

# ITER update.

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ITER Director General Kaname Ikeda was the leadoff speaker at Fusion Power Associates Annual Meeting and Symposium, December 3-4 in Livermore, CA. Ikeda told the meeting "The idea for ITER originated from the Geneva Superpower Summit in 1985 where Presidents Gorbachev and Reagan proposed an international effort to develop fusion energy." He said the European Union, as host, was to contribute 5/11 of the ITER cost, with the other six Parties (China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the U.S.) each contributing 1/11. The ITER cost was estimated at approximately \$5B Euros in 2007, he said. A Design Review was completed in December 2007. He did not comment on the independent cost review which is currently underway to update the ITER cost and schedule. Currently, ITER operation is scheduled to begin in 2018. Ikeda said that, as of October 31, there were 217 professional staff on site, with 129 of those coming from the EU. By early 2009, staffing would increase to 340, he said. The ITER is designed to produce 500 Megawatts of thermal fusion power with only 50 Megawatts of input heating power to the plasma and "burn" for 300-500 seconds (5-8 minutes), he said. He noted that the ITER Organization has "already signed 12 Procurement Arrangements with the Parties' Domestic Agencies."

The ITER Technical Advisory Group (TAG), chaired by Michel Huguet., met in Caderache November 34 to review the project's progress, schedule and resource requirements. Huguet said the TAG noted "the good progress in key tokamak components such as magnets and vacuum vessel, where design is stabilizing." Regarding the divertor design, Huguet said they thought "it is premature to decide whether the first operation of ITER should be with a carbon reinforced carbon or a tungsten divertor." Remote Handling "remains a concern" for the TAG, he said.

The ITER Council, based on a recommendation from its independent review panel (Briscoe Panel), has recommended that ITER project coordination between the ITER Organization (IO) and the Parties' Domestic Agencies (DA) be strengthened. The IO is implementing this recommendation by forming "Integrated Product Teams." Three teams have formed thus far, for the vacuum vessel, blanket and the power supplies. The Council also approved the implementation of the Test Blanket Module (TBM) program into the ITER Agreement. The TBM was not part of the original ITER Agreement among the Parties. The TBM is designed to demonstrate tritium breeding self-sufficiency technology for future fusion power plants.

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