

Joint Press Release

Second Negotiation Meeting Held in Tokyo on the Joint Implementation of ITER

Tokyo – January 23, 2002. Delegations from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation met in Tokyo this week to continue formal negotiations on the joint implementation of the ITER project. ITER is a major international collaborative scientific and technological project with the goal of taking the next major step in the development of fusion as an attractive energy source for our planet.

This was the second negotiation meeting in a series that is expected to lead, by the end of 2002, to an international agreement on the joint implementation of ITER, for submission to the Parties. Discussed in the meeting was a preliminary draft of ITER Joint Implementation Agreement, which will govern the construction, operation and decommissioning of ITER. Matters covered in the discussions also included the preparation of the basis for site-selection process, procurement allocation schemes, and transitional arrangements towards implementation.

In June 2001, Canada presented an offer to host the ITER project. Canada reported that the first formal review of the ITER project by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will occur in March as a part of the formal licensing process initiated for possible siting of ITER at Clarington, Ontario.

Other site offers are under consideration by the European Union and Japan. The European Union reported that the French Minister for Research had requested the EU to define the conditions under which a European site could be proposed for ITER construction and asked that the French proposal to realize ITER in Cadarache be taken into account. A study to analyze the possibility of proposing Spain as a possible site is also being conducted.

Japan reported on the discussions at the Council on Science and Technology Policy (CSTP). Minister for Science and Technology Policy and Non-Cabinet members of the CSTP reported on 25 December 2001 that Japanese participation in the ITER Project is desirable and, moreover, hosting ITER is meaningful. The decision of the Japanese Government on the ITER Project will be taken following the final conclusion of the CSTP.

Russia reported that ITER is considered as one of its highest priorities, according to the Federal program 'ITER International Project'.

The negotiators clarified the points of discussion on the Joint Implementation Agreement, Joint Assessment of Specific Site and other matters and further investigation will be developed before the next negotiation meeting, which is scheduled for 19-20 March 2002 in Moscow.

It was announced that an international symposium on ITER entitled "Burning Plasma Science and Technology on ITER" is to be held in Tokyo on 24 January 2002.

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