Background information on the ITER Remote Handling system contract

What is the scope of the contract?
Fusion for Energy has signed a contract for the Divertor Remote Handling Framework for the remote handling equipment that will be required to install, maintain, and recover the diverse components of the ITER Tokamak during its operational life.

What is the duration of the contract?
The planned duration of the contract is seven years.

What is the value of the contract?
The overall value of the contract is in the range of 40 million EUR.

To whom is the contract awarded?
The contract is awarded to Assystem grouping, which brings together Assystem, Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE), Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd (SMD), Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) and Tampere University of Technology (TUT).

Assystem is an international Engineering and Innovation Consultancy. As a key participant in the industry for more than 45 years, Assystem supports its customers in developing their products and managing their capital expenditure throughout the product life cycle. Assystem employs more than 11,000 people worldwide and reported €871 million in revenue in 2013. A leading European independent nuclear engineering specialist for 45 years, Assystem generates 20% of the Group's total revenue in nuclear and employs 1,500 experts.

The Company is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris.

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Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) is the UK’s national laboratory for fusion research. CCFE (formerly known as UKAEA Culham) is based at Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire, and is owned and operated by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

In addition, CCFE hosts the world's largest magnetic fusion experiment, JET (Joint European Torus), on behalf of its European partners. The JET facilities are collectively used by European fusion scientists, coordinated by a programme management unit at Culham. JET’s situated next to the UK fusion laboratory. Around 500 people are employed at the JET facilities, with around 350 European scientists visiting each year to conduct research, and many from outside Europe.

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Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd (SMD) is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of remote intervention equipment, operating in hazardous environments worldwide. With a strong and unique heritage and a proven track record in subsea engineering, SMD has grown to be the number one independent designer and manufacturer of work class and specialist subsea Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) worldwide. SMD is committed to quality and safety throughout the business ensuring that all practices are carried out in the safest reasonable manner and all staff are educated in the requirements of the quality system.

SMD has a dedicated Research and Development team focusing on developing new technologies, products and systems. A close relationship with customers allows SMD to provide the best technically and financially viable engineering solution, enabling customers to meet their goals.

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Tampere University of Technology (TUT) conducts research in the fields of technology and architecture and provides higher education based on this research.

The University combines a strong tradition of research in the fields of natural sciences and engineering with research related to industry and business. Technology is the key to addressing global challenges. TUT generates research knowledge and competence for the benefit of society.

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VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) is a globally networked multitechnological contract research organization providing high-end technology solutions and innovation services. VTT enhances their customers’ competitiveness, thereby creating prerequisites for society’s sustainable development, employment, and wellbeing. VTT is a part of the Finnish innovation system under the domain of the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. VTT is a not-for-profit organisation. VTT has ISO9001:2008 certificate.

VTT experts have contributed to fusion energy technologies during 20 years and divertor system technologies during 10 years. VTT also hosts the Divertor Test Platform 2 facility in the Tampere laboratory. It brings together divertor remote handling experts from TUT, VTT and abroad.

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