Toward the Realization of Fusion Energy —

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Nuclear fusion is the energy source of the sun and stars, in which light atomic nuclei fuse together, releasing a large amount of energy.

Fusion power can be generated on Earth using two isotopes of hydrogen, deuterium and tritium, in the unique environment created in a fusion device.

We are conducting research and development to create "A Sun on Earth", which is favorable from the viewpoint of the environment and safety.

OST National Institutes for Quanatum and Radiological Science and Technology

JT-60SA: Core Device in Nuclear Fusion Research

Fusion reactor fuel is in a plasma state

The nuclear fusion reaction of deuterium and tritium produces helium and neutrons and releases a large amount of energy: 1 gram of deuterium and tritium releases energy equivalent to 8 tons of oil. However, it is necessary for nuclei to collide at the relatively high speed of 1000 km/s, beyond which the mutual repulsive force of two, positively charged nuclei is overcome. The most promising method to achieve fusion is to heat the fuel to a temperature exceeding 100 million degrees to facilitate the fusion of nuclei at high speeds. At such a high temperature, the fuel is fully ionized, and nuclei and electrons move freely. This is called a plasma state.



Progress in Nuclear Fusion Research

The study of stable confinement of ultra-high-temperature plasmas started in the 1950s. Tokamak devices prompted significant progress in magnetic confinement research. The tokamak features a nest of toroidal magnetic field lines produced by external magnets and an electric current in the plasma. In the 1990s, large tokamaks were constructed worldwide (JT-60 in Japan, TFTR in USA and JET in EU), reflecting intense, world-scale development in fusion research. Remarkable progress has raised expectations for realizing reactor-relevant, high-temperature and high-density plasmas. Based on these achievements, the ITER device is now under construction at Saint-Paul-lez-Durance in France to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy in a framework of international collaboration among Japan, EU, Russia, USA, China, Korea, and India.

Mission of JT-60SA

The JT-60 tokamak in the Naka Fusion Research Institute, the forerunner of JT-60SA, was one of the largest tokamak devices in the world. During operations from 1985 to 2008, JT-60 continued to produce remarkable scientific results in the form of world records and findings to become a global leader in fusion research. JT-60 made a particularly significant contribution to the design of ITER through its development of steady-state operations with a high fusion output. Building upon the results of steady-state research in JT-60, JT-60SA will play the following roles after modifying JT-60 to a superconducting device with an advanced control system for enhancing plasma stability.

Support ITER

JT-60SA will provide significant support to ITER research: prior to ITER experiments, JT-60SA will confine high-temperature deuterium plasmas at a break-even* level for long durations, the results of which will be incorporated into ITER experiments.

*Condition in which external heating power to produce a high-temperature plasma and

Supplement ITER toward DEMO

One of the missions of DEMO is to demonstrate that fusion can be an economically competitive and reliable energy source. JT-60SA will demonstrate a sustained (~100 s), high-pressure plasma which exceeds the target of ITER, thereby providing further evidence of the feasibility of fusion as an energy source for a competitive economy.

Develop human resources

As the only one large tokamak in Japan, JT-60SA will provide opportunities for researchers and engineers to cultivate their skills to become key contributors to global fusion research endeavors such as the ITER project.



Large, Advanced Superconducting Tokamak for Stable Confinement of High Pressure Plasmas





Synergy of technological development and physics research supporting JT-60SA

Manufacture of huge, superconducting magnets for confining high-temperature plasmas

Development of high heat-resistant components



Manufacture of large components with high accuracy

Vacuum vessel (Japan)

Cryostat base (EU)



Development of systems for plasma heating to over 10 keV Neutral beam injector

Radio-frequency tube





Computational analyses of plasma behavior

Complicated phenomena observed in fusion plasmas were reproduced by supercomputer calculations. The striped pattern (right) shows theoretically predicted plasma flows, enabling to clarify the role of temperature profiles in plasma confinement.



JT-60 results leading the world's fusion research







Inside of the JT-60U vacuum vessel during maintenance (left) and experiments (right)

Center of Excellence for Domestic and Japan-Europe Collaboration on Fusion Research

Joint management by Japan and Europe

The JT-60SA project is a joint endeavor of the ITER Satellite Tokamak Program, part of the JA-EU Broader Approach, and the Japanese national program. The work program, approved by the steering committee formed by the governments of JA and EU, directs the JA and EU Implementing Agencies collaboratively to share responsibility for manufacturing components. Views of the domestic community are reflected

in negotiations between the EU and JA.



Development of JT-60SA Research Plan

More than 400 researchers in Japan and Europe, mainly young researchers who are in charge of experiments on JT-60SA and ITER, are formulating the JT-60SA Research Plan for ITER and DEMO.



Domestic community

Ver. 4.0 was completed in September 2018 by 435 coauthors : 174 from 18 research institutes including universities in Japan, and 261 from 33 research institutes in 14 countries in EU.







EU-Japan Technical Coordination Meeting

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Photos of EU facility/component on page 5: Courtesy of F4E Photos on front page: the Sun (NASA), M83 (Courtesy of Dr. K. Okano)