REVIEW EDITOR'S COMMENTS

It is my pleasure to contribute comments on this special issue of *Fusion Technology* devoted to the Next European Torus (NET).

At the present time (March 1988), the world fusion community is moving toward a rather unique "experiment" in international collaboration, i.e., the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). The ITER project will meld the fusion talents of the European Economic Community, USSR, Japan, United States, and, possibly, other contributing nations, with the intention of producing, at the end of the 3-year project, a joint conceptual design of an engineering test reactor (ETR). The major international parties contributing to ITER have previously completed their own individual concepts for a prospective ETR, including the OTR from the Soviet Union, the Fusion Experimental Reactor from Japan, and the Tokamak Ignition/Burn Experimental Reactor from the United States. However, of these individual designs, it is probably the NET study, performed under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities, that has contributed the most in recent years to the drive for the first ETR in magnetic confinement fusion. In particular, NET is probably the most extensive study of an ETR to date and, by concentrating not only on the torus physics and engineering but on all other contributing disciplines (e.g., safety and environment, reliability and availability, maintenance, etc.), has probably demonstrated the greatest breadth of technical content. Certainly, extensive background studies have been performed by the NET Team and associated institutions during the past 5 years or so, such that the NET design has proceeded well beyond the conceptual stage and has enabled critical engineering issues to be addressed in detail.

Accordingly, as the world attempts to bring individual initiatives and global consensus to the ITER design project, it will surely draw heavily on the pioneering work of NET. My congratulations to the NET Team for an exemplary technical performance!

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