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PROGRAMME MANAGER OFFICE

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To whom it may concern

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Support letter for new Plasma educational Laboratory

Hereby, I would like to express my strong support for the proposal of the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering of the Czech Technical University (FNSPE CTU) for a new plasma laboratory designed for education of advanced students in fusion science and technology. I understand that the proposal is submitted in response to the Call for Proposals on "Infrastructures for Research Oriented Education", launched by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic in the frame of the Operational Programme "Research, Development and Education".

Nuclear fusion research has a strong and successful tradition of a broad scientific and technological cooperation which is, amongst others, evidenced by the mere facts that even in the cold war times there has been an active collaboration between East and West (i.e. across the Iron Curtain); the international ITER project that is presently being realised in Southern-France is the largest scientific project worldwide; in Europe 28 countries are involved in nuclear fusion research. The EUROfusion consortium coordinates the R&D in the field of fusion science and technology in Europe. As EUROfusion we explicitly recognise the key importance of education and training in fusion science and technology in support of ITER and future fusion power plants. A recent survey in the field of Human Resources in the field of fusion research has indicated that for the expected future increase in staffing needs it is important to strengthen the educational activities in the field.

The EUROfusion consortium has taken note of the systematic and successful efforts of the FNSPE CTU in the field of education of future fusion experts, with a significant impact on the European level. Remote experiments on the GOLEM tokamak in Prague are in the curriculum of several European summer schools in the field. Last year, FNSPE organised in Prague the successful FuseNet PhD event for 130 doctoral students in nuclear fusion coming from across whole Europe. This event was possible thanks to a grant from EUROfusion. Many former students of FNSPE continue their careers in fusion either in their own country (e.g. on the COMPASS tokamak) or abroad, while foreign students (e.g. from Serbia) have developed expertise and enthusiasm in fusion research at FNSPE and IPP Prague.





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Recently, EUROfusion has asked FuseNet to perform an assessment of the fusion quality of the PhD programmes in the various European countries. In the Final assessment report, issued by an independent panel the doctoral education in the Czech Republic achieved the highest level category, but at the same time it identified low availability of academic staff. I consider it very welcome that the proposed laboratory project also addresses this issue and plans to involve new academic staff at the Czech Technical University in support of its excellent fusion education programme.

The abovementioned assessment report also strongly recommends studying the possibilities of a deeper involvement of students and academic staff from neighbouring countries - in particular from Slovakia and Poland - in the excellent fusion research environment in the Czech Republic. In this respect I believe that the investment into the plasma laboratory for education in Prague will prove to be widely used and sustainable. This is further supported by the fact that the EUROfusion consortium fosters doctoral education in fusion across Europe and financially supports student mobility programmes via the FuseNet Association.

Yours sincerely,

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