



1 August 2011, Barcelona

The ITER construction site is getting ready to welcome a workforce of 3,000 people

The contract that will transform the ITER platform into one of Europe's biggest engineering sites has been signed between Fusion for Energy (F4E) and COMSA EMTE, a Spanish company with a proven track record in the field of construction. The objective of the contract, which is expected to run for at least one year and with a budget of approximately 11 million EUR, is to make the necessary adaptations on the ITER site in order to develop roads for the transport of material and equipment, extend power supply and water distribution, deliver the required amenities for a workforce of 3,000 people and streamline all protocols for safety, security and access to the site.

It is envisaged that over the next eight years, 39 buildings and facilities will be built on the ITER site. Construction already started last year with the erection of the Poloidal Field Coils building and the excavation of the Tokamak complex, bringing together a workforce of 275 people. By late 2012, the personnel directly involved in construction is expected to grow by roughly four times exceeding 1,000 people and by mid-2014 it is expected to triple reaching its maximum capacity of 3,000. The ITER site will therefore have to be redeveloped to accommodate the needs of the rapidly growing workforce and guarantee an optimal use of space to the different companies operating on the ground in order to carry out the construction of all facilities in parallel and on time.

The planning and development of a road network connecting traffic lanes, bus routes, pedestrian ways and parking, is estimated to be in the range of 35,000m² and is expected to be one of the first noticeable changes on the site. A parking area reaching the capacity of 700 spaces in total together with brand new fencing, gates and external lighting will also be one of the site's improvements. An integrated system managing access to the site, putting an end to different protocols, will be deployed together with a new safety and security system. The wider distribution of power supply, potable water and provisions for both surface and waste water drainage will be carried out.

In order to meet the requirements of different contractors in terms of provisional offices, amenities, dining rooms and storage for equipment and materials COMSA EMTE will be in charge for redeveloping these areas accordingly. In parallel, a central canteen catering up to 1,500 meals per day will operate together an infirmary. Also in line with the health and safety recommendations, a helipad will be available.

Background information:

MEMO: F4E signs ITER site adaptation contract.

Latest images from the ITER site now available on

<http://www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu/mediacorner/imagegallery.aspx?id=29>

Latest clips from the ITER site now available on

<http://www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu/mediacorner/multimedia.aspx>

Fusion for Energy

Fusion for Energy (F4E) is the European Union's organisation for Europe's contribution to ITER. One of the main tasks of F4E is to work together with European industry, SMEs and research organisations to develop and provide a wide range of high technology components together with engineering, maintenance and support services for the ITER project.

F4E supports fusion R&D initiatives through the Broader Approach Agreement signed with Japan and prepares for the construction of demonstration fusion reactors (DEMO).

F4E was created by a decision of the Council of the European Union as an independent legal entity and was established in April 2007 for a period of 35 years. Its offices are in Barcelona, Spain.

<http://www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu>

ITER

ITER is a first-of-a-kind global collaboration. It will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility and is designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power.

Fusion is the process which 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, limitless and environmentally responsible energy source.

Europe will contribute almost half of the costs of its construction, while the other six Members to this joint international venture (China, Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA), will contribute equally to the rest.

The site of the ITER project is in Cadarache, in the South of France.

<http://www.iter.org/>

For F4E media enquiries contact:

Aris Apollonatos + 34 93 3201833