All the seven ITER Parties have now ratified the ITER Agreement, which was signed in Paris in November last year. On October 24, 2007 the ITER Agreement enters officially into force. The licensing procedure to start construction shall be launched within the coming months in order to start construction at the beginning of 2009. The Host Party, Europe and the Host State, France have already participated together with the ITER Organization (IO) to a public debate to present the project to the neighboring populations (January to May 2006) and other administrative procedures to prepare the site and the roads for heavy loads.

According to host state law on licensing of nuclear facilities, IO will send a set of administrative documents including a safety assessment (called Preliminary Safety Report) and public hearing files including impact studies and risk analysis. The review and public hearing are expected mid-08 to be consistent with the start of nuclear building construction on site.

The latest update of the design took into account of inputs from: -An internal design review managed through eight specialist groups including safety and licensing, -Host State regulations (technical and QA), which should be fulfilled as quoted in the ITER agreement, -Site adaptation including land configuration, environmental conditions and external hazards.

The ITER designers, in close contact with the Participant Teams, are proceeding with the adaptation of the generic design to comply with these new inputs. The codes and standards for all equipment are also under revision in order to fit with the expected requirements, taking into account the procurement sharing agreement and the French regulations.

In the earlier stage of ITER design fusion took benefit from fission knowledge, in the present stage fusion is taking the lead as can be demonstrated by the update of the European mechanical code RCC-MR, now ready and updated to the vacuum vessel design and Host State pressure equipment regulation.