



For Immediate Release

Ambassador Irwin Launches Iter Canada's Plan to Host Multi-Billion Dollar Fusion Energy Research Centre

Toronto, – June 7, 2001. In Moscow, Canada's Ambassador to Russia, Rod Irwin, today launched Canada's bid for Iter, the \$12 billion fusion energy research and development centre. The presentation to delegations from Russia, Japan, the European Union and the United States was made in the Presidential Hall of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Ambassador Irwin said: "It is with the greatest pleasure that I now, on behalf of the Government of Canada, hereby formally announce Canada's offer of our Clarington site, located just east of Toronto on the northern shore of Lake Ontario as the location for the implementation of Iter in Canada."

Iter is an international fusion energy research and development centre, planned by a unique international collaborative effort with participation from Russia, the European Union, Japan and Canada. The goal of this centre is to develop fusion energy as a safe, clean and sustainable energy source for our planet. The Iter project will be the second largest research and development project in the world after the International Space Station. In addition to Canada, other Iter Party governments may also compete to host the project.

Dr. Peter Barnard, Chairman and CEO of Iter Canada, the organization leading Canada's effort to host the Iter project, is delighted. Said Dr. Barnard: "With the support of the Government of Canada, the endorsement we have received from the Government of Ontario, and the continuing commitment of our private sector, labour, university and local community members, we believe Iter Canada is in a very strong position to win this project for our country. As host of the Iter project, Canada will become a world centre of excellence for research and development in the high tech energy field. Iter will be the largest "brain gain" in Canadian project history "

Iter will provide access for Canadian industry and universities to cutting-edge fusion technologies. The project will also inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the Canadian economy by providing jobs, new business and technical expertise.

"The Ontario Government supports and fully endorses the Canadian effort to have Ontario host the international Iter fusion energy project," said Jim Wilson, Ontario's Minister of Energy, Science and Technology. "The Ontario Government is confident that Canada can win this bid, and has indicated a willingness to commit \$10 million per year for 30 years." If Canada's bid succeeds, this research and development project would bring to Ontario 250 of the brightest minds in nuclear energy science, help diversify Ontario's high-tech industry and inject billions of dollars into the provincial economy.

The Canadian site for Iter is located at Clarington, Ontario at the eastern end of the Greater Toronto Area. The local community is very supportive. "The Council of Clarington has been involved in this project since 1995 and we are now very excited about the prospect of locating such a large-scale, fusion energy development project in our community," said Clarington Mayor John Mutton.

Beyond Clarington itself, support for the project is very strong. “As a resident of the region surrounding Clarington, I am excited about the prospect of hosting the Iter project in our community, said Gary Polonsky, President of Durham College and Chairman of the Iter Community Council, a grass-roots organization representing the interests of all communities around the site. “The potential impact and benefits are tremendous, and it is critical we participate in the process of bringing this project to our region.” The Durham College campus will house the Ontario Institute of Technology, a proposed new university that will serve the area and offer a degree program in nuclear technology and safety.

With the presentation of Iter Canada’s Plan in Moscow, Canadian participants will begin negotiations with the other Iter Party delegations. These negotiations are scheduled to be completed next year with the finalization of an international treaty for building the project and funding the 20-year research and development program.

Fusion energy is created when atoms are pushed together and is inherently safe and clean because any change in the process will result in an immediate shutdown and no fuel waste or greenhouse emissions are produced. Research into fusion has been conducted since the 1920’s, and recent advances have renewed interest in the technology. A US report prepared by a National Energy Policy Development (NEPD) Group chaired by Vice President Dick Cheney, said: “The NEPD Group recommends that the President direct the Secretary of Energy to develop next generation technology – including hydrogen and fusion.”

Iter Canada is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1997 with members from industry, governments, labour, and universities. It is committed to locating the world’s Iter Fusion Research and Development Centre in Canada.

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