

UC Regents approves International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) agreement with UCSD

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UC REGENTS APPROVES ITER AGREEMENT WITH UCSD

The Board of Regents of the University of California today voted to authorize approval of a cooperative agreement permitting the University of California, San Diego to provide administrative services for the central design headquarters of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

As outlined in the proposed agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy, UCSD would provide the facilities and support staff to the visiting scientists and technical team who would study the feasibility, and develop the design for, an experimental thermonuclear reactor.

"The University welcomes the opportunity to participate and assist in the operation of the ITER project," said UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "We will make every effort to accommodate the needs of this group of world-class scientists."

Among other things, UCSD will provide overall project management, some library services, and relocation assistance for visiting scientists for the projected six-year life of the project. John Woods, associate vice chancellor for resource management, will direct this effort on behalf of UCSD.

Under the agreement, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) will provide the bulk of program services, including lease of facility, facility management, staffing and purchase of equipment and supplies.

Pending formal approval of the ITER project by the project's participants, an international group of approximately 200-300 scientists and technical staff is expected to work on the ITER project in San Diego, including the project's director.

Negotiators for the project's participants -- United States, Soviet Union, Japan and the European Communities -- met in Moscow this week and named Paul-Henri Rebut the "likely nominee" to direct the ITER project. Rebut is the leader of the Joint European Torus (JET) lab in Culham, England that recently produced unusually large amounts of energy in a relatively sustained controlled fusion reaction.

The Moscow meeting, held November 14-15, opened with expressions of congratulations to the JET project and Rebut.

Other "likely nominees" named for key management positions include: P. Rutherford, of the United States, to chair the technical advisory committee; E. P. Velikhov, of the Soviet Union, as council chair; and M. Yoshikawa, of Japan, council co-chair and chair of the management advisory committee. The negotiators also confirmed their earlier understandings that the multinational design team would be located in three co-centers: San Diego; Garching, Germany; and Naka, Japan.

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