

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2017-18 WENDELSTEIN 7-X EXPERIMENTAL CAMPAIGN OP1.2(A) AND (B)

Dear colleagues,

The first experimental campaign (OP1.1) of Wendelstein 7-X (W7-X) has been successfully concluded on March 10th, 2016. At present, the device is being upgraded for the second campaign, consisting of two parts OP1.2(a) and OP1.2(b). The main modifications are the installation of an uncooled divertor, additional diagnostics and upgrades of the heating systems. The main objectives of the next campaign are the assessment of aspects of stellarator optimization and the preparation of high-density, high-power steady-state operation. The latter is expected to start in 2020 after actively cooled divertor and plasma facing components have been installed.

OP 1.2(a) is scheduled to start end of July 2017. Considering the technical risks associated with the ongoing modifications of W7-X, the start of OP 1.2(a) could shift by up to six weeks. Each of the parts, OP 1.2(a) and OP 1.2(b), will last about half a year. Between OP 1.2(a) and OP 1.2(b) a shut-down of 15 weeks is planned. This time will be used for further upgrades of in-vessel components, heating systems and diagnostics. Taken together, this brings the end of OP 1.2(b) to September 2018.

For the preparation of the experimental programme of OP 1.2, I am pleased to invite you to submit experimental proposals. The submission deadline is February 17th, 2017.

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For this purpose, we have established a web-interface for submitting the proposals. The corresponding web address is www.ipp.mpg.de/4144445/proposals, which you also can find via following the IPP website www.ipp.mpg.de → Research → Projects → Wendelstein 7-X → Proposals.

The website also contains important information about the objectives of the W7-X experimental programme, the technical boundary conditions of W7-X during OP 1.2 and the description of the workflow for submitting proposals to conducting experiments.

Should you not be member of the W7-X Team, the website guides you to a registration procedure which you are kindly asked to follow. When you have submitted your personal details including the signed Wendelstein 7-X Data Access, Data Usage and Software Policy, you can print a paper version of the proposal template and send it to OP@ipp.mpg.de. While the proposal is under review a decision about your membership in the W7-X Team will be made. As a member of the W7-X Team you will be provided with the credentials necessary to submit experimental proposals electronically and access the IPP computer system.

The experiments and programmatic tasks for OP 1.2 will be coordinated within the four task forces:

- I. Plasma heating, fuelling and current drive
- II. Plasma edge and divertor physics
- III. Plasma transport and stability
- IV. Scenario integration

Names and contact details of the taskforce leaders also can be found on the submission website. Please assign your proposal to one of the task forces. In cases where this cannot be done unambiguously, the task force leaders may propose a different assignment.

Since we are still testing the submission website and support is not available during the Christmas Holidays we will open the web based proposal submission form by **January 2nd, 2017**. In the meantime, the documents provided on the website should enable you to already start preparing your proposals. For questions about the registration or technical questions concerning W7-X please contact OP@ipp.mpg.de. For questions about the programme preparation, the task force leaders will help you.

All experimental proposals will undergo a review process. Proposals will be selected on the basis of scientific quality and the alignment with the programmatic goals of W7-X. Based on the proposals, the task forces together with the W7-X operator will prepare the experimental programme for OP 1.2(a). The programme will be presented and discussed at the **programme workshop taking place between March 27th and March 31st, 2017 in Greifswald**. After this workshop the programme will be presented to the W7-X International Programme Committee for final approval. Depending on the number and extent of the proposals we receive in the frame of this call and also depending on the experimental results achieved during OP 1.2(a), a second call will be issued for OP 1.2(b). In addition, contingency time will be reserved during OP 1.2 in order to be able to react on unexpected or particularly interesting findings.