



New Energy Times

January 16, 2019

Roger Jaspers (Eindhoven University), Chairman, FuseNet Board of Governors
Piero Martin (Università di Padova), FuseNet Board of Governors
Jan Mlynar (Institute for Plasma Physics Prague), Secretary, FuseNet Board of Governors
Robert Geisser (Areva), FuseNet Board of Governors
Evgenia Benova (Sofia University), FuseNet Board of Governors
Roddy Vann (University of York), FuseNet Board of Governors
Ulrich Stroth (Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics), FuseNet Board of Governors
Carlos Hidalgo (CIEMAT), FuseNet Board of Governors
Peter Beyer (Aix-Marseille University), Pending, FuseNet Board of Governors
cc: Marian-Jean Marinescu, Member of the European Parliament, (Horizon Europe)

Dear FuseNet Board of Governors,

Thank you for your letter of Jan. 14, 2019, regarding the sentence on the FuseNet Web page [Node #39](#) that contains the ITER power claim.

If it is your intention to communicate truthfully and transparently for your intended audience, the sentence must stand on its own. It cannot rely on subtleties, nuances, or footnotes. In this case, your audience is the general public, including high school students.

I have been encouraging you to make your best effort to correct your public ITER claims for more than half a year. You have, thus far, demonstrated repeated failure to fully communicate the facts accurately and honestly for your target audience. You have, however, made some progress.

The corrected text shown below, as you described in your Jan. 14, 2019, e-mail, brings you only halfway to an honest and transparent claim — for a student audience — about ITER's expected outcome:

The fusion reactor itself has been designed to produce 500 MW of thermal output power for 50 MW of net injected power, a plasma power amplification factor of ten ($Q=10$).

I have explained the main problem to you four times. I do not mind explaining it a fifth time.

It is not the primary design, nor the mission of ITER, as an overall reactor system, to produce any specific power output. However, the impression that non-experts will get from FuseNet is that the ITER

fusion reactor has been designed to produce 500 MW of net power. This, as you know, is false, considering that the electrical power input for the overall reactor will be at least 300 MW.

If your intent is to be truthful and transparent to your target audience, you need to add three words to the sentence, as follows:

The fusion reactor itself has been designed to produce a plasma with 500 MW of thermal output power for 50 MW of net injected power, a plasma power amplification factor of ten ($Q=10$).

I have advised you that your claims which give the appearance that the 500 MW value is associated with the overall reactor are false and misleading in my letters of June 17, 2018, and November 3, 2018.

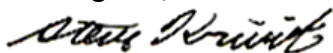
I have advised you that scientific integrity requires you to clearly and transparently associate the 500 MW value with the produced plasma in my letters of November 16, 2018, December 9, 2018, December 13, 2018, and January 5, 2019. Please see the enclosed record of our communications.

Not once has the FuseNet Board of Governors disputed my analysis and understanding of the 500 MW value.

Instead, the FuseNet Board of Governors has made repeated and varied attempts to preserve a phrase that, for your intended audience, is false and misleading: "*The fusion reactor itself has been designed to produce 500 MW.*"

I believe that I have been clear and patient in my efforts to encourage and assist the FuseNet Board of Governors to communicate claims about ITER accurately and transparently for its student audience.

Kind regards,



Steven Krivit

Publisher and Senior Editor, *New Energy Times*