

# **ITER Press Release**

## **BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS RELEASE**

Fusion - the process by which two light atomic nuclei combine to form a heavier one - is the energy source of the Sun and the stars. On Earth, fusion power has the potential to make a large-scale contribution to a future sustainable energy supply. Fusion will deliver safe and environmentally benign energy, using abundant and widely available fuel, without the production of greenhouse gases.

Scientists and engineers around the world are carrying out fusion research with the aim of constructing an electricity-producing fusion power plant as



## **Safety**

The fusion process itself is not a chain reaction, so there is no possibility of a 'runaway' reaction. The fusion process can be stopped within seconds by turning off the external fuel supply, which means that a fusion power plant can be shut down safely and very quickly.

One of the fusion fuels, deut