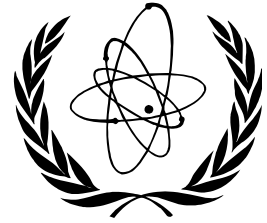


ITER CTA NEWSLETTER



No. 9, JUNE 2002

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

ISSN 1683-0555

FOURTH ITER NEGOTIATIONS MEETING

Site offers from European Union and Japan join Canada's

by Dr. J.-P. Rager, European Commission

The 11th Century Château de Cadarache, adjoining the Cadarache research centre of the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique (CEA) in the south of France, was the venue for the fourth ITER Negotiations Meeting, which took place on 4 - 6 June 2002. The European Union hosted the meeting, which was also attended by delegations from Canada, Japan and the Russian Federation.

The Delegations were welcomed by Dr. Achilleas Mitsos, Director General for Research of the European Commission, Dr. Pascal Colombani, Administrator General of the CEA, and Dr. René Pellat, the French High Commissioner for Atomic Energy. In an introductory session, Prof. David King, Principal Scientific Advisor to the UK Government, addressed the delegates, commenting in particular on the place of ITER in a "fast track" approach to fusion power.



Participants in the Meeting

In the Delegations' opening comments:

- The RF Delegation confirmed the high priority accorded under the federal programme of 2002-2005 to work on ITER, which is undertaken in close collaboration with industry, to prepare for ITER construction.
- The EU Delegation reported on the adoption of the sixth research Framework Programme on 3 June and on provisions foreseen for fusion in the Euratom Programme. The Delegation also reported that it was now authorized to transmit offers of potential candidates for European sites proposed by Member States and to negotiate financing and cost-sharing schemes as well as transitional arrangements; it was consequently transmitting to the other Participants offers of potential candidate sites for ITER at Vandellós in Spain and Cadarache in France.
- The JA Delegation announced a decision by its Cabinet on 31 May 2002 to offer a site for ITER at Rokkasho-mura in Aomori, in the northern part of Honshu Island. This decision followed the conclusion of the Council for Science and Technology Policy on the ITER Project, which had suggested the importance of Japanese hosting of ITER and the principle of cost sharing reflecting respective economic strength.
- The CA Delegation welcomed the new site offers and the extended negotiating mandates announced by the EU and JA, and looked forward to starting the process of joint assessment of the three new proposals as well as the existing CA offer. The Delegation reported on discussions of fusion and ITER that had taken place on the occasion of the recent G-8 meeting of Energy Ministers, including a policy speech by the US Secretary for Energy, Spencer Abraham, and referred to the importance of engaging large electricity utilities in the development of fusion as an energy source.



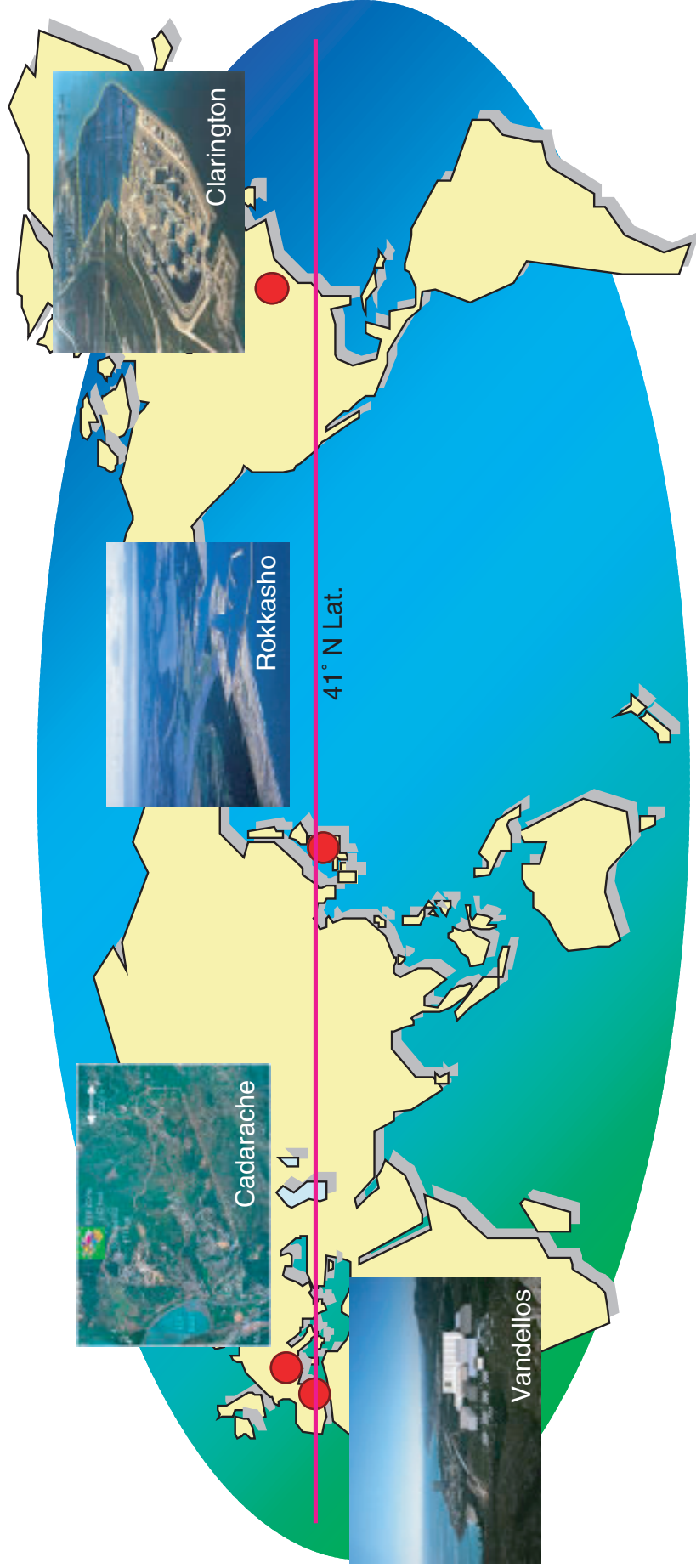
At the Introductory session. From left: Prof. King, Dr. Mitsos and Dr. Colombani

Experts from the respective Parties gave summary presentations on each of the new offers. The Negotiators then acknowledged the three new proposals, to be added to the site offer made by Canada in June 2001, and instructed their standing Sub-Group to organize and initiate the process of joint assessment of specific site offers on the basis of an agreed framework of information. The Sub-Group will report on progress to the next Negotiations meeting.

The negotiators also discussed the development of Transitional Arrangements that are agreed as necessary, in particular to keep joint international activity going so as to maintain the single design authority. The Negotiators supported a proposal to initiate the arrangements under IAEA auspices within the framework of an exchange of letters, following the approach used to establish the current ITER Co-ordinated Technical Activities.

In light of the new developments, the negotiators recognized the need to consider holding a small number of additional meetings during the course of 2003.

FOUR CANDIDATE SITES FOR ITER



Other matters discussed at the meeting included:

- issues relating to the management of the ITER Legal Entity, including staffing and the approach to procurement,
- qualitative information on potential Parties' preferences for contributions to ITER according to various siting scenarios,
- a third draft of the agreement on joint implementation of ITER and input on its related instruments.



Meeting in Session

The Negotiators charged their Sub-Group to organize and initiate, at its next meeting, the joint site assessment process, with the setting up of an expert group.

Heads of delegations were unanimous in expressing their optimism at the progress made.

The next Meeting of the Negotiators is scheduled for 17th-18th September in Toronto. Further Negotiations meetings in 2002 are scheduled in October (Aomori, Japan) and in December (Barcelona, Spain).

MEETING OF THE ITER CTA PROJECT BOARD AT CADARACHE

by Dr. V. Vlasenkov, Project Board Secretary

The meeting of the ITER CTA Project Board took place on the occasion of the Negotiations Meeting (N-4) and it was held at Cadarache, France on 3 - 4 June 2002. All the Project Board Members (except for the Canadian Team Leader) and experts from Canada, the European Union, Japan, the Russian Federation and the International Team (IT) attended the meeting chaired by Academician E. Velikhov.

The Japanese Participants Team (PT) informed the Project Board that the Japanese Government has come to the conclusion that Japan will participate in the ITER project and will propose to the ITER Negotiators its candidate site, Rokkasho in Aomori prefecture. The current status of the preferred procurement allocation has been presented by the JAPT to the Japanese industry. The JA members for TBWG were selected and nominated.

The Canadian PT is continuing its site specific activities and is forming a team for the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites (JASS) process. It has also undertaken additional parametric studies on the tritium fuel cycle to support the IT.

The European Union PT reported that work is continuing on R&D, licensing support and site specific activities, as well as on specifications for high priority items.

The Russian PT reported the ongoing work on ITER project according to the National Fusion Programme. Minatom, together with a private company, has put efforts into increasing the production of the superconductor.



Participants in the Meeting

Finally, the IT reported its activities on the Work Programme focusing on the following major items:

- preparation of the configuration control tools needed for the construction phase;
- development of specifications for high priority items (Vacuum Vessel, Magnet, Building and facilities) and improvement of the ITER design, including Vacuum Vessel support structure, Vacuum Vessel-Divertor interface, cooling pipes, in-vessel diagnostics engineering, magnet safety analysis, etc.

The IT Leader once again stressed the issue of the limited availability of the Russian and Japanese experts for ITER technical meetings and the still outstanding problem of coverage of RF IT members' travelling expenses.

The Project Board took note of the Negotiators Special Sub-Group's third meeting (NSSG-3) document, on the Parties' Preference of Contribution in Case of the Three Sites (CA, EU, JA). It also recognized the necessity to elaborate further technical guidelines and suggestions with regards to the procurement system of contributions in kind and in cash so as to verify the technical understanding of the procurement allocation. The IT Leader was requested to develop preliminary guidelines in a document to be issued before the next NSSG meeting.

The Project Board stressed the need for a comprehensive technical basis for procurement allocation in conjunction with a full appreciation of the ITER procurement system, and suggested that the Negotiators set up an ad hoc group to consider these matters in sufficient detail.

The next Project Board meeting is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Negotiations Meeting N-5 Meeting in Toronto in September 2002.

Items to be considered for inclusion in the ITER CTA Newsletter should be submitted to B. Kuvshinnikov, ITER Office, IAEA, Wagramer Strasse 5, P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, or Facsimile: +43 1 2633832, or e-mail: c.basaldella@iaea.org (phone +43 1 260026392).