

# The ITER Project

## *Progress amid challenges*



**Dr Alain Bécoulet**  
**Head of ENGN Domain**  
***Fusion Power Associates 43rd Annual Meeting and Symposium***  
**07 December 2022**



# Agenda

1. Project progress
2. Appointment of new DG
3. Addressing challenges
4. Q&A





# Eight years of steady progress

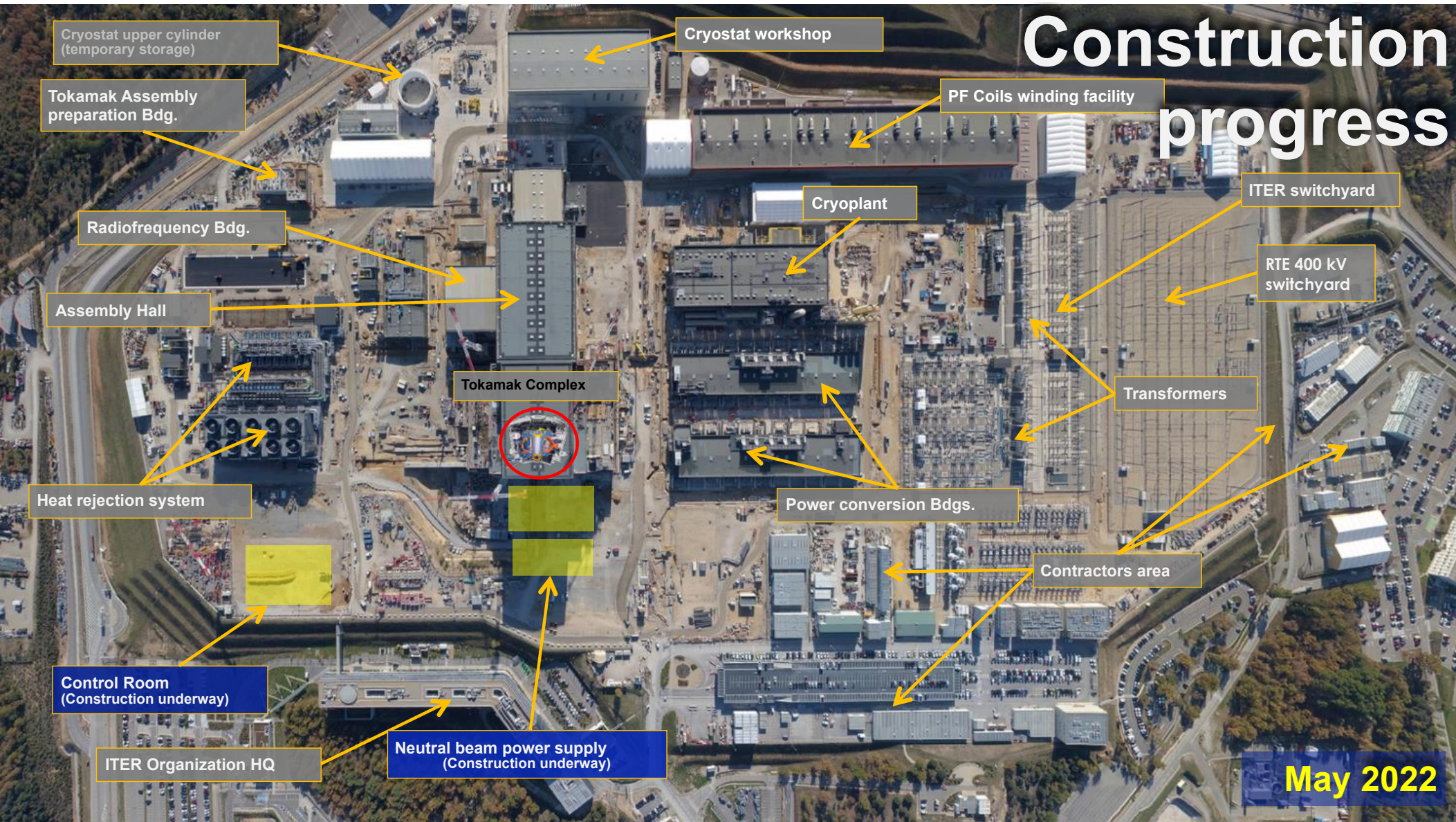
2014–2022



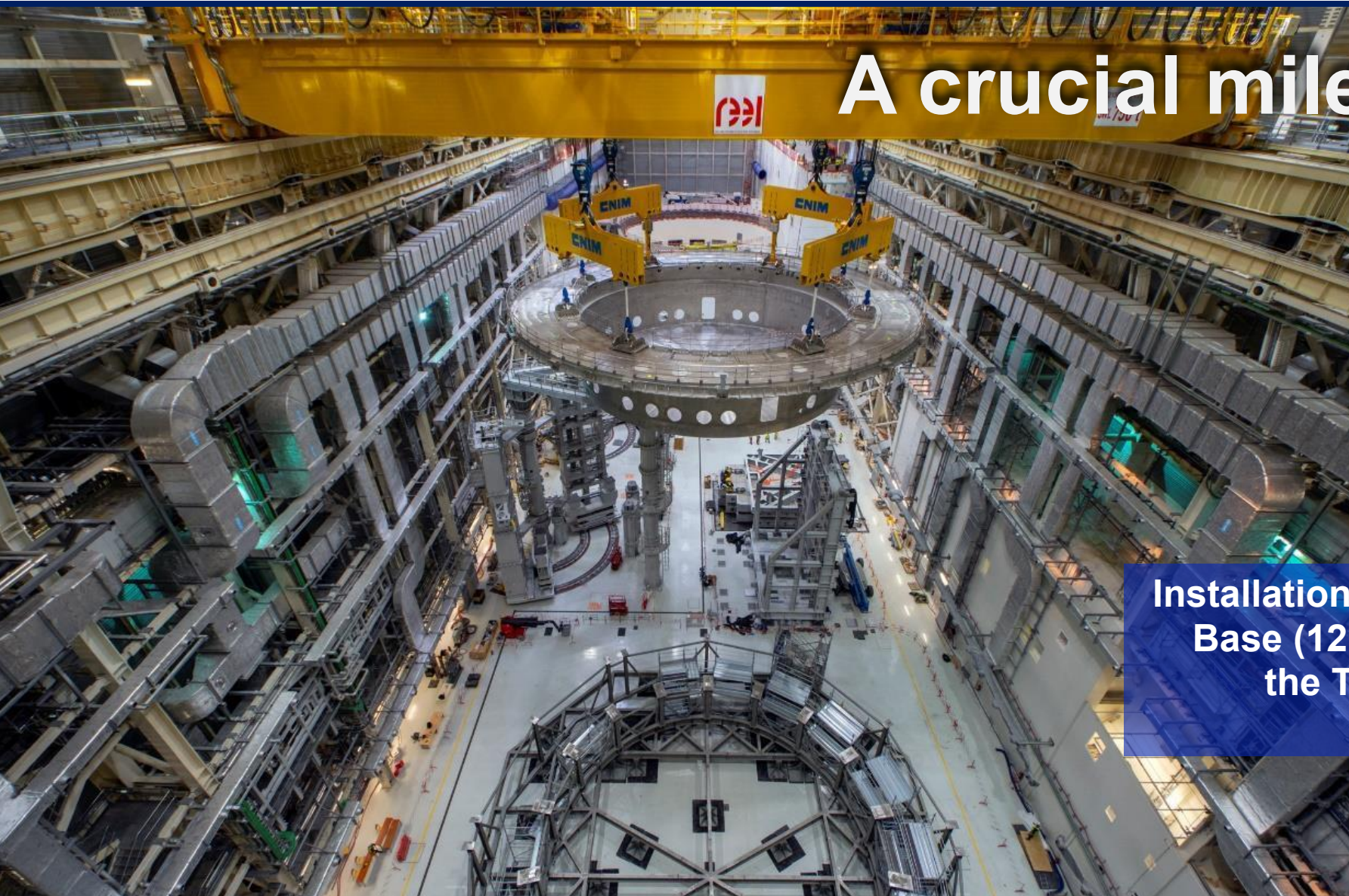
>80% of civil works complete



# Construction progress







# A crucial milestone

**Installation of Cryostat  
Base (1250-tonne) in  
the Tokamak Pit.  
(May 2020)**



# A crucial milestone

Top-down view of  
Cryostat Base (30m  
diameter) installed  
in Tokamak Pit.  
Final tolerance  
under 3 mm at all  
metrology points





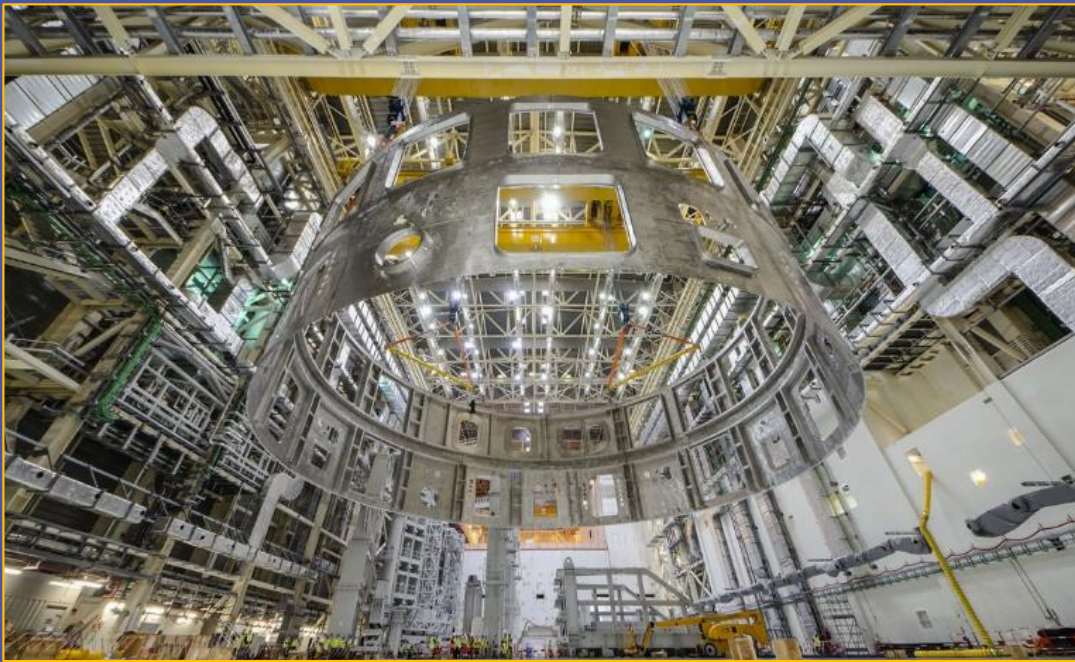
# Celebrating Start of Machine Assembly



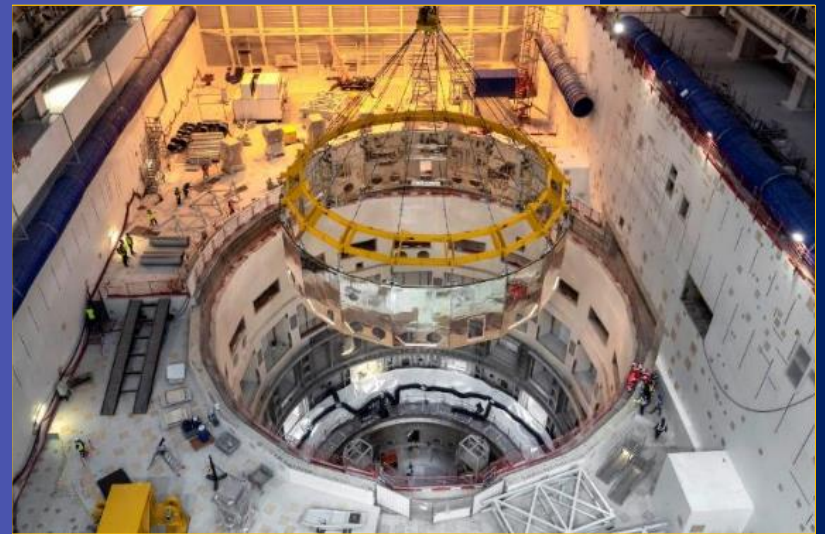
July 2020: ITER celebrated the Start of Machine Assembly with a virtual ceremony, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron, with contributions from 7 ITER Heads of State and multiple ministers



# Two years of recent progress: Tokamak Complex



**Cryostat Lower Cylinder lift  
August 2020**

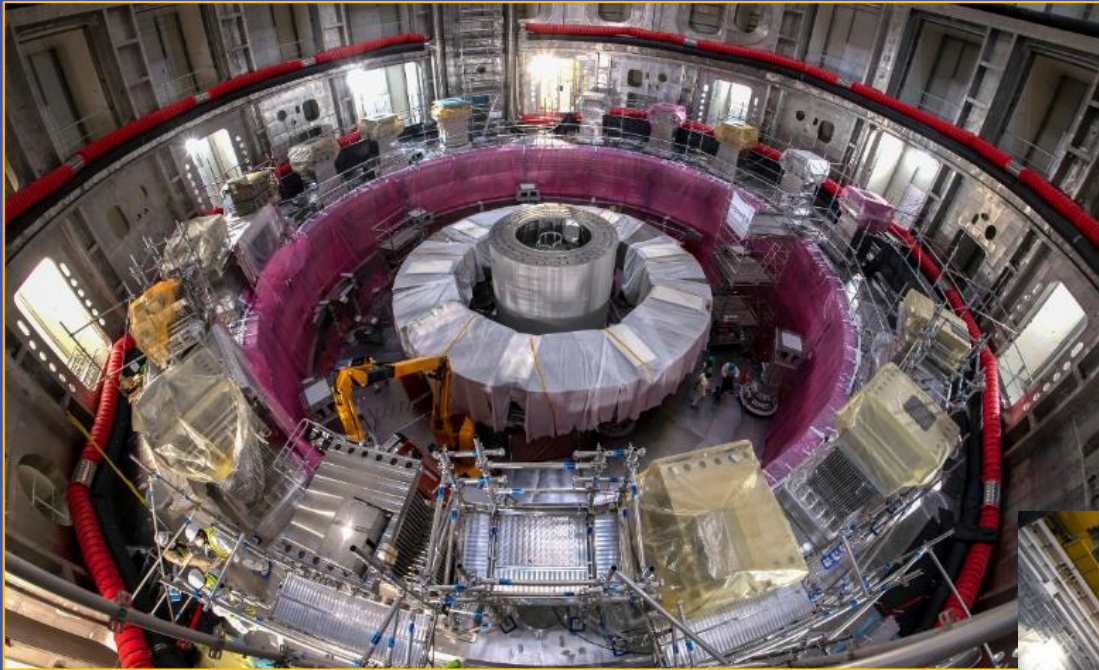


**Inserting the Cryostat Thermal  
Shield  
January 2021**



# First Magnets Installed

Poloidal Field Coil #5  
August 2021



Poloidal Field Coil #6  
April 2021

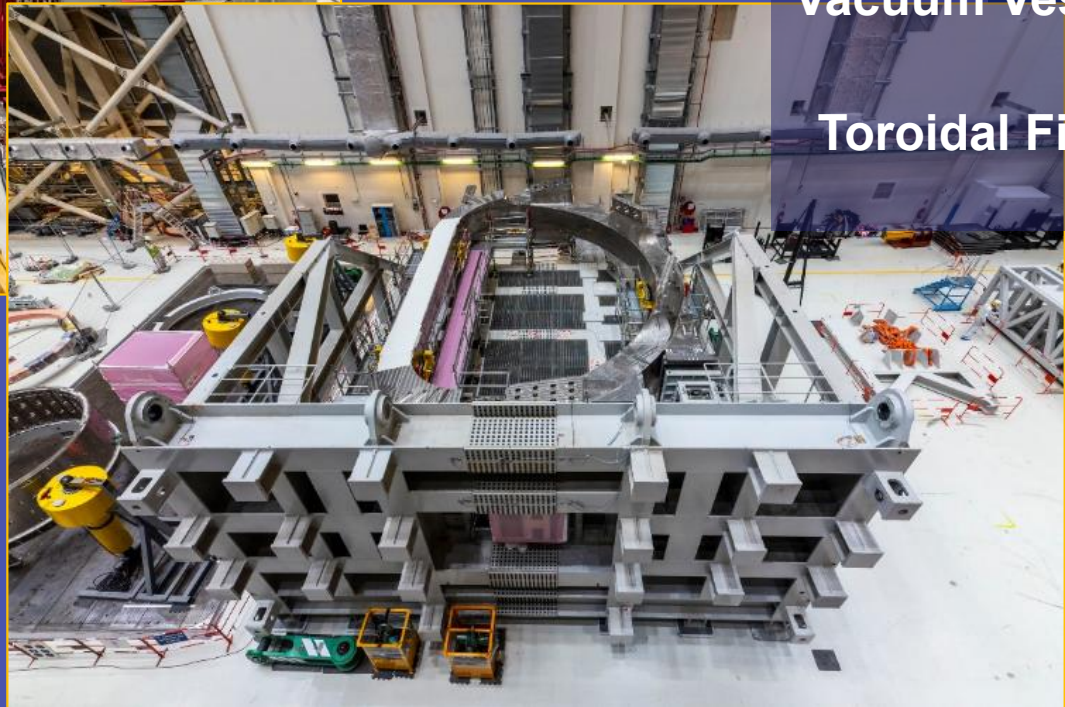




# First Sector Subassembly

June 2021

Vacuum Vessel sector  
6 (Korea);  
Toroidal Field Coil 12  
(Japan).





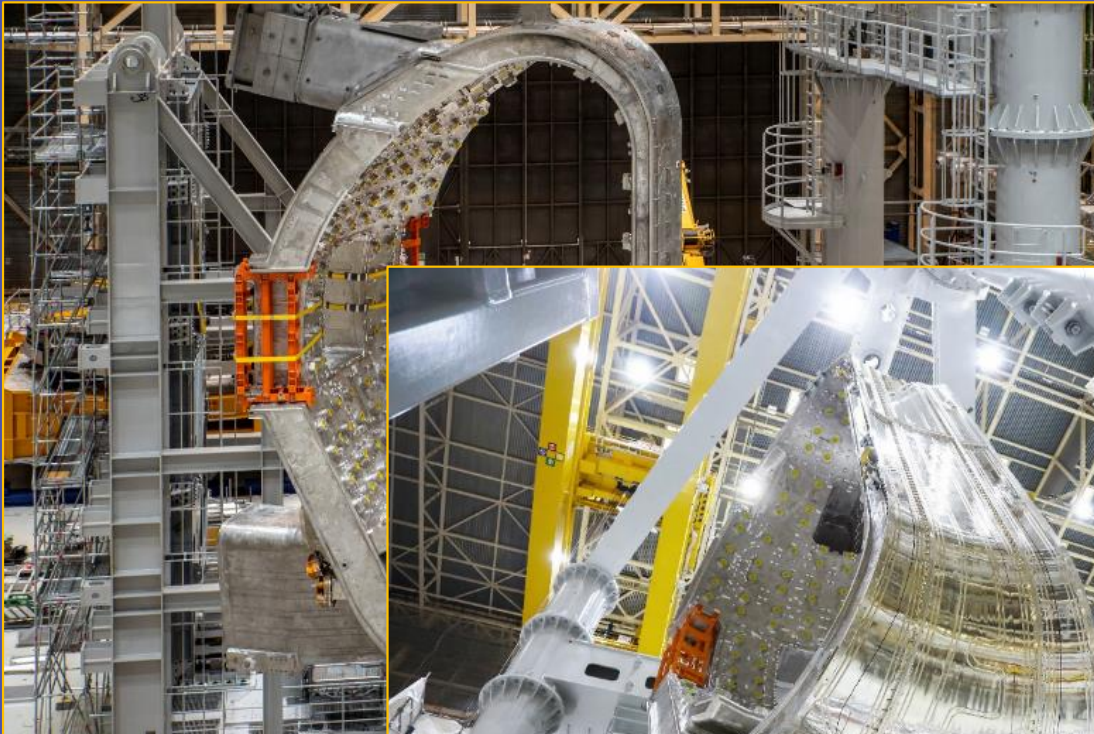
# First Sector Subassembly

June 2021

Vacuum Vessel Sector  
6 (Korea);

Toroidal Field Coil 12  
(Japan);

Thermal Shield  
(Korea).





# The second ...

January 2022



December 2021





And the  
second ...

And the  
third ...

September  
2022





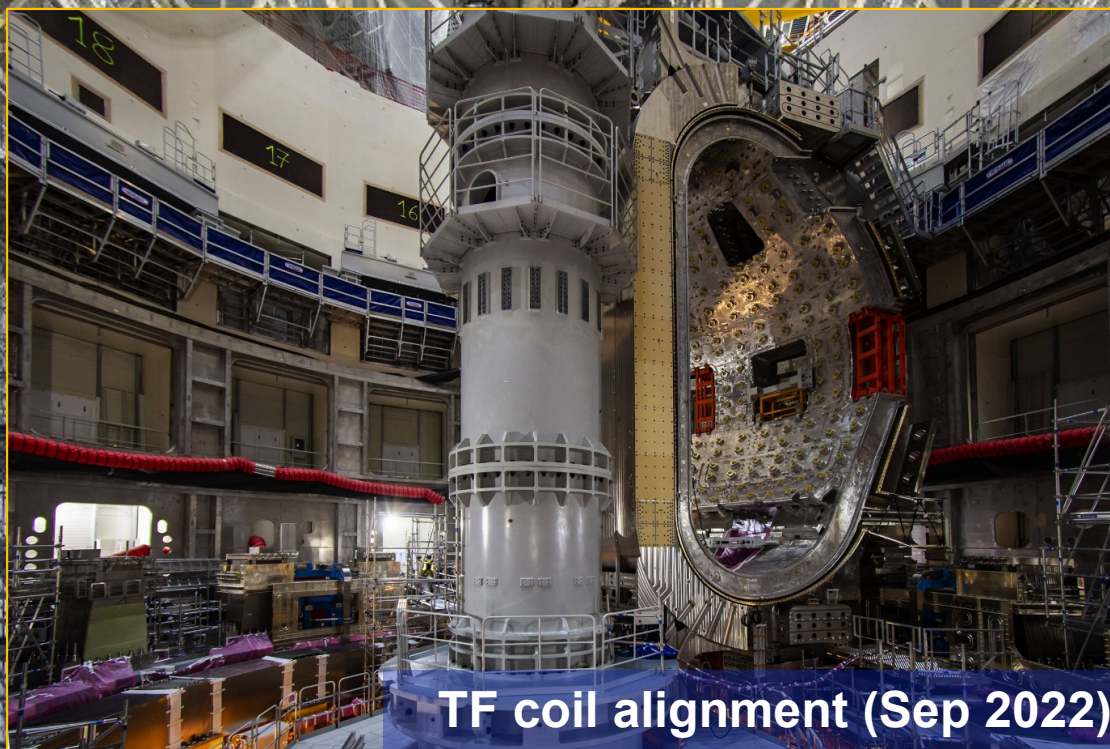
# Project Progress

Installation of Vacuum  
Vessel Sector Module 6  
(May 2022)





# Project Progress



TF coil alignment (Sep 2022)

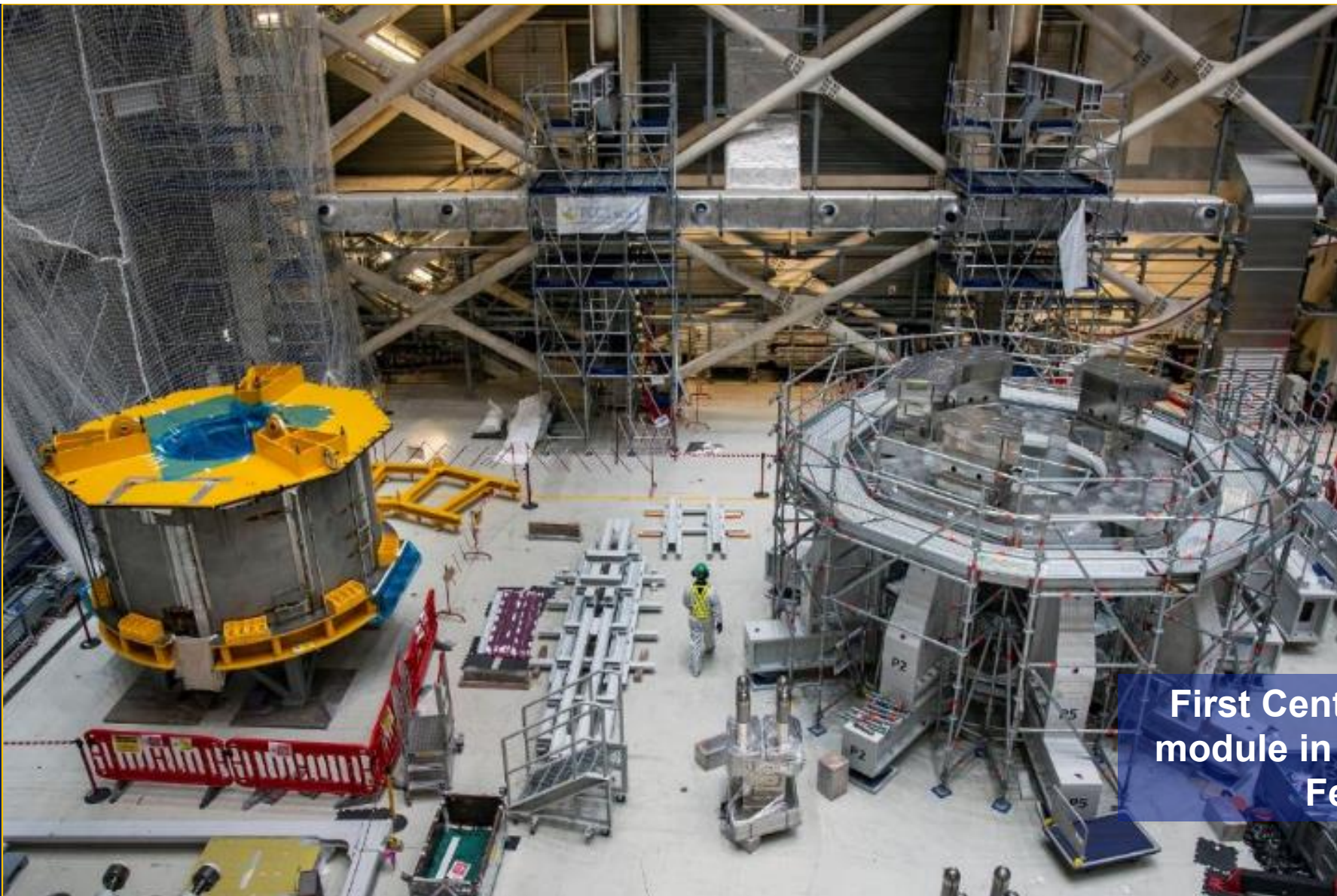


Installation of Vacuum Vessel Sector Module 6 (May 2022)



**Project  
Progress**

**First Central Solenoid  
module in preparation,  
February 2022**





# Project Progress

Second CS module  
September 2022

First Central Solenoid  
module in preparation,  
February 2022



# Project Progress



Control Building (B71):



# Project Progress



Four of 13 steel frames in place for the  
Neutral Beam High Voltage Building



# Project Progress

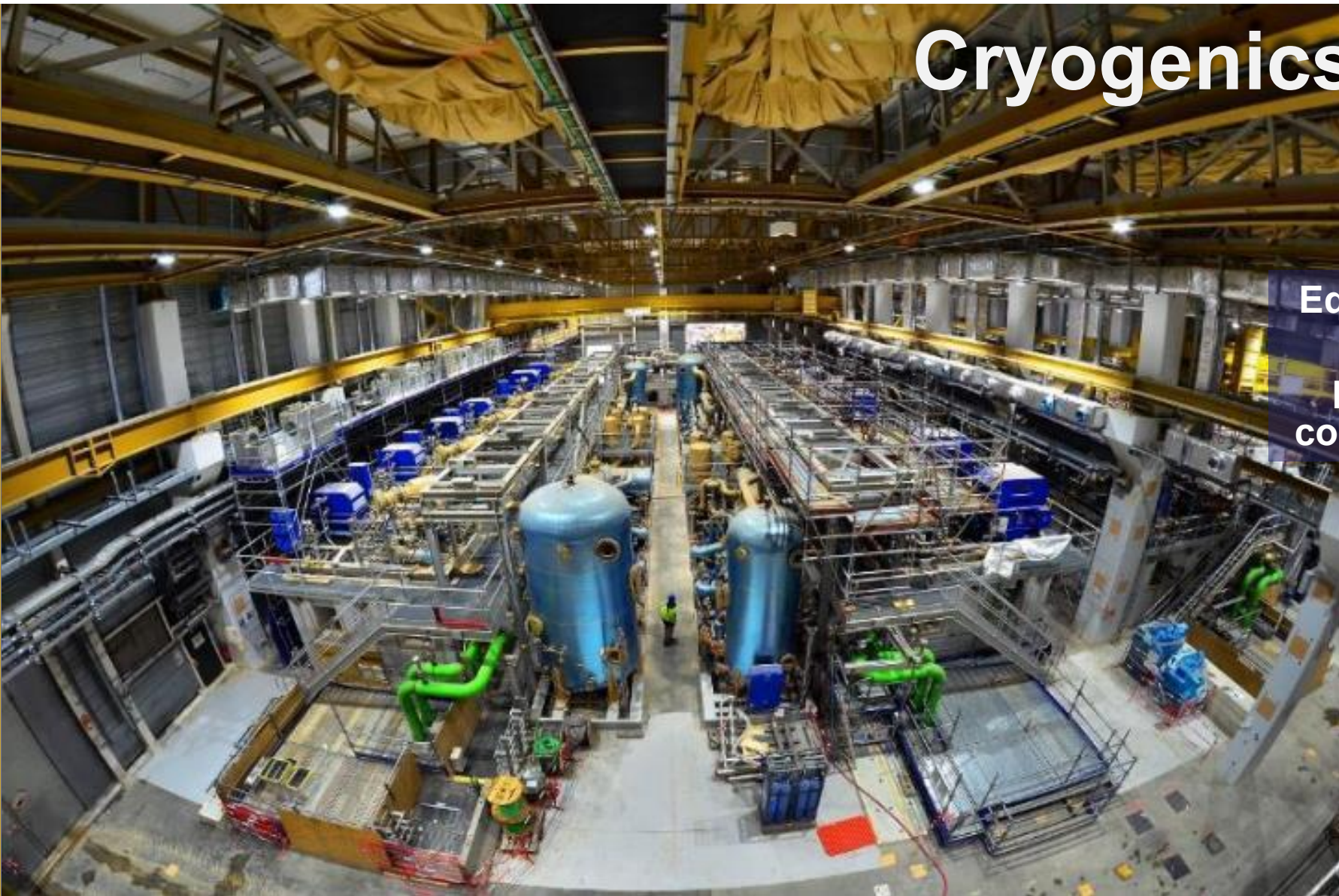


**Radiofrequency Building:**  
One of the two sets of high-voltage power supplies for the electron cyclotron resonance heating (ECRH) system is installed (Nov 2022).



# Cryogenics Plant

Equipment fully  
installed;  
proceeding to  
commissioning.







# Cryogenics Plant

Start of liquid  
helium plant  
commissioning, 30  
November 2021



# Cryogenics Plant



Liquid Nitrogen Plant: filling tank to  
evaluate evaporation rate (May 2022)



# Cryoline installation



~75% of cryolines have been installed  
(Oct 2022)



# Cryoline installation



~75% of cryolines have been installed  
(Oct 2022)



# Electrical networks

January 2019:  
Connected to  
French grid

June 2021:  
Reactive power  
compensation  
equipment  
largely installed.





# Magnet Power Conversion

Components from China, India, Korea and Russia.



**Global supply chain:**  
*The ITER project is creating a worldwide network of companies with experience in meeting the demanding requirements of fusion engineering.*



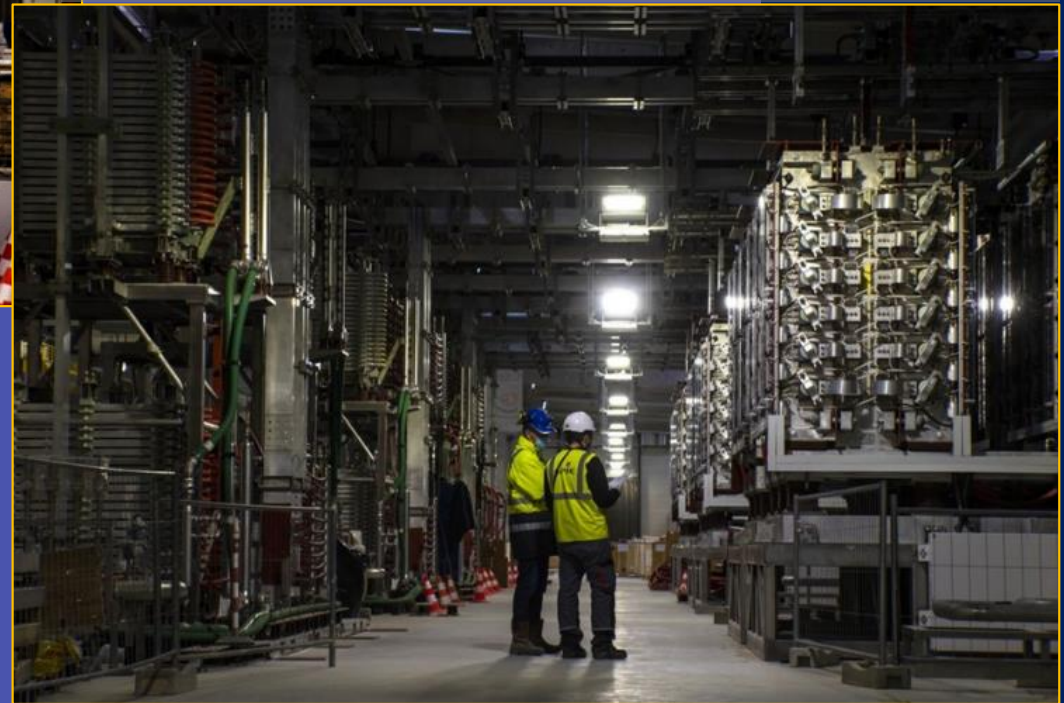


# Magnet Power Conversion

Underground infrastructure includes cooling water for electrical components



100% of equipment installed in the  
Magnet Conversion Building 33  
March 2022





# Heat rejection system

ITER's cooling water systems will be capable of removing ~1.2 gigawatts of heat.





A photograph of an industrial cooling tower system. The image shows a series of horizontal pipes supported by a metal framework. From each pipe, a black nozzle is protruding, and water is being sprayed from these nozzles. The background is dark, and the overall scene is industrial and functional.

# Heat rejection system

**First transfer of water from hot basin to two cooling tower cells, March 2022**



# Onsite Manufacturing



PF Coil manufacturing  
essentially complete



# Manufacturing and deliveries



First correction  
coils installed



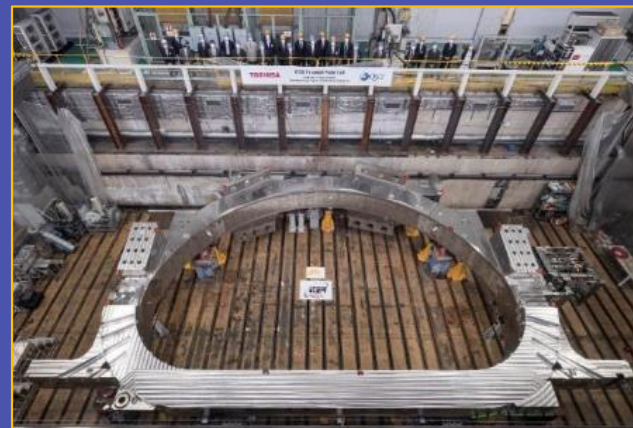
Cryostat  
completion  
celebrated in  
March 2022



Five vacuum  
vessel sectors in  
advanced  
fabrication



Multiple TF coils  
delivered, two  
installed





# Manufacturing and deliveries



Three VV sectors delivered



Poloidal field coil #1 ready for shipment, May 2022



Two central solenoid modules delivered, five more in late stages of fabrication



# Manufacturing and deliveries



Three VV sectors delivered (most recent was 1 April 2022)



Poloidal field coil #1 ready for shipment



Poloidal Field Coil #1 in shipment (Oct 2022)



Modules delivered, of fabrication



# Appointment of Director-General Pietro Barabaschi



- **May 2022:** ITER Council initiated new DG search
- **July:** interviews of selected candidates
- **15 September:** final interviews and selection
- **16 October:** new DG took office
- **16-17 November:** presented outlook to ITER Council at IC-31



# Appointment of Director-General Pietro Barabaschi



## Key points of emphasis

- Accuracy and transparency in communication
- Improved integration of IO and DAs
- Improved relationship with French regulator
- Reliable solutions to technical FOAK challenges\*
- Need for improvement in quality culture

*\*Timing coincided with completion of analysis of Thermal Shield cooling pipe stress corrosion*



# Addressing Challenges



VV/TS repairs  
FOAK/Covid delays  
Regulatory relations  
Offsetting future risks  
Baseline update



# Assembly status

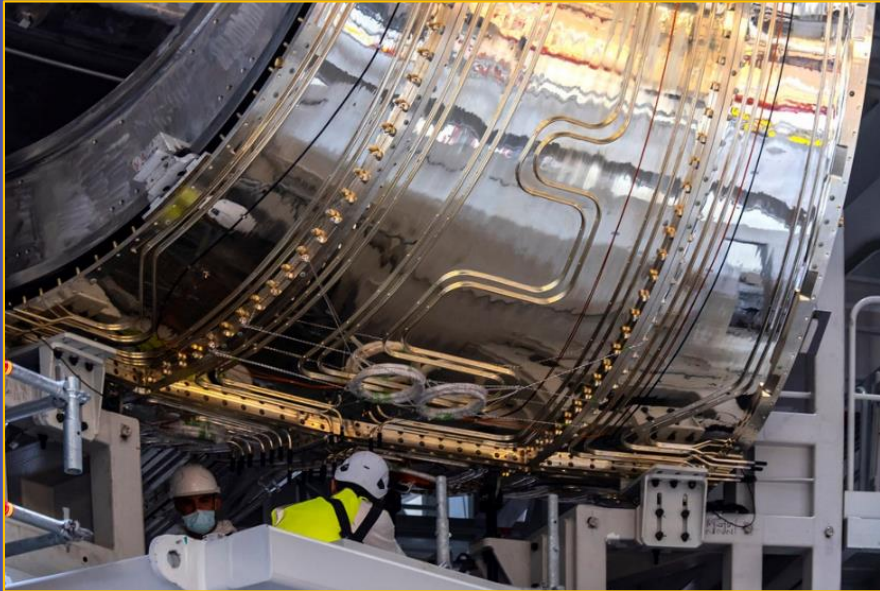


## Vacuum vessel sector modules:

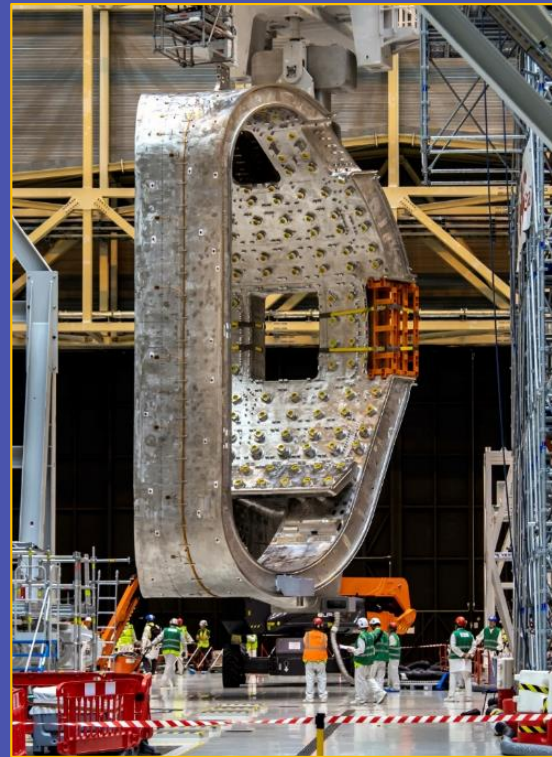
- Building blocks of the Tokamak (9 in total).
- Each is comprised of one 40° vacuum vessel sector, two toroidal field coils and a set of thermal shield panels.
- Problems have been identified in thermal shield cooling pipes (cracks) and in vacuum vessel sector field joints (dimensional non-conformities) that will require repairs



# Challenges of FOAK components



**Thermal Shields:** stress corrosion identified in cooling pipes



**Vacuum Vessel Sectors:** Dimensional non-conformities at field joint bevel

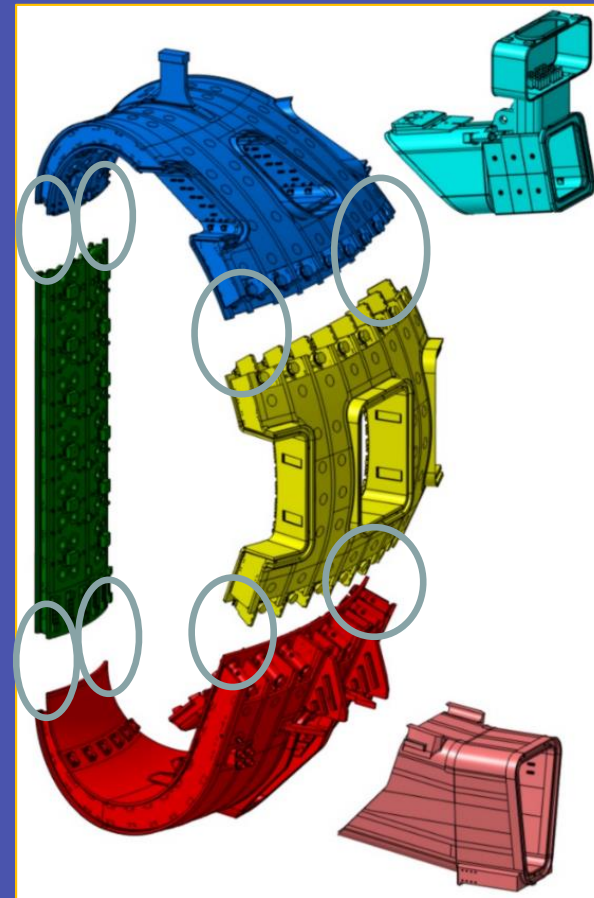
Issues have been investigated, and repair strategies initiated.



# Lift, extract, and repair

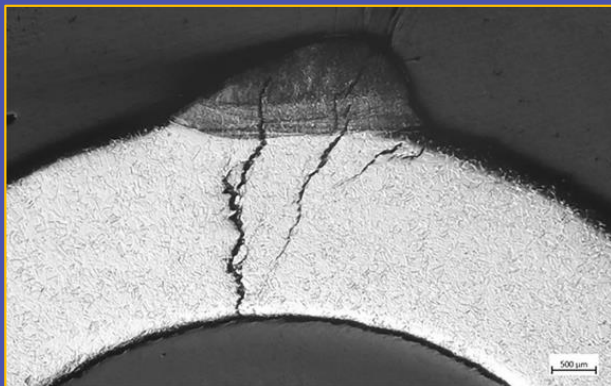


Thermal shield:  
actively-cooled  
component  
between the VV  
sectors and TF  
coils.



Complex welding  
requirements on the  
four main sections  
of the VV sectors  
caused deviations.

**These deviations  
affect the interface  
between sectors.**



Cracks detected in  
TS cooling pipes

Cause: stress  
corrosion due to  
chlorine residues  
(design flaw)

**Decision: replace  
the pipes**





# Addressing Challenges

**In parallel with these repairs, we will:**

- **Address other FOAK & Covid delays**
- **Ensure strong ASN relations**
- **Seek to offset future risks**
- **Create new Baseline**





*Thank you for your attention!*

**Questions?**