

Negotiated between China, the EU, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the US, the agreement aims to develop a project that will test the feasibility of nuclear fusion as a future clean energy source.

“Energy is an issue of concern to all of us, and we all hope that what at one time seemed a far off goal - fusion as a viable energy source - is now a step nearer reality,” said Potocnik.

After long running talks, the EU was eventually chosen a year ago to receive the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor – ITER – in Cadarache, in the south of France.

As host party the EU will finance up to 50 per cent of the project, expected to generate 10,000 jobs, while other parties will contribute up to ten per cent.

European Greens, fiercely opposed to nuclear energy, have attacked the 4.57bn worth project as wasteful.

“It is irresponsible to earmark such a substantial proportion of energy research funding for an expensive technology that has consistently failed to deliver for the

past 50 years, while reducing funds for proven and clean energy technology like energy efficiency and renewables,” said Claude Turmes and Rebecca Harms.

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