ITER—designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power—will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility. Fusion is the process that powers the Sun and the stars: 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 is contributing almost half of the costs of its construction, while the other six Members to this joint international venture (China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA), are contributing equally to the rest. The ITER Project is under construction in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, in the south of France.

The ITER Council approved the proposal for technical collaboration with Kazakhstan's National Nuclear Center on the basis of Article 19 of the ITER Agreement, which reads: "… the ITER Organization may, in furtherance of its purpose, cooperate with other international organizations and institutions, non-parties, and with organizations and institutions of non-parties, and conclude agreements or arrangements with them to this effect. The detailed arrangements for such cooperation shall be determined in each case by the Council."

For more information on the ITER Project, visit: http://www.iter.org/

The National Nuclear Center, located in the city of Kurchatov, eastern Kazakhstan, employs over 1,600 scientists and researchers in a number of specialized domains (the development of atomic energy, radioecology, nuclear physics…). The KTM tokamak was designed in 2000 to model plasma-material interaction under the conditions expected at ITER—the first technological tokamak for reactor