PRESS RELEASE

PR Department
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Barcelona, chosen as 2013 site for the biggest international congress on nuclear fusion energy technologies

The Catalan capital was competing against Kyoto, Istanbul and Daejeon to host the event

Barcelona, 17 September 2011.- Barcelona has been chosen to host the 11th International Symposium on Nuclear Fusion Technology (ISFNT), the most important event in this field in the world, which will be held in September 2013 and bring together over 500 scientists and technical officers from around the globe.

The Congress organizing committee made the announcement yesterday during the closing ceremony of the 10th symposium, this year held in Portland, Oregon (USA). The Catalan capital was competing against Kyoto (Japan), Istanbul (Turkey) and Daejeon (South Korea) to organize the event. Barcelona's bid, presented jointly by the CIEMAT and the IREC, was selected thanks to its scientific and organizational competence. The Barcelona Fusion Center (bFUS), dedicated to fusion energy solutions, has a research programme which the IREC is rolling out together with the CIEMAT and the ICAEN, which was one of the key reasons behind the committee choosing Barcelona.

The committee also considered the presence in Barcelona of the European Union's Fusion for Energy (F4E) agency. This organization is responsible for developing the European contribution to the ITER project, the biggest experimental centre for the development of fusion energy technologies, currently being built in Cadarache (France).

The Congress will be chaired by the Catalan Minister for Enterprise and Labour at the Government of Catalonia, Dr. Francesc Xavier Mena, one of the groups behind Barcelona's candidacy.

The International Symposium on Nuclear Fusion Technology is aimed at fostering the exchange of information on scientific and technical processes and is an excellent opportunity to announce the latest breakthroughs in this field, discuss key issues and establish synergies to resolve problems.

About the Catalan Institute for Energy Research (IREC).

The IREC is the leading centre for research in the energy sector in Catalonia. Created in 2008, it is specialised in Technological Research and Development activities related to saving energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies; more specifically, it has work lines based on technologies related to micro networks, electric vehicles, energy storage, building efficiency, bioenergy and biofuels, and offshore wind energy.

The Institute also has an electricity and power electronics area, another area aimed at research, design and characterisation of materials for energy, and a third area dedicated to socio/technical research in the energy field. The Institute will be rolled out progressively through to the year 2014, at which time it will have 160 highly qualified researchers.

The IREC, chaired by the Catalan Minister for Enterprise and Labour, Francesc Xavier Mena i López, has one office in Barcelona and another in Tarragona. Its sponsors are the Government of Catalonia, through the Ministry of Enterprise and Labour and the Ministry of Economy and Knowledge, and the Government of Spain, through the Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology Research (CIEMAT) and the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving (IDAE). Other members include the University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and Rovira i Virgili University, as well as the companies Endesa, Gas Natural Fenosa, the Repsol Foundation, Enagás, Compañía Logística de Hidrocarburos (CLH) and Alstom.

The IREC's infrastructures and scientific/technological equipment have been jointly funded by FEDER funds from the Catalonia Operative Programme 2007-2013, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Government of Catalonia.

For further information
Ms. Ivón Martínez
Communications Manager
IREC, Instituto de Investigación en Energía de Cataluña
C/ Jardins de les Dones de Negre, 1, 2ª planta
08930 Sant Adrià de Besós, Barcelona (Spain)
Tel.: +34 933 562 615
imartinez@irec.cat
www.irec.cat