

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Design Center to be located in Torrey Pines Science Park

November 22, 1991

Media Contacts: Warren R. Froelich, UCSD, (619) 534-8564 Linda Bledsoe, Equitable Real Estate, (714) 263-9544

ITER DESIGN CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN TORREY PINES SCIENCE PARK

Torrey Pines Science Park in La Jolla, Calif. has been chosen as the U.S. site for the design headquarters of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a four-party activity that includes the U.S., U.S.S.R., the European Community and Japan.

Under an agreement signed with Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, the park's landlord, about 32,000 square feet of space will be leased for the ITER program at 11025 North Torrey Pines Road. The group has an option for an additional 15,787 square feet in the science and research/office park after the first 18 months.

The lease extends six years, or the amount of time projected to design a reactor to harness fusion energy -- the energy that powers the sun.

"Torrey Pines Science Park offers an excellent site for the ITER Design Center, because of its location near UCSD and other research resources in La Jolla," said Maurice Sabado, manager of SAIC's ITER staff.

Pending formal approval of the ITER project by the project's participants, an international group of approximately 150-250 scientists and technical staff from the four parties is expected to work on the ITER project in San Diego, including the project's director. The San Diego design center is responsible for the design integration of the entire project.

As outlined last summer by the participant's negotiators, the design itself will be conducted by a multinational team located at three co-centers: San Diego; Garching, Germany; and Naka, Japan. The entire effort is under the ITER Council, chaired by the Soviet Union and co-chaired by Japan, will be responsible for monitoring the project's progress.

In addition, the project will be supported by an International Technical Advisory Committee, chaired by the U.S., and a Management Advisory Committee, chaired by the Japanese. The ITER Council will be headquartered in Moscow.

San Diego was offered as a site for the ITER engineering design activity by a combination of parties, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the State of California and a San Diego consortium led by UCSD and several local industries.

Science Applications International Corporation, one of those industries, will provide the overall management for the building and support staff in San Diego.

Aside from its integration responsibilities for the engineering design, San Diego and the Torrey Pines Science Center also will be the site for numerous conferences, workshops and meetings related to ITER over the six-year period.

(November 22, 1991)