Drinking at all levels

The construction of a new reservoir for drinking water in Cadarache is imminent. The reservoir will provide water for the ITER site both during the construction works and the future running of the site. Its total capacity is 150,000 m\(^3\), and it will be used during the pumping and treatment station, already present at the CSG (Cadarache, which uses water directly from the Durance and Verdon rivers). A storage tank will be built from the companies Carr and Gardi are working on; the project is completed in July.

DFCI Tracks to Protect the Forest

On the morning of the 10th May, in a tour led by Brigitte Duvauc, office National des Forêts (French Forestry Commission), the members of the Biodiversity committee found themselves at the foot of a majestic oak tree. The number on its trunk indicates that it is one of a group of trees which are presently under observation. In the fire, which took place under the branches, you can see a Lola box, set up to house the local bats. A few minutes later, the committee discovered another tree on whose trunk a special metal was growing providing a habitat for the Hermit Beetle which is a protected species in France. On that area which spans across about 20 hectares, the trees are deemed to be mature not only due to their size, but also due to their age (200 to 300 years old) and their presence. They have been georeferenced using a Global Positioning System (GPS), explained Brigitte Guyot.

The visit continued on the ITER site and was a very solid introduction to the coming meeting. The representatives present agreed to report on the inventory of an area of over 2,000 hectares, most of which is in the state owned forests of Cadarache and Verdon Nature Reserve and part of which is on the land of the CEA and the ITER site, an update on the eight properties studied with regard to the ecological impact of the acquisition of 40,000 hectares of land, and a discussion to define the subject of a thesis involving the collaboration of research laboratories. The committee members have decided to meet again in November for the next update.

Visits and more Visits

By the end of May, more than a 100 visitors had visited the site since the beginning of the year. They have included elected representatives, personnel of the Conservatoire du Pays d’Aix et du Var, the Regional Council, director of the CEA, director of the ITER project, school children from the region, new employees of the Agency company, laboratories and the general public, including members of the local community.

Promises Kept

The work on the development of the ITER site is going without any major incidents or delays, as far as commissioning works are concerned. In addition, the water supply will be ensured by the reservoir which is under construction and which will be completed in June 2008. They met for the fourth time on the 19th May to report on the progress of the work undertaken since the last June.

REGULATIONS

Employment increase progressively

The members of the committee for the ITER Employment Partnership Conference met for the second time on the 10th May. The meeting aimed to define the local authorities and the different categories of employment, training and human resources plans. The committee’s tasks involve collecting job offers, participating in job fairs and developing on the activities, integration steps and actions to be taken over the next few months with the local communities.

The ITER Site

Two Years Already!

Visitors cannot hide their surprise at the changes which have taken place since they reached the platform which will be the future ITER site. In a few years, this site is to be the home of 400 scientists working there. The 19th May site was chosen following a series of engineering studies, since it allows for local, economic and environmental optimisation. At an altitude of 200m, the site would have involved an increase in both the need of material to be extracted and the amount of raw materials required to build the ITER site. "How is it possible to start from the 19th May site and to choose the ITER site as the construction site for this big research center? With one exception, everything in this area of approximately 2,000 hectares has remained the same. For everyone, a visit is a way to discover all the facets of the project and to ask questions concerning its regional, national and international aspects."

To Visit the ITER Site

Photo credits: all rights reserved, P.-A. Fournier, Tel. : 04 42 25 29 26 « Interfaces is edited by the Agence Iter France in collaboration of a research laboratory, the General French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) for the agricultural and environmental aspects, the CEA and the ITER site; an update on the vegetation which have taken place when the trees were cut down and archeological surveys were carried out, then for nearly an entire year the bulldozers, lorries and other large construction equipments worked around the pole during the building work. Extensive work has also been carried out on the level of the ITER site. Work on the construction of the ITER building site, overseen by the Agence Iter France, is right on schedule. Here is an update of the work that has been carried out over the past two years.

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Cadarache
The Science Park for Future Energies

The arrival of the ITER project, the creation of the Capenergies Centre of Competitiveness and the potential of the CEA which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year provide Cadarache with a very solid basis for the creation of a science park for the future energies. The project is already being outlined.

According to several analysts, science is one of the driving forces of economic developments. At present, research would seem to indicate that scientific facilities generate economic activity even before they produce knowledge or results as a rule, a job-one large research facility generates the creation of a second job in a laboratory in the area. What is more, as well as direct economic benefits, the presence of large research facilities reinforces or creates local expertise.

A Driving Force for Economic Development

Several examples can be cited, such as the European synchrotron radiation facilities (ESRF) in Grenoble, where it would appear that 30 to 40% of the annual budget is directed into the economy through the purchase of materials and services and through the salaries of the personnel. The same result can be seen at the ITER (Joint European Torus) research facility in England. The total value of the contracts found by the ITER project is nearly £1 billion annually, which exceeds by far the expenditure of more than £1 billion per year on research equipment alone. These examples prove that science is a driving force for economic development.

A Dynamic Centre

The Science Park for Future Energies will be the eldest of the ITER projects. In the meantime, the CEA/Cadarache project. (TheITER European Domestic Agency Fusion for Energy and the CEA/Cadarache). It is a highly successful meeting and the organizers are already starting to plan the next ITER Business Meeting. More details will soon be available.

Preparation for the 4th Edition of the IBF

The First ITER Business Meeting

5th May 2009

Nearby several hundreds companies took part in the first ITER Business Meeting which was organized by the different Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the PACA region on the 4th of May this year in Cadarache. Not only was it an opportunity to report on the progress of the works undertaken in the region and on their economic impact but also to outline future projects in the presence of lab and with the participation of the different companies involved (Agence Iler France, Mission ITER, ITER Organization, the European domestic agency Fusion for Energy and the CEA/Cadarache).

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