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ITER Council reappoints Dr Bernard Bigot to second term as Director-General

ST PAUL-LEZ-DURANCE, France (28 January 2019) – The ITER Council has reappointed Dr Bernard Bigot, Director-General of the ITER Organization, to a second five-year term, extending his tenure as Director-General from March 2020 through March 2025. Considering the strong performance of the ITER Project in recent years under Dr Bigot's leadership, and the coming challenges as the project moves further into Assembly and Installation Phase, the Council believes continuity of project leadership is a vital measure toward ensuring continued success.

Earlier this month, the ITER Council took a unanimous decision to offer a second five-year term to the current Director-General. Since March 2015, when Dr Bigot took over as head of the ITER Organization, the project has adhered rigorously to an Action Plan to put construction, manufacturing and project management on track for success. The result has been dramatically improved performance, as reflected by adherence to cost and schedule and repeated confirmation by external reviews. The project recently reached 60% completion through First Plasma in 2025, a key milestone toward full fusion power by 2035.

In a message to ITER Organization staff announcing his acceptance of the reappointment, Dr Bigot acknowledged the heavy workload and responsibilities that go with the Director-General position, particularly in view of the crucial challenges ahead: the finalization of construction, the arrival on site of many critical-path components, the assembly and installation of all components and systems, and preparations for commissioning for First Plasma. "I am fully aware of the challenge of the ITER Organization Director-General position and its responsibilities for the ITER Project to move forward on scope, schedule and cost," he wrote to the seven ITER Members and ITER Organization staff. "You have my assurance of my continued commitment to do everything in my power to ensure the success of the ITER Project."

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