

U.S. Department of Energy



Office of Science

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Update on ITER and other Recent Events

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Advisory Committee
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ITER Agreement Initialing and the Way Forward

- On May 24th, I joined the other six ITER parties in initialing the ITER Joint Implementation Agreement (Agreement), signaling the conclusion of negotiations.
- We will submit the Agreement to “lie before” Congress for 120 days, as required by Section 972 (c) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- We have kept Congress apprised of the status of the negotiations and have noted their comments during the process
- We are in the process of circulating the Agreement throughout the Administration to obtain authority to sign the Agreement.



ITER: Next Steps

- The parties are expected to sign the Agreement on November 29, 2006 which confirms the multilateral commitment for ITER.
- After signing, the Agreement will be ratified and formally accepted in early 2007.
- After ratification, the Agreement will enter into force thereby establishing the ITER Organization, anticipated in mid 2007. The parties will apply the provisions of the Agreement in the interim between signing and entry into force through a formal process known as the Provisional Application period.
- We will need to quickly ramp up our contributions to ITER, including personnel and other common costs and begin to award long-lead procurement contracts after the 120 day “lie before Congress” period concludes.
- We will have high-level participation in the ITER Preparatory Committee meeting in July and for subsequent ITER Interim Council and ITER Council meetings.



Plan for Participation of the U.S. scientists in the ITER Program

- The ITER Project will provide resources to the U.S. scientific community to pursue burning plasma and technology studies;
- You have received and discussed a draft Plan from the U.S. Burning Plasma Organization this morning;
- We look forward to your comments on the Plan, which we will submit to the Congress, as required by the EPAct.



Other Items of Significance

- The House Appropriations Committee maintained funding for FES at the President's 2007 request level. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill passed the House overwhelmingly.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet scheduled consideration of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.
- On May 26th, I was confirmed in my new position as Under Secretary for Science, a position established in Section 1006 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
 - I hope to continue to improve the visibility and promote the importance of science within the Department and for the Nation's economic competitiveness and energy security.
- We are working to fill the slots within FES. In the meantime, Jim Decker is doing a wonderful job as the Acting Associate Director. Jim will discuss this during his presentation.