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'DELIGHTED' CHIRAC TO VISIT ITER NUCLEAR REACTOR SITE THURSDAY

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PARIS, June 28 (AFP) - President Jacques Chirac said Tuesday he was delighted by the designation of France to host the ITER experimental nuclear energy reactor and will visit the site at Cadarache in the south of the country on Thursday.

The choice of Cadarache "is a great success for France, for Europe and for all the partners in ITER," the president said in a communique.

"The president of the republic, who has represented France in two years of negotiations, is delighted by the conclusion of this agreement which takes fully into account the interests of all the partners in the project," he said.

He thanked the European Commission and member countries of the European Union for their "unfailing support in the negotiations" as well as Russia and China who also "backed Cadarache's candidature from the start."

Chirac "will visit the site for ITER at Cadarache on Thursday June 30," the Elysee palace said.

Meeting in Moscow, the six partners in the revolutionary ITER reactor Tuesday agreed that France would host the project, which is designed to emulate the power of the sun.

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