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Fusion Energy: Advancing the European Roadmap

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EUROfusion & EPFL - Swiss Plasma Center Acknowledgements to the Roadmap revision group: T. Donné, P. Batistoni, I. Chapman, S. Günter, C. Hidalgo, V. Naulin, T. Tala, F. Villone, H. Zohm

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EUROfusion integrates R&D in fusion science and technology

- 29 Countries
- **31** Research Institutions
- 164 Universities
- 800 MSc and PhD students
- 4000 Fusion Researchers &

Support Staff



R&D program follows European Fusion Roadmap



Present resource allocation





Scientific and technological feasibility of fusion Q =10: first *burning* plasma P_{fusion} = 500MW for ~500s Under construction in the south of France





A.Fasoli

iter 5





ITER components from all over the world



iter china eu india japan korea russia usa

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iter china eu india japan korea russia usa

A revision of the approach to the Roadmap is needed

Interest in fusion has grown enormously thanks to

- Fusion successes at JET, NIF, W7-X, Medium-Size Tokamaks, ITER assembly
- Realization that baseload electricity power plants are essential for energy transition & security
- Booming of private fusion efforts

Present Roadmap contains all linked elements of a reactor-oriented program but is based on a sequential JET-ITER-DEMO approach

- Delays have impacted ITER, but also JT-60SA, IFMIF-DONES and DTT
- Unique and valuable lessons learned from every stage of ITER can and must be integrated into the Roadmap

Main elements of the Roadmap revision

Definition of the DEMO step

Gaps to be addressed

Measures to accelerate the DEMO and FPP programs



These points are in addition to the specific activities for the ITER project, which remain central

Definition of the DEMO step – high level goals

Demonstrate performance and integration of key technologies with tolerable failure rates to achieve adequate levels of availability

- Blanket radiation exposure ~20dpa in first phase (~6-7y)
- Self-sufficient fuel cycle: supply tritium for itself & to start a new plant
- Robust plasma operation scenario and power-exhaust system
- Demonstration of intrinsic safety and tolerable impact of waste
- Maintenance systems that ensure plant availability and accessibility
- Net electricity output to grid ~300-500MW (t_{pulse} ~hours)

Tokamak configuration



DEMO Design Activities

	Parameters	DEMO G1	DEMO low A design space
	R ₀ , a (m, m)	9, 2.9	8.5, 3.15
	A	3.1	2.7
	B ₀ (T)	5.9	4.05 - 4.25
	I _p (MA), q	18, 3.6	19.1 - 19.8, 3.5 - 3.7
	k ₉₅ , δ ₉₅	1.6, 0.33	1.75, 0.33
	$< T_e > (keV)$	12.6	10.65 - 11.15
	$< n > (10^{20} m^{-3})$	0.73	0.66 - 0.69
	Z _{eff}	2.2	2.0 - 2.2
	H	1.1	1.1
	t _{burn} (hrs)	2	2 - 2.25
	f _{.bs} (%)	39	38 - 39
	P_{CD} (MW), P_{LH} (MW)	<10, 120	<10, 89-93
	P _{div} (MW)	161	108 - 112
Representation of the G1 baseline	P _{fus} / P _{enet} (MW)	2014, 500	1555 - 1750, 350 - 415
Tokamak.	Av_{NWL} (MW/m ²)	1.0	0.75 - 0.87
	$P_{sep}B/qAR_0$ (MW.T/m)	9.2	5.4 - 5.8
	Reattached heat flux [MW/m ²]	61.3	36 - 39

Source: G. Federici, H. Zohm

Example of system code exploration of low aspect ratio solution



Source: M. Coleman, H. Zohm

Example of system code exploration of low aspect ratio solution



Source: M. Coleman, H. Zohm













Safety and waste







Tritium and blanket technologies



- In DEMO, the blanket is one of the most novel, low TRL and high-risk parts
- ITER TBM programme comes late and with a very low expected damage dose <0.1dpa

Progress on BB system ex. 1: Water-Cooled Lithium Lead



Progress on BB system ex. 2: Helium-Cooled Pebble Bed



F.A. Hernández et al. | BB Functions, Concepts and Associated Issues | Fusion/Fission Workshop, VC | 06.12.2023 | Page 6



Challenges in Breeding Blanket





Courtesy of Francisco Hernandez (KIT)







A development program is needed to qualify materials to enable roll-out of FPPs

- mechanical and thermal properties
- response to plasma exposure and to 14-MeV n-irradiation >20dpa
- chemical compatibility and safety issues

The maturity and robustness of industrial fabrication must be increased

IFMIF-DONES will be the only facility with neutrons of adequate spectrum and fluence to qualify materials using small samples



IFMIF-DONES: accelerator-based neutron source



IFMIF-DONES: construction has started







Site at Escúzar, close to Granada, Spain Operation expected in ~2034

A.Fasoli | University of Pisa | April 2024



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As the present approach implies that the combined effects of neutrons and other ways of degradation during operation would be detected in the integral testing on DEMO only, the feasibility of a Volumetric Neutron Source (VNS) to qualify components is under consideration (instead of DEMO Phase 1) ACCELERATOR

Volumetric Neutron Source - Physics Basis

The device should be a 14 MeV neutron source with a peak Neutron Wall Loading of at least ~ 0.5 MW/m²

- The only way to keep the machine size low is to rely on **beam-target fusion reaction** (like JET record shots)
- Beams are also employed to drive the plasma current, as there is no space for a large central solenoid
- $\beta_N < 3.5 \ \%$ Tm/MA; Max. Field on TF < 14.7 T (i.e. LTS conductor); $q_{95} > 3$; P_el_NBI < 150 MW $\rightarrow R \leq 3$ m and $P_{fus} < 50$ MW (also for T consumption)



Competition between performance (NWL) and stability (β_N) Knobs: Aspect Ratio A and Magnetic Field Strength B



() The	smallest	VNS	we	could	find:
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R = 2.53m, B ₀ = 5.4 T				
A=4.6	High aspect ratio to create space on the inboard side while minimising the surface			
CS	Nb_3Sn , sized to ramp up the plasma, $I_p = 1.76 MA$			
TF coil	Nb ₃ Sn, B _{max} =12.8 T – trading-off B with TFC size			
n-shield (inboard)	Comparable to ITER			
P _{fus}	29 MW			





12 TF coils allow the integration of an ITER-like NB duct in-between TF coils.





Magnetized plasmas are complex self-organized systems, with limited external control, whose parameters and profiles cannot be prescribed a priori

It is only possible to prepare experimental conditions that facilitate a particular scenario, i.e., a set of properties that are mutually compatible and can be reproducibly maintained for long enough using actuators

Attractive solutions for individual elements (core, edge, exhaust) have been found, but integration remains a challenge since DEMO plasma conditions cannot be met simultaneously in present devices

- Exhaust solutions can strongly affect the overall plasma performance
- Disruptions are a severe threat to attractiveness of a tokamak DEMO and affect its availability

Source: IPP



Joint operation of tokamaks in support of ITER and DEMO



Joint progress on plasma control at EU devices

Tokamak plasma control through deep reinforcement learning

[Degrave Nature 602, 414 (2022)]

Supervisory control & dynamic pulse scheduling

[Vu IEEE TNS 2021]

State observer implementations using RAPTOR / RAPDENS on ASDEX-Upgrade and TCV

[Bosman F.E.Des. 2021, Blanken F.E.Des. 2019, Felici IAEA 2016]

Real-time disruption proximity monitoring and control to avoid high-density H-mode limit

[Pau EPS 2022]

'Virtual actuators' and optimization methods

[Kudlacek Fus. Eng. Des 146 (2019), Maljaars Fus. Eng. Des 122, 2017]







Disruptions and runaway electrons





TCV



A.Fasoli | University of Pisa | April 2024

Benign termination of runaway electron beam

TCV disruption and runaway electron studies enabled by EUROfusion Gas injection to maximize power spread on wall

Increased wetted area and conversion of magnetic energy to radiation prevents localized heat flux from runaway electrons

Models developed using multimachine database to extrapolate to ITER



Courtesy of U.Sheik

Shattered Pellet Injector at JET/ASDEX-Upgrade to confirm ITER design

JPN 95128, t = 8.444934 s Left: KLDT-E5WE [No Filter; 7.5kHz/5us]; Right: KL8-E8WA [No Filter; 7.5kHz/10us]





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Power and plasma exhaust





Power and plasma exhaust







$\sim 1 MW/m^2$

$\sim 80 MW/m^2$





System identification applied to characterize dynamic behaviour on ASDEX-Upgrade, TCV, JET, MAST-U

Ex. real-time control of the C-III emission front in TCV based on MANTIS 10-channel, 400Hz camera







QCE regime obtained on JET building on expts in ASDEX-Upgrade and TCV

Main features

- no type-I ELMs
- high line-averaged and SOL density
- only modest decrease of confinement compared to type-I ELMy data base

Key access parameters

- shaped plasma cross-section (κ, δ, closeness to double null)
- high pressure in the vicinity of the separatrix through strong gas puffing





X-Point Radiator has promising features

- Full detachment
- Maximum power dissipation
- Controllable

Observed at ASDEX-Upgrade, TCV, WEST & JET – inter-machine comparisons essential for predictions

On JET

- Created with N₂, Ne and Ar seeding
- Movement tracked with bolometry
- XPR location controlled within 4mm
- ELMs diminish
- First control of full detachment





[RT22-05: M.Bernert, D.Brida, H.Reimerdes, N.Fedorczak + RT22-04: B. Sieglin, P.Fox, T.Bosman, M.Lennholm]

Fast-ion physics studies



Direct observation of confined fusion-generated α particles in JET

JET: Spatial profile of the $E\gamma$ = 16.4 MeV emission from the D+3He \rightarrow γ +5Li reaction in the poloidal plane obtained by a tomographic inversion.Confined Alphas!E. Panontin



Heating scenarios with MeV ions at JET

Dominant electron heating as in ITER

Access to high T_i

Destabilization of Alfvén Eigenmodes, which of Alfvén Eigenmodes and the second second

Stabilizing impact on microturbulence

Non-linear interplay between fast ions, ITG and Alfvén Eigenmodes

[Y. Kazakov et al., Phys. Plasmas (2022)] [S. Mazzi et al., *Nature Physics* (2022)]





UK Atomic Energy Authority

A New Fusion Energy Record

Pulse #104522

Date 3 October 2023, 19:14 GMT

D-T fuel 0.2 milligrams

Fusion energy 69 megajoules



High fusion energy repeatably achieved at JET in DTE2 and DTE3

High fusion power produced and sustained for 5 seconds

- First ever high confinement plasmas using D-T with Beryllium/Tungsten ITER-like interior wall
- Confirming predictions of plasma behaviour advances development of ITER high performance scenarios



D-T results confirm modelling predictions

D-T fusion power matches predictions

New JET data are crucial to predict fusion in ITER and future machines

Wealth of new JET data in many areas to validation the models and extrapolate to ITER and beyond

Much more to come in future conferences and journal papers...



EUROfusion has integrated theory & simulation activities



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Example: porting of ASCOT5 to advanced HPC architecture





Divertor performance, power exhaust & extraction

Solutions need to be found in which most power is radiated before it reaches the walls to reduce the thermal load to plasma facing components

Advanced divertor configurations and materials must be assessed to ensure optimal PFC cooling, thermal mechanical integrity and sufficient shielding to the vessel

Some alternatives have a large impact on the machine design and remote maintenance



Source: ITER

Test of ITER-like divertor prototypes

WEST first phase of operation with ITER prototypes (W monoblocks on CuCrZr heat sink) in lower divertor

Long pulses up to 1min with upper actively cooled divertor

Damages observed on ITER-like plasma facing unit after exposure





Divertor performance – ex. of recent progress

High-heat-flux tests to simulate divertor strike-point sweeping on GLADIS (IPP Garching)

40MW/m², 5000 loading cycles (pulse: 0.4s, frequency: 0.63Hz, coolant: 20°C)



(µm)

Front face deformation measured by laser profilometry





A few R&D elements remain open

- More accurate quantification of key radiological source terms
- Assess after how long waste arising from operation can meet Low-Level Waste criteria
- Understand whether any Intermediate-Level Waste can be managed in near-surface disposal facilities using techniques for detritiation and decarburization, and/or barriers developed to assure removal or containment of long-lived activation products



Remote maintenance system and related strategy must be developed to

- Assure removal of components also in case of damage
- Minimize the time duration of maintenance
- Guarantee compliance with safety requirements (e.g. T containment)



Remote maintenance: examples of recent progress







Development of the Two Port, High Payload, Precision Mover and co-operative handling control (UKAEA RACE, EK-CER, VTT, ENEA)

Blanket Handling

Remote Maintenance Test Facility

Concept design to test performance of RH equipment, control algorithms and sensor technology for precision handling of large flexible loads (UKAEA)

Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas

Strong synergy with new ITER Baseline (W-related work), exploitation of JT60-SA

Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Digitalization effort, including innovative AI approaches







Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Examples of challenges in theory & simulation PLASMA

Multiscale Multiphysics Intrinsic nonlinearity Turbulent dynamics Extreme anisotropy Complex geometry





Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site

Crucial for timing – working group has defined the path



Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site Development and maintenance of adequate workforce

Increase connections with EU academic and industrial networks, and diversity at all levels, try to create a 'post-JET hub'



Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site Development and maintenance of adequate workforce Mutually beneficial new international collaborations Collaborations with China (CRAFT, EAST, BEST, ...), US (SPARC, ...) etc., for technology facilities and early burning plasma developments



Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site Development and maintenance of adequate workforce Mutually beneficial new international collaborations Knowledge management Document lessons learned in the ITER design and developments



Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site Development and maintenance of adequate workforce Mutually beneficial new international collaborations **Knowledge management** Parallelization of activities to reduce the sequential coupling of ITER milestones and DEMO decision points

Parallelization of ITER and DEMO and the role of ITER





Strengthening R&D in the identified gap areas Increased effort in simulations for plasma and for engineering Streamlining licensing towards a regulatory framework for fusion and rapidly identifying site Development and maintenance of adequate workforce Mutually beneficial new international collaborations **Knowledge management** Parallelization of activities to reduce the sequential coupling of ITER milestones and DEMO decision points Public Private Partnerships and involvement of industry

Public-Private Partnerships and involvement of industry

DEMO will be built within an industrial framework, utilizing fully industrial practices

Need to combine industrial and entrepreneurial approaches with the extensive know-how, and the ambitious yet realistic vision of public-funded European fusion program

Collaborative approach involving joint leadership, combination of public and private IP, agile procurement processes compatible with EU industry development, and strategic partnerships

Innovation, industrial view and strategic partnerships are also crucial to address technological gaps prior to DEMO design, and develop capability and capacity in supply chains, especially in areas that are not stimulated by ITER procurement





Measures to accelerate the FPP program beyond DEMO

Dedicated test facilities to qualify technologies for FPPs that will be different from DEMO

Investigations to increase attractiveness of FPPs

- Stellarator FPP design studies
- HTS magnets
- Advanced structural materials
- Alternatives to water as primary coolant





Plasma Scenarios, Transients, Exhaust & Burning Plasma Regime

JT-60SA

DTT



TCV













FUSION POWER PLANT

DEMO













Breeding Blanker, Remote Handling, Materials, Magnets





EPFL

National laboratory with international facilities in an academic environment

Aims: make ITER a success

develop the science and technology basis of DEMO

- prepare the ITER/DEMO generations of scientists and engineers exploit plasma and fusion spinoffs for industry and society
- Size: ~200 staff, ~50 PhDs, ~35MCHF/y (>65% external)







EUROfusion plays an increasingly important role to

- Conduct R&D on remaining gaps for ITER, DEMO and FPPs
- Assist ITER developments and have a crucial role in ITER operation
- Document and make best use of lessons learned from ITER, which continues to be an essential element of the European Roadmap
- Feed increasing demand for education & training
- Ensure cohesion in the European fusion programme

Public-private-partnerships must be established to

- Address & accelerate the long-lead R&D issues (e.g. T breeding, materials)
- Take ownership of the DEMO and FPP design





Thank You!

FAIRNESS



Transparency Collaboration Loyalty

OPENNESS



Open doors Open hearts Open minds Open ears

COMMITMENT

Ownership Critical thinking Determination Respect

DIVERSITY



Cooperation Equal opportunities Inclusion