

Joint Press Release

SIXTH NEGOTIATIONS ON TRACK TO IMPLEMENT ITER Assessment completed for two of four potential ITER sites

ROKKASHO-MURA, Japan, October 30, 2002 – At their Sixth Negotiations Meeting, delegations from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation continued to progress on negotiating the implementation of the ITER fusion energy research project. The Meeting was held at Rokkasho-mura in the Aomori Prefecture - the location of the site that Japan has offered to host the ITER project.

At the start of the meeting, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, the former Prime Minister of Japan and the Chairman of League of Diet Members for Fusion Energy Promotion, made a welcoming address to the delegates. He said that energy issues are important to achieve human prosperity, world peace and earth environment conservation and thus Japanese Government as a whole should promote the ITER project under international collaboration to realize the fusion energy. Then Mr. Morio Kimura, the Governor of Aomori Prefecture, stated that Aomori would like to host ITER and contribute to the international society through the promotion of the project.

Within the framework of the Negotiations, the joint assessment of the Japanese site at Rokkasho-mura was recently undertaken. This followed the assessment in September of the proposed Canadian site at Clarington. With the successful conduct of these two assessments, the site review process is at the halfway mark. The last two site assessments will be held in December at the two sites proposed by the European Union – one at Cadarache in France and another at Vandellós in Spain.

The EU Delegation distributed to Participants copies of the technical dossier supporting the French site candidature, and gave an overview presentation, emphasizing the strong scientific and technical infrastructure already existing at the site as an important factor for the success of the project.

Significant progress was also made on a wide range of other issues including matters such as the treaty to implement ITER (the Joint Implementation Agreement), procurement allocation and the intellectual property rights that would accrue to participants in the project. The Negotiators agreed that the international organization responsible for implementing the project would be called the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization

It was agreed that technical activities would be conducted during the transition period between the end of the current Coordinated Technical Activities and the establishment of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization. The ITER Transitional Arrangements will be established for this period. They will provide for technical and engineering continuity and prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement.

Further meetings are planned for the negotiators and technical experts over the next few months. It is intended to finalize the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites by early next year and complete the drafting of the Agreement by mid-2003.

At the conclusion of this Sixth Negotiations Meeting, the delegations reaffirmed their belief that the critical issues are being successfully addressed and they are well on their way to implementing the ITER fusion energy research project.

The next meeting of the negotiators will be held in Barcelona, Spain on December 9-10, 2002, followed by the Eighth Negotiations Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia on February 18-19, 2003.

Japan invited all delegations to attend the International ITER Forum hosted by Aomori Prefecture to be held on the 31st of October.

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BACKGROUNDER

- ITER, which means “the way” in Latin, is an international fusion energy research and development project with the goal of taking the next major step in the development of fusion energy as a safe, clean and sustainable energy source for our planet. The ITER International Fusion Energy Organization is the entity that will implement ITER.
- Fusion is the energy that powers the sun and the stars. Research into fusion has been conducted since the 1950's, and recent advances have intensified interest in the technology. It is inherently safe and clean - any change in the process will result in an immediate shutdown and no fuel waste or greenhouse emissions are produced.
- ITER would be the world's largest international cooperative research and development project next to the space station and would be constructed for approximately \$4 B US over 10 years and operated for about the same amount over 20 years.
- The international ITER co-operation was launched in 1987. The design of ITER and building of key prototype components was completed in 2001. Negotiations began in November 2001 towards the joint implementation of the project – where it will be built, how the costs and procurement responsibilities will be shared, and how it will be managed and operated. Current ITER participants are Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation.
- Four offers to host ITER have been submitted. The first was from Canada with an offer to host ITER at its Clarington site near Toronto, submitted on June 7, 2001. On June 5, 2002 three additional site offers were submitted, two from the European Union, one at Cadarache, France and one at Vandellós, Spain, and one site from Japan at Rokkasho-mura in Aomori Prefecture. Under the framework of the Negotiations, a group of international experts is conducting the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites.

Upcoming Negotiations Meetings are planned for Barcelona, Spain December 9-10, 2002 and St. Petersburg, Russia February 18-19, 2003.

For more information, contact the preceding list and visit the ITER-related websites:

- www.iter.org
- www.itercanada.com
- <http://www-fusion.ciemat.es/fusion/iter/ITER-eng.html>
- <http://www-fusion-magnetique.cea.fr/>
- www.efda.org
- www.jaeri.go.jp
- <http://www.pref.aomori.jp/iter/index.html>
- www.iterru.ru
- www.mext.go.jp