



Ministry delegated to Research and New Technologies

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PROJECT ITER Carryforward of the choice of the site of establishment

With the exit of a meeting which was held in Washington December 19 and 20 between the international partners of project ITER, it was agreed by the whole of the parts present that no final choice could be made to date.

The partners examined the two candidates for the location of project ITER on December 19 and 20 in Washington, they agreed on the fact that it was desirable to look further into certain aspects of the two proposals and, in this waiting, to defer the choice of the site of establishment at the end of January. The Japanese candidate (Rokkasho-Mura) and the European candidate (Cadarache) are the two sites in competition to accomodate project ITER.

Europe reaffirmed its will and its engagement in project ITER. From the importance of its human resources, its financial commitments and its technical expertise, Europe regards the site of Cadarache as the ideal candidate to conclude project ITER, as well in its phase of construction as of exploitation.

"Project ITER remains an absolute priority for Europe. We are closely convinced that our human, financial and technical assets should enable us to conclude this project. The whole of the community of the researchers who have worked on this project for more than forty years, remains mobilized ", declared Claudie Haigneré, French minister of Research and new technologies.

ITER currently constitutes the greatest project of scientific co-operation on a worldwide scale. At a cost of about 10 billion dollars, the phase of construction will last 10 years and the production run 20 years. Resting on the research developed for more than 40 years on a worldwide scale, project ITER has been founded on controlled fusion, reproduction of the thermonuclear phenomenon of fusion of the sun. This process is generated starting from hydrogen, available to profusion in the environment. It is carrying a formidable hope, that of an abundant energy, accessible to all and respectful of the environment.

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