

Brussels, 1 April 2006

## **ITER Project on Track – Top Management Team Identified**

***At a meeting in Tokyo on 1 April, the chief ITER negotiators from the seven international parties (European Union, India, Japan, Korea, China, Russia and USA), identified the top management team that will manage this major international fusion energy research project. The representatives of the seven parties also endorsed the results of the negotiations on the international agreement that will govern the project, which will now be passed to ministerial level for its initialling on 24 May in Brussels.***

The parties to ITER accepted the EU's proposal to designate Dr Norbert Holtkamp as nominee Principal Deputy Director-General of the prospective ITER Organization. Dr Holtkamp is currently director of the Accelerator Systems Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee (USA). With the appointment of Kaname Ikeda as nominee Director-General in November 2005, the top management team of the prospective ITER Organization is now complete.

The Tokyo meeting confirms that the ITER Project is well on the way to becoming a reality with construction due to start soon at the agreed site of Cadarache in Southern France. The top management team will now press forward with building the international ITER Team.

The next step is a meeting of the parties at Ministerial level in Brussels on 24 May to initial the ITER Agreement. It will be hosted by Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for Science and Research.