

Seminarium Fizyki Jądra Atomowego, Uniwersytet Warszawski, 18.01.2024

IFMIF-DONES – laboratorium neutronowe dla programu syntezy termojądrowej, fizyki i badań interdyscyplinarnych

Wojciech Królas

Eurofusion ENS work package DONES Users, IFJ PAN

International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility – DEMO Oriented Neutron Source



This work has been carried out within the framework of the EUROfusion Consortium, funded by the European Union via the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Grant Agreement No 101052200 — EUROfusion). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.







- Brief introduction to the European Roadmap to Fusion Electricity
 - \rightarrow fusion as one of the solutions to the energy problem, European Roadmap
 - \rightarrow why do we need a high-intensity fast neutron source?
- **IFMIF-DONES** neutron source requirements and design •
 - \rightarrow how can it be achieved?
 - \rightarrow engineering design, construction status, timeline
- **IFMIF-DONES** as a multidisciplinary neutron facility
 - \rightarrow neutron science and applications
 - \rightarrow nuclear physics at DONES

International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility – DEMO Oriented Neutron Source

Light ↔ Energy ↔ Civilization

Nuclear fusion as source of energy: unlimited, safe, clean



Nuclear fusion, how does it work?





 $D + D \rightarrow {}^{3}\text{He} + n + 3.2 \text{ MeV}; D + D \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He} + n + 4.0 \text{ MeV}$ $D + T \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He} + n + 17.6 \text{ MeV}; T + T \rightarrow {}^{4}\text{He} + 2n + 11.3 \text{ MeV}$

How do we make it work in the laboratory:

- Fusion plasma an ionized state of matter similar to a gas, composed of charged particles (positive nuclei and negative electrons) provide the environment in which light elements can fuse and yield energy
- Magnetic confinement of plasma: *Tokamaks, stellerators*
- Inertial confinement: *laser compression,* other



The chamber of the JET Tokamak (CCFE, UK)



National Ignition Facility NIF (LLNL, US)







A record fusion experiment was performed in December 2021, at the Joint European Torus (JET), achieving total fusion energy of 59 MJ and maintaining 10 MW of fusion power for 5 s An inertial confinement fusion experiment in December 2022 at the NIF achieved ignition and energy gain, delivering 2.05 MJ of energy and producing 3.15 MJ of fusion energy



The chamber of the JET Tokamak (CCFE, UK)



National Ignition Facility NIF (LLNL, US)



New (private funding) fusion landscape





- A network of 30+ private fusion companies
- Many different approaches
 - Magnetic
 - Inertial
 - Others, some very exotic...
- Private fusion funding of approximately 5 billion USD (2022)
- 2021 -> 2022 funding increase of 140%



IAEA: World Survey of Fusion Devices 2022



FIG.6. Private sector companies have disclosed around US\$5 billion in fusion funding (more than \$3 billion since June 2021). Readapted and updated from: The chase for fusion energy, Nature (2021); The global fusion industry in 2022, Fusion Industry Association (2022).

FIA predictions for fusion on the grid

When will the first fusion plant deliver electricity to the grid? (27 responses)



ITER Industry Liaison Office, July 2023



Coming next ... ITER





http://ITER.org

Objectives: Efficiency (Q): up to 10 Steady state plasma up to 1000 s

Main goals:

- Achieve a deuterium-tritium plasma in which the fusion conditions are sustained mostly by internal fusion heating
- Generate 500 MW of fusion power
- Test the tritium breeding technology (fuel cycle)
- Demonstratate the integrated operation of technologies for a fusion power plant
- Demonstrate the safety characteristics of a fusion device

Basic parameters:

Torus radius: 6.2 m Plasma volume: 300 m³ Plasma current: up to 15 MA Magnetic field: up to 5.3 T Power produced: ~ 500 MW

European "roadmap to fusion electricity"



ITER: international organization, 7 partners, research reactor under construction since 2010

DEMO: steady operation, fusion power converted into electricity for the grid

TER

~ 1 dpa/lifetime

[dpa]

displacement

per atom in solid



One of the main differences between ITER and DEMO is the radiation dose: at DEMO more than two orders of magnitude higher





Fission irradiations

- Extensive use of Material Test Reactors (MTR) for fission irradiation: 50 M€ to be spent in the next decade
 However: the number of MTRs with reasonable n-fluence is becoming limited!
- Irradiations with doped materials (Ni, B, Fe-54...) are needed to "simulate" He-effects on degradation of material properties

Fusion-like irradiations



 <u>Mandatory</u>: a dedicated facility for material qualification that reproduces a 14 MeV neutrons spectrum with reasonable irradiation volume, fluence, and homogenity in temperature/time with the objective to validate in-vessel and structural materials

In DONES neutrons with a relevant energy spectrum will be generated in D+Li stripping reaction Assumption: fusion-related effects will appear only at high dose (>10-20 dpa)

[dpa] displacement per atom in solid













S.P. Simakov et al., EPJ 146 (2017) 02012



What is different with fusion neutrons?





Displacements cascades caused by fusion / fast neutrons propagate much deeper



This causes severe degradation of structural properties:

- Swelling
- Embrittlement
- Radiation hardening, loss of ductility
- Change of transport properties: thermal conductivity, permeation (e.g. hydrogen)
- Irradiation enhanced creep

*

...

Functional properties are also affected:

- Radiation induced electrical degradation of insulators
- Loss of electrical conductivity
- Optical transmission, reflectivity
- *



Primary irradiation damage



Displacement damage:

- ✓ incident neutron hits primary knock-on atom (PKA)
- PKA can dislocate more lattice atoms
- \rightarrow damage cascade
- ✓ After the energy is distributed below the displacement energy E_d (i.e. 40 eV for Fe), the lattice is left with vacancies and self interstitial atoms (SIA)
- ✓ dpa: displacements per atom ≠ surviving defects!
- ✓ Relevance of PKA energy spectrum

Transmutation:

- nuclear reaction of neutron and lattice atom according to incident energy and cross section
- ✓ new alloying elements are introduced!
- ✓ Example: W \rightarrow W-18Re-3Os @ 50 dpa!



F. Arbeiter, PhDia Fusion 2021



Void swelling



- ✓ Phenomenon: Increase of volume (at significant levels!), $\Delta V/V$ [%]
- \checkmark occurs also in absence of stress
- \checkmark more intensive in fcc lattice than bcc lattice
- ✓ incubation phase, followed by "linear regime"
- \checkmark condensation of excess vacancies left behind in lattice into voids







F. Arbeiter, PhDia Fusion 2021





 \checkmark



(a) Ductile Materials: Materials deform irreversibly → "significant" plastic regime



Mask of Agamemnon

(b) Brittle Materials: Materials crack instantaneously → "insignificant" plastic regime



Codex Hammurabi

When loads (forces) exceed the limit given by the elastic regime



Grey unirradiated **Red**, Purple irradiated with a dose of 32 dpa

Large shift in "ductile" to "brittle" transition temperature

Potential effect of Helium generation, not fully studied



In summary: qualification of first wall materials for fusion reactors





Most of the neutron energy will be absorbed by the first wall material



First wall of ITER designed for R < 2 [dpa]DEMO reactor after 5 years of running $R \sim 30-100 [dpa]$ Threshold (no systematic data exists) R > 30 [dpa]

At about 30 dpa, particular effects due to Helium generation are predicted to set in, influencing the ductile-to-brittle transition

To be studied and validated: steel (EUROFER), structural material, Tungsten W, the divertor material, Cu alloys, etc. [dpa] displacement per atom in solid



What is IFMIF-DONES?



International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility – DEMO Oriented Neutron Source

An accelerator based fusion-like neutron source to be used for the qualification of the materials to be used in the DEMO reactor and future fusion power plants





A neutron flux of ~10¹⁵ n/cm²/s simulating D+T fusion is generated with an energy spectrum up to 55 MeV



What is IFMIF-DONES?



International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility – DEMO Oriented Neutron Source

125 mA

An accelerator based fusion-like neutron source to be used for the qualification of the materials to be used in the DEMO reactor and future fusion power plants



First of a kind facility

Challenges: high in-beam radiation dose, high activation inventory, need of remote maintenance, required high availability, control of the plant, ...

125 mA beam current, 5 MW beam power: one of the most powerful accelerators in the world!

Challenges: high power, high space charge, continuous wave (CW) operation, high reliability, longest RFQ, ...

Biggest liquid Li loop in the world

IRRADIAT

TESTS

MODUI

Li (d,xn) Stripping reaction

Challenges: large mass of liquid metal circulating, power management, impurities control, corrosion, reliability, lifetime, ...

10⁻⁴ 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻¹ 10⁰ 10¹ 10² 10³ tron Energy, MeV

DONES

7.32.10¹⁴ n/cm²/s @ High Flux Test Module <E_>=7

^{10¹⁵ n/cm²/s usion is generated with um up to 55 MeV}



IFMIF-DONES facility

The site is located at Escúzar 18 km from Granada, Spain

DONES Construction Phase started in 2023 1st **DONES Steering Committee** held on 16 March 2023 2nd DONES Steering Committee held on 23 October 2023

DONES-SC Parties:

- Croatia
- Spain

DONES-SC Observers:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Euratom (+F4E and EUROfusion)
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine

Cost sharing status

DONES

Construction planned for 2023-2032 Installation, commissioning and start-up 2029-2034 Full power operation from 2034

Total projected cost 700 M€

(plus possible extensions)

Agreed (or close to agreement) financing packages:

Sharing Status (November 2023)
Agreed: • Spain 55%

Croatia 5%

Advanced discussions: Fusion for Energy (F4E) 20-25%
Technical discusions:

Japan, Italy, Germany, Slovenia

Exploratory activities:

• US, some private companies

Construction of the first auxilliary buildings

Ciemat

A number of relevant prototypes and facilities:

- MuVaCaS facility,
- STUMM module,
- QDS prototype,

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have been ordered / have arrived / are under construction and will be used for testing and validation of the design!

IFMIF-DONES principal systems

IFMIF-DONES Accelerator: Deutrons up to 40 MeV

D+ CW 175 MHz SC LINAC **Designed for:** 125 mA / 40 MeV \rightarrow 5 MW beam power 30 years operation HEBT Total length 100 m 87% availability SRF LINAC BD Beam incident on target at 9° RFQ \rightarrow future upgrade to two accelerators INJECTOR MEBT Solid State (SS) technology for the HVPS in the RF source Windowless liquid Li target **175 MHz SSPA RF Stations RF** Power Demonstrated feasibility of different beam Beam footprint 8x200 kW 2x20 kW 19x100 kW 27x200 kW sizes/shapes 200 x 50 mm² 100 x 50 mm² LEBT MEBT HEBT 111------RFQ lon source X(mm) - Y(mm) 100 keV 5 MeV 22 30 40 MeV Beam Dump

Accelerator design based on a prototype built in Rokkasho, Japan

Beam footprint @ target

IFMIF/EVEDA – LIPAc accelerator GOST

MEBT at Rokkasho site

Courtesy of IFMIF/EVEDA Fusion for Energy (F4E) **Broader Approach**

Important milestone 2023: 125 mA of D+ in pulsed mode transmitted by the RFQ with very high efficiency

RFQ under commissioning

Part of the RF system under operation at Rokkasho

IFMIF-DONES Lithium loop and target

DONES

5 MW power handling, 15 m/s Li velocity, Remote Handling

Main requirements: stable Li flow and Li impurities control – corrosion and reaction products

D. Bernardi et al., J. Fusion Energy 2022

IFMIF-DONES Test (irradiation) systems

High-flux Test Module (HFTM)

HFTM Irradiation dose: 20 dpa/fpy in 130 cm^3 or 10 dpa/fpy in 400 cm^3 Controlled Temperature: 250 < T < 550 °C

"Other irradiation modules", placed behind the HFTM, with less neutron flux

- Active volume 0.5 I with damage rate higher than 10 dpa/fpy (with 200 x 50 mm² beam footprint)
- Heaters for temperature control of the specimens in the Irradiation Capsules (250, 350, 450, 550 °C)
- Mini cooling channels filled with circulating Helium
- Neutron reflectors around the specimens
- Monitoring of the field gradient

Housing over 850 specimens in controlled irradiation and temperature conditions!

DONES

F. Arbeiter et al., Nuclear Materials and Energy (2016)

Small Sample Test Techniques

SSTT will be used for the samples irradiated in the HFTM for testing of radiation induced degradation of basic physical properties of materials

Main materials of interest (structural): steel (EUROFER), other structural materials, Tungsten W, the divertor material, Cu alloys, etc.

Start-up and monitoring module (STUMM)

U. WIĄCEK, R. Prokopowicz et al. IFJ PAN and NCBJ Maria reactor

To be used at commissioning and before starting each irradiation campaing for the characterization of the radiation field, gradient and validation of the neutronics (radiation transport modelling)

- Rabbit system for activation (RS) x8, 1 per rig, sensitive to thermal, epithermal and fast neutrons
- Micro fission chambers MFC U238, for fast neutrons
- Micro fission chambers MFC U235 or SPND, for thermal and epithermal neutrons
- Gamma thermometers
- Thermocouples

As output:

Complete characterization of the radiation field in the irradiation volume:

- neutron and gamma flux,
- neutron and gamma spectrum

STUMM prototype ordered by University of Granada, to be delivered and studied this year

Complementary experiments at DONES

- Background: the idea of using DONES for <u>multidisciplinaty neutron science</u> (apart from fusion material irradiation) has been proposed in 2015 when Poland was considered as a possible site of DONES
- Various scientific areas were considered: medical applications, basic physics studies, nuclear physics and industrial application of neutrons
- A White Book report on "IFMIF-DONES for isotope production, nuclear physics applications, materials science and other research topics" was prepared following two scientific workshops held in Kraków and Rzeszów <u>https://www.ifj.edu.pl/badania/publikacje/raporty/2016/2094.pdf</u>

Editors: A. Maj, M.N. Harakeh, M. Lewitowicz, A. Ibarra, W. Królas

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European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

(...) IFMIF-DONES will play a strategic role in the Energy domain for the implementations of Nuclear fusion solutions to the massive production of energy (...)

- DONES Preparatory Phase 2 year Euratom grant 2019-2021
- DONES Consolidation Phase 2 year Euratom grant 2023-2025

These two projects provided/ provide financing among other topics, also for the

- extensive studies and conceptual design of complementary experiments at DONES
- as well as the build-up of the DONES Users Community

 2. Outreach, development & engagement of scientific and engineering user community (IFJ PAN) Task 2.2 Non-Fusion Users (coord. A. Maj) Task 2.3 IFMIF-DONES Users Community (coord. WKS)

IFMIF-DONES facilities for complementary experiments

Experiments with deuteron beam and pulsed neutrons (one level below the accelerator, R026)

32 W. Królas | Seminarium ZFJA FUW | 18 January 2024

Experiments with neutrons in the Test Cell

A high neutron flux in the TC behind the HFTM with somewhat moderated energy spectrum

- ✓ Possible "Other irradiation modules" behind the HFTM e.g. radionuclides production, tritium release module
- ✓ Neutron beam line to the adjacent experimental area

Fusion community is engaged in the design of the Tritium Release Test Module to test segments of Tritium breeding blankets

Also, possible implementarion of a Radioactive isotope production module has been studied, using as a target liquid material circulating into and out of the Test Cell

Collimated neutron beam experimental area

A neutron transport line with shutter are being designed to operate this experimental area independently.

independently of the Test Cell irradiation

High-flux ~2. 10^{10} n cm⁻²s⁻¹ covering a large energy range, collimated beam (~ 98% of the neutrons with $\theta < 1^{\circ}$)

Potential experiments with collimated neutron beams

Nuclear physics studies with moderated and unmoderated neutrons

- Analysis of neutron-rich isotopes production by neutron induced fission
 → fast-neutron-induced fission: different fragment distributions!
- Spectroscopy of very exotic and short lived nuclei
- Maxwellian-averaged capture cross-section for some stellar nuclear reactions studied by activation techniques with neutrons

> Others

- Neutron scattering with moderated neutron beams (biological matter)
- Characterization of materials by radiation analysis (for medicine, chemistry, biology, forensics, ...)
- Imaging techniques with neutrons neutron radiography
- Radioisotope production for medical applications (e.g. ⁹⁹Mo)
- Fast neutron irradiation of components, devices or bio-samples
- Materials doping
- IFMIF-DONES has higher neutron flux than other facilities but no selectivity of neutron energy
- A high flux for radioisotope production by (n,x) reaction

- Non-destructive method to determine the elemental composition of materials
 - with thermal Neutrons (NAA and Prompt Gamma AA)
 - with Fast Neutrons (FNAA and PGAA)
- Neutron flux is a key parameter:
 - $\sim 10^{12-14}$ n/cm²/s for NAA ; $\sim 10^8$ n/cm²/s for PGAA,
 - $\sim 10^8 \text{ n/cm}^2/\text{s}$ for FNAA

Fast Neutron Activation Analysis

IFMIF-DONES has the advantage to provide **both** thermal and fast neutrons and is competitive for FNAA and PGAA

PGAA station @Budapest Neutron Center

- A moderator block installed at the neutron transport line from the Test Cell
- At the exit of the tubes, the thermal neutron flux is ~ 10⁷ n/cm²/s below 400 meV but with a large fast neutron contamination
- > The space available offers the possibility to put moderators in cascade

DOMISOL: DONES Magnetic Isotope Separation On Line

Short transport time allowing for spectroscopy of very exotic and short lived nuclei

Complementary experiments with deuterons

Planned extraction of a fraction (~0.1%) of the beam at 40 MeV:

- ✓ Extraction in the high-energy beam transport line
- A configuration of a meander line of 3.5 m + electrostatic septum + septum magnet is proposed
- Timing conditions:
 a beam bunch length of 1.9 ns,
 separation between bunches of 3.7 ns
- ✓ Other option: a slow extraction, more flexible, also being studied

L. Bellan, M. Comunian, A. Pisent, I. Podadera

D+ Beam extraction mode – single bunch

L. Bellan, M. Comunian, A. Pisent LNL INFN M. Di Giacomo, M.H. Moscatello CEA GANIL

D+ parisitic beam extraction between QP3 and QP4 of the HEBT

- Kicker meander line and electrostatic septum for fast selection of a single bunch
- Septum magnet to extract and bend extracted beam by 34°
- 2 additional dipoles to complete the whole 180° of the beam
- 4 quadrupole (QP) doublets to keep the extracted beam focused
- Extraction simultaneous to the ongoing irradiation of the Li target

M. Vázquez et al.

- A pulsed beam of 40 MeV deuterons could be used directly for (nuclear) physics experiments
- It could also be used on another production target (e.g. Li, Be, graphite) to produce neutrons, in that way a pulsed source of neutrons would be obtained

(similar to Neutrons For Science facility at GANIL, n_TOF at CERN)

Neutron time-of-flight facility (n_TOF)

This option is being considered and studied:

- Possible characteristics of parasitic D beam
- Integration with the optics of the nominal beam
- Feasibility of n_TOF facility (or experiments with D)
- Catalogue of possible experiments

DONES building, section view

DONES nTOF

DONES nTOF would be world's highest intensity TOF neutron source

D. Cano-Ott, First DONES Users Workshop, 2022

Broad experimental program is possible on neutron induced reaction cross section measurements for nuclear technologies, astrophysics, fusion, particle physics

- (n,el) elastic
- (n,γ) capture
- (n,n'γ) -inelastic
- (n,xn) neutron multiplication
- (n,f) fission
- (n,p), (n,d), (n,t), (n,α)... charged particle production

Measurements over several decades:

- 52 isotopes listed in the High Priority Request
 List for nuclear technologies
- Over 35 (n,γ) prioritary cross section measurements for astrophysics

Gamma spectroscopy of nuclei produced in fast-neutron-induced fission

Distribution of the fission products which correspond to different target materials

The secondary beam line at DONES offers unprecedented opportunity for gamma spectroscopy studies of neutron-rich nuclei, as it should allow accessing excited states and observing their gamma decay in nuclei which could not be reached for nuclear structure investigations so far

B. Fornal, First DONES Users Workshop, 2022

Study of the pygmy dipole resonance with $(n,n'\gamma)$ or $(d,d'\gamma)$ reactions

- The DONES facility is an excellent place to systematically study PDR excitations (and other resonances) in nuclei from different regions of the nuclear chart using neutrons or deuterons as a probe
- The high intensity of the neutron/deuteron beam and the possible long duration of the experiments will ensure high statistics data which is crucial for obtaining detailed information on the nature of the PDR

A. Maj, First DONES Users Workshop, 2022

10/5+

101-fcsion

IFMIF-DONES Users Community

Second DONES Users Workshop

- Held in Granada, 19-20 October 2023
- 100 participants, 43 presentations arranged in 7 topical sessions
- Workshop materials online at <u>https://indico.ifmif-dones.es/e/DONES-UsersWS2</u>

The **key objective** was to contribute and consolidate the international DONES Users Community representing all the different scientific and technological areas of interest

Discussed areas of scientific interest:

- Fusion materials qualification
- Tritium breeding technologies
- Other irradiation modules

First approach to the Irradiation Program proposal Discussion on the role of the DONES users community

Multidisciplinary DONES Users Committee established

Third DONES Users Workshop will be held in September 2024 in Zagreb, Croatia (t.b.c.)

- Nuclear physics including DONES neutron time-of-flight
- Radioisotopes and medical studies
- Biological and industrial applications
- Cultural heritage
- Neutron imaging and other experiments

Contact: users@ifmif-dones.es

Conclusions and outlook

"Materials qualification is one of the key pending issues in the development of fusion as an energy source"

The IFMIF-DONES facility will be built for the irradiation and qualification of fusion reactor materials

 \rightarrow the construction phase has just started!

IFMIF-DONES will also host state-of-the-art experimental activities in other scientific areas

- A collimated neutron beam facility allows IFMIF-DONES to be a first class laboratory for techniques using fast neutrons and a medium flux facility for techniques using thermal neutrons
- The deuteron pulsed beam allows IFMIF-DONES to be a *first class nTOF facility*

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Web site including DONES users registration and news

https://ifmif-dones.es/

Search on youtube "IFMIF-DONES: The key to the future"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qupecxxcZTQ

Contact: <u>users@ifmif-dones.es</u>