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Yahoo! News Thu, Jan 29, 2004

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Chinese official to tour France's site for ITER project



Mon Jan 26, 3:25 PM ET

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PARIS (AFP) - China's deputy science minister, Yan Hua-Liu, will visit France's proposed site for the future international energy project ITER, the ministry of research said here Monday.



[AFP/File Photo](#)

Yan will tour the site at Cadarache, southern France, on Saturday, officials said.

Cadarache is bidding against the Japanese village of Rokkasho-Mura to host ITER.

France's bid has drawn the support of the European Union ([news - web sites](#)) (EU), Russia and China, whereas Japan's is backed by the United States, Japan and Korea.

The French research minister, Claudie Haignere, was to meet Yan at a dinner hosted late Monday by President Jacques Chirac for his counterpart, Hu Jintao. She and Yan were to meet again on Tuesday.

ITER -- International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) -- aims to test technology for nuclear fusion, billed as the clean, safe, inexhaustible energy source of the future.

The ITER partners failed to choose the winning bid at a meeting in Washington on December 20 and a fresh meeting has been set for next month.

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