

Charles C. Baker, U.S. home team leader for ITER Fusion project moves to UCSD

July 11, 1994

Media Contact: Warren R. Froelich, (619) 534-8564

U.S. HOME TEAM LEADER FOR ITER FUSION PROJECT MOVES TO UCSD

Charles C. Baker, U.S. home team leader for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project, has moved his operations from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to the University of California, San Diego.

Baker will be associate director of fusion energy with UCSD's School of Engineering, reporting to the school's dean, Robert Conn. His staff ultimately will include about 10 people.

"Since fusion research is my own area of expertise, I am particularly delighted by this successful recruitment," Dean Conn said.

"Dr. Baker's move is significant because it locates the United States research unit for ITER near the San Diego members of the international design team (already hosted by UCSD)," he added. ITER Project headquarters are in San Diego. There are two other design co-centers in Garching, Germany and Nako, Japan.

Baker, who previously was employed as a senior physicist in the Fusion Division of General Atomics in San Diego, said he moved back to be closer to the international co-center for ITER.

"I thought I could do a better job for the national program by being located here, and being able to interface more directly with the international team," Baker said.

ITER is a joint, international undertaking to develop the design for an experimental facility to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of magnetic fusion energy. The collaboration includes the United States, Japan, Russia and the European Union. The U.S. Department of Energy funds the U.S. participation in ITER. Baker has worked with the ITER project since 1988, and became U.S. home team leader in November 1992.

Baker's responsibilities as home team leader include coordinating all U.S. work on ITER and assuring that the U.S. carries out all work assigned by the international team. The U.S. home team includes more than a 15 industries, several national laboratories, and almost a dozen universities including UCSD.

Prior to joining the Oak Ridge laboratory in May 1989, Baker served as director of the Fusion Power Program at the Argonne National Laboratory from 1977 to 1989. He is the recipient of the DOE Distinguished Associate Award for his leadership of the U.S. Technical Program Analysis Activity (TPA) from 1985 to 1987, and is a past member of the Magnetic Fusion Advisory Committee where he served as chairman of the panel on long-range technology.

He currently is an editor of Fusion Engineering and Design, a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, and is involved in various committees and reviews in the fusion energy community.

Baker's academic training includes a B.S. degree in applied mathematics and physics, a M.S. degree in nuclear engineering, and a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering with a minor in physics, all from the University of Wisconsin.

(July 11, 1994)