

# EU to build experimental fusion reactor

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European Union nations on Monday endorsed a pact to build an experimental fusion reactor with the aim of developing a cheaper, cleaner, safer and endless energy source.

Six other nations - the United States, India, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia - also aim to ratify the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, or ITER, fusion energy project this year so that work can start in 2007 on the 35-year project.

Officials said the experimental reactor - to be located in Cadarache, in the southern French region of Provence - will take around eight years to build.

The EU is to foot half of the €10 billion (US\$12.8 billion) cost of the reactor with the others chipping in around 10 percent each.

The six nations and the EU hope the new technology will help them move away from the global dependency on fossil fuels and nuclear power.

Fusion reproduces the sun's power source and produces no greenhouse gas emissions and only low levels of radioactive waste.

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