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## COUNCIL ASSESSES PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES AS ITER MOVES FORWARD

*ST PAUL-LEZ-DURANCE, France (19 June 2014)— Convening for its fourteenth meeting in St Paul-lez-Durance, France, the ITER Council reviewed the progress of ITER construction and manufacturing. The ITER Organization reported on the arrival of components and the Council agreed on necessary changes to meet the challenges of construction and assembly. The Members discussed the current status of their activities and procurements as well as the need to finalize an updated schedule. ITER, under construction in the south of France, will be the world's largest fusion machine.*

On 18 and 19 June 2014, the governing body of the ITER Organization convened in St. Paul-lez-Durance, France. This two-day meeting brought together senior representatives from all seven ITER Members<sup>1</sup> China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States<sup>1</sup> under the chairmanship of Robert Iotti (US).

The Council noted the progress of ITER construction: since the ITER Council in November 2013 the basemat under the Diagnostics Building has been completed; the steel reinforcement for the Tokamak Building slab is nearly completed; the site workshop for the cryostat has been completed; and the ITER Headquarters extension will be ready for occupation in October 2014. The main buildings and site infrastructure contracts are now in place and before the end of the year work will start on the walls of the Assembly and Site Services buildings. A 10,000m<sup>2</sup> storage warehouse is planned for the arrival of major components.

All seven Members reported progress in the manufacturing of key components including superconducting coils, the vacuum vessel and the cryostat. The Members discussed the current status of their activities and procurements and the need to finalize an updated schedule. The Council stressed that further effort must be made to stem schedule slippage and directed that the ITER Organization and the Members take necessary measures.

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when light atomic nuclei fuse together to form heavier ones, a large amount of energy is released. Fusion research is aimed at developing a safe, abundant and environmentally responsible energy source.

ITER is also a first-of-a-kind global collaboration. Europe will contribute almost half of the costs of its const