

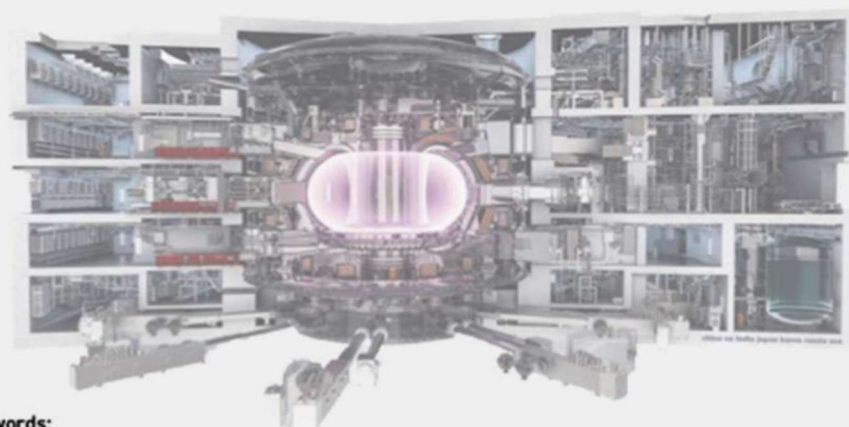
# The Ways and Means of ITER: Reciprocity and Compromise in Fusion Science Diplomacy

*An InsSciDE Case Study*

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This case explores the intricacies of governing the large controlled thermonuclear fusion experiment ITER currently being built in Cadarache, France. ITER is one of the world's largest technoscientific collaborations, yet its complex organization and cumbersome logistics have even its proponents admitting that things probably should have been done otherwise. This historical analysis delves into the decisions taken during the negotiation phases of the project, showing the importance of reciprocity and compromise to find solutions acceptable to the parties involved in this diplomatic and scientific "assemblage". How far can science diplomacy go before it affects technoscientific choices and practices? If the careful give-and-take of reciprocity between unequal powers is a hallmark of diplomacy, to what extent are possibly inefficient compromises needed to make a project such as ITER materialize at all?



**Keywords:**

Big Science, ITER, reciprocity, compromise, fusion

*Image credit: ITER*



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