

## GUEST EDITOR'S COMMENTS

With the present generation of large magnetic confinement fusion devices (including Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor, Joint European Torus, and JT-60) performing successfully and accumulating several experiment-years worth of valuable information, it is time for fusion development programs to proceed to the next milestone—demonstration of plasma thermonuclear burn and testing of the technology for fusion power reactors. Indeed, a number of conceptual designs of the next generation of experimental fusion devices have already been worked out.

One of the most comprehensive of these designs is that of the Next European Torus (NET). Having considered many design options, the NET Team has recently converged to a reference design. This appears to be a proper stage to present a broad review of the work done so far before the readers of *Fusion Technology (FT)*. Moreover, the agreement recently signed between the big fusion “powers” for collaboration in the design of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor makes the publication of this special issue of *FT* even more timely.

Thus, I am pleased that George Miley and the Editorial Board of *FT* have accepted the suggestion to devote a special issue for the NET, and that Romano Toschi and the NET Team were willing to undertake the preparation of the review papers. Special thanks are due to Joergen Raeder of the NET Team for his help in planning the contents of the special issue.

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