

To the attention of the WEST Governing Board Members

Cadarache, December 14th, 2015
 Subject : Participation to the WEST scientific program
 O/Ref. : CEA/DSM/IRFM/DIR/2015-240

Dear WEST Governing Board Members,

As discussed during the 2015 meeting of the WEST Governing Board, the preparation for the WEST experimental campaigns is ongoing, and the first plasma is targeted for fall 2016.

Now that the construction phase is coming to an end, I look forward to our **common scientific exploitation of the WEST platform**, and would like to invite your experts to take part in the scientific program. In particular, I want to draw your attention on the coming **call for experimental proposals**, to be launched in January 2016.

This call will be based on the WEST Research Plan, as presented during the 2015 WEST Governing Board meeting, and will cover the first phase of the WEST exploitation (2016-2017). High priority research areas have been identified by the Task Force leaders in charge of preparing the program, and are listed in the table below.

Testing ITER grade Plasma Facing Components (PFCs) (TF leader : E. Tsitrone)	Towards long pulse H mode operation (TF leader : C. Bourdelle)
Heat load pattern characterization Wall protection system Test of ITER grade PFCs @10 MW/m ² , tile shaping Operation with damaged / misaligned PFC, melting	Robust RF heating scenarios Tungsten source studies and control H mode characterization Preparatory work for long pulse
He campaign (plasma wall interactions + plasma core physics)	

The call will also be open for associated scientific modelling and analysis activity. Positions such as session leaders, scientific coordinators or responsible officers for diagnostic or exploitation of other sub systems will be open to international collaborators. The training for international session leaders will be provided from 2017 on.

This call for proposals will be followed by the first **WEST Experiment Planning Meeting** (18-20 April 2016), where the selection of experimental proposals and a timeline for the 2016-2017 WEST experimental campaign will be discussed. The output of this meeting will be submitted for approval to the 3rd **WEST Governing Board meeting**, planned in early May 2016. A **call for participation** will then be issued in June 2016, to provide the detailed manning for the first WEST experimental campaigns.

To ensure an optimal collaborative exploitation of the WEST platform, I would therefore like to encourage you to **plan ahead for the participation of your institution** through the aforementioned steps. For all of the above, it would be highly appreciated if you could nominate a **contact person before 31st of January 2016** as an entry point for the contribution of your institution to the WEST scientific program.