



PRESS RELEASE

b.NEXT consortium (Assystem, Egis and Empresarios Agrupados) signs with Fusion for Energy (F4E) major Architect Engineering contract for ITER project

Paris, XX 2024, XXhXX (CET) - The b.NEXT consortium (Assystem, Egis and Empresarios Agrupados) has signed with Fusion for Energy (F4E), the EU organisation managing Europe's contribution to major international fusion projects, a multi-million deal running until 2030, for activities relating to design and construction management at ITER- the biggest international fusion experiment. Building on the expertise already provided by the partners of b.NEXT, this new contract reaffirms them as leaders in the field of fusion, having supported ITER since 2010.

ITER aims to demonstrate the feasibility of nuclear fusion by building the largest device using magnetic confinement. It brings together engineers and scientists from 35 countries, united around a common goal: to develop a clean, sustainable energy source.

A strategic contract focused on excellence and innovation

Through this contract b.Next will provide consulting and engineering expertise on the design and construction management activities until 2030.

Excellence in safety, quality and performance were key to awarding this contract. Innovation was also at the heart of the tender, with the use of cutting-edge digital technologies such as systems modeling and artificial intelligence, aimed at automating engineering and project management processes.

b.NEXT parties attribute their success to the strength of their strategic alliance and their ability to meet the complex requirements of such large-scale international projects. Its global vision, experience and agility has enabled the consortium to establish itself as a key group, capable of piloting major industrial projects and accompanying ITER towards a crucial new stage in the future of nuclear fusion.

Stéphane Aubarbier, Deputy CEO of Assystem, commented: *"The ITER project is the most ambitious nuclear research program in recent decades. The success of b.NEXT illustrates the strength of our consortium, which brings together complementary expertise in engineering, project management and digital technologies."*

Assystem continues to play a major role in the development of nuclear fusion, an essential technology for the world's energy future. Having worked with Fusion for Energy (F4E) since 2010, we are proud to continue this collaboration, capitalising on the quality of our production and the valuable experience acquired by our teams.

We are convinced that fusion technologies are crucial to maximizing sustainable, low-carbon electricity production worldwide, while offering promising career prospects for current and future generations."

François Martin, Chief Nuclear Officer at Egis: "

"We are proud to play a part of fusion technology, to contribute providing a concrete response to the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, enhancing energy security, and improving the quality of life of billions of people around the globe. We can see rapid growth in fusion investment and the importance of building solid supply chains to deliver future reactors. Therefore, it was important for Egis to collaborate with F4E in ITER via the b.NEXT consortium, in order to reach this objective. This also consolidates Egis' European leadership in nuclear infrastructure and testifies our clients' confidence in us at this historic moment in the renaissance of the nuclear industry."

Javier Perea, Managing Director and CEO of Empresarios Agrupados, highlighted:

"The ITER project is very relevant to designing the future energy mix and a transition free of CO2. It is a complex international experiment aiming to demonstrate the technical feasibility of fusion on an industrial scale in the next decade. The project will pave the way for a sustainable, inexhaustible energy source with the capacity to provide the base load for completely decarbonized electrical systems with a minimum environmental impact.

This contract builds on the great teamwork of b.NEXT partners and Fusion for Energy (F4E) since 2010, bringing together the best capabilities in advanced engineering for nuclear projects of the highest complexity."

Marc Lachaise, Director of Fusion for Energy (F4E), stated: *"Europe's participation in ITER offers companies a unique opportunity to be involved in the biggest international fusion project, which will influence the energy mix of the future. They will be part of a large supply chain managed by F4E, which will strengthen their skills, boost their competitiveness, and provide them with first-hand experience in developing tomorrow's fusion devices. Building on our previous collaboration with b.NEXT partners, we rely on their expertise and renew our commitment to excellence and timely delivery."*

About Assystem

Assystem, one of the world's leading independent nuclear engineering companies, is committed to accelerating the energy transition. With more than 55 years of experience in highly regulated sectors with stringent safety and security constraints, the Group provides engineering and project management services as well as digital solutions and services to optimize the performance of complex infrastructure assets throughout their life cycle.

In its 12 countries of operation, Assystem's 7,000 experts are supporting energy transition. To achieve an affordable low carbon energy supply, Assystem is committed to the development of low carbon electricity (nuclear, renewables and electricity grids) and clean hydrogen.

The Group is also helping drive the use of low carbon electricity in industrial sectors such as transportation. Assystem is currently ranked in the top three nuclear engineering groups in the world. To find out more visit www.assystem.com

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ABOUT Egis

Egis is an international player in architecture, consulting, construction engineering and mobility services. We design and operate intelligent infrastructures and buildings that meet the challenges of the climate emergency and enable more balanced, sustainable and resilient land use planning. Present in 100 countries, Egis puts the expertise of its 19,500 employees at the service of its customers and develops cutting-edge innovations for all projects. Through the diversity of its areas of activity, the Group is a key player in the collective organisation of society and the living environment of citizens throughout the world.

With over 70 years of experience in the nuclear industry, Egis supports its clients in the design and construction of nuclear infrastructure such as power reactors, SMRs, research and advanced reactors as well as in the fuel fabrication and radioactive waste disposal and management solutions. Egis' nuclear engineering skills were recently extended to mechanical and process engineering with the acquisition of the ATRIX group.

Egis has also embarked on a knowledge capitalization program to address the industry's skills challenges and ensure its ability to meet the nuclear industry's long-term requirements for the development of the New Nuclear globally.

<https://www.egis-group.com/>

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ABOUT EMPRESARIOS AGRUPADOS

Empresarios Agrupados, with +60 years of experience, +400 key projects, presence in 80 countries, and +1,400 employees, offers management, engineering, construction supervision and procurement capabilities for the development of complex and/or first-of-a-kind projects of various types at national and international level.

Our services cover all phases of the life cycle of power generation projects, from nuclear (fission and fusion), conventional thermal (coal, fuel oil, gas in open or combined cycles) to renewable energies (solar parabolic, solar concentrating tower, solar photovoltaic and wind). We have developed complete projects as the main engineer in power plants totalling more than 65 GW, having also carried out many studies and engineering works of partial scope in many other projects.

Empresarios Agrupados started its activities in fusion technologies in 1994 supporting the ITER preconstruction and design activities, site studies and in the preparation of the licencing documentation. In the last 15 years, Empresarios Agrupados has executed more than 20 contracts for ITER related to building, I&C central system, piping, thermohydraulics, mechanical components, simulation and electrical systems, providing services in engineering, manufacturing, procurement

site supervision, simulation and installation. Empresarios Agrupados is also participating in the broad approach with activities in IFMIF/DONES and JT-60.

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Fusion for Eenergy

Fusion for Energy (F4E) is the European Union's organisation for Europe's contribution to ITER.

One of the main tasks of F4E is to work together with European industry, SMEs and research organisations to develop and provide a wide range of high technology components together with engineering, maintenance and support services for the ITER project.

F4E supports fusion R&D initiatives through the Broader Approach Agreement signed with Japan and prepares for the construction of demonstration fusion reactors (DEMO).

F4E was created by a decision of the Council of the European Union as an independent legal entity and was established in April 2007 for a period of 35 years.

Its offices are in Barcelona, Spain.

<https://www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu/>

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