What is the European contribution to ITER?

What is “in-kind” contribution?

Most of the components that make up ITER will be delivered by the ITER parties “in kind”. In other words, the ITER parties will sign contracts with their industry and research organisations to build parts of the ITER experiment and provide the components directly, rather than contributing cash. The advantage of the “in-kind” contributions rather than cash is that the contributions do not depend upon the value of the currency in the respective countries.

What is the role of F4E?

The European Union, as host party for ITER, will contribute up to 50% of the costs and all other parties will each contribute up to about 10%. Europe’s contribution to ITER is managed by Fusion for Energy (F4E). F4E is responsible for the preparation and coordination of the design, R&D and fabrication of most of the high-technology components that are required to construct ITER. F4E collaborates with European industry and research organisations to achieve this goal.

How is the “in-kind” contribution organised?

According to the ITER Treaty, F4E is responsible for a number of “in-kind” contributions. F4E receives a budget from the European Union and organises the procurement work based on an annual work programme. F4E launches procurement procedures to award contracts to European industry and research organisations in order to develop and manufacture the components which are then delivered to the ITER site.