

The EC-system of EU DEMO: concepts for a reactor heating system

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In the frame of the project for a European DEMO-stration Fusion Power Plant (FPP), the design of the auxiliary heating systems is one of the keys to heat and control the burning plasma (i.e. a plasma in reactor producing electricity to the grid from fusion reactions). The heating mix considered in EU DEMO bases on Electron Cyclotron Resonance Heating and Current Drive (ECRH&CD), Neutral Beam Injection (NBI) and Ion Cyclotron Resonance Heating (ICRH). In this first phase of the design process (called Pre-Conceptual phase) each system is under study with 50 MW as a reference power to the plasma [1]. The main tasks assigned to the EC system are reported in the Table 1, assuming the full use of the 50 MW:

Table 1. Main Physical Requirements for EC system

EC Task	Power [MW]	Localiza-tion [p]	Mode
Assisted Break-down	6–10	< 0.3	Heating
Ramp up and L-H transition	50	< 0.3	Heating/CD
Main heating	50	< 0.3	Heating/CD
Sawtooth control	2–10	< 0.3	CD
NTM control (q = 2; q = 3/2)	10–15	0.85; 0.75	CD
Ramp down	40	0.3–0.5	Heating

These heating tasks require different radial localization and combination of heating and non-inductive current drive (CD). A possible solution is a gyrotron capable to operate at two (or more) different frequencies, in order to cover all the physical requirements in the easiest way. Moreover in designing an EC system for DEMO, it is necessary to consider the peculiarities of a fusion power plant reactor, which are significantly different from those of any existing tokamak experiments. The power reliability and availability are major targets for the system, because in case of fault of EC system the pulse must be terminated, with a consequent unacceptable economic impact. Therefore, reliability of any each sub-system is taken into consideration when choosing the architecture of the EC system. A second objective is to minimize the recirculating power to guarantee the higher possible energy gain of the reactor with the use of a highly efficient gyrotrons [2] (above 60 %) and low losses (10%) transmission lines.

The present design considers 2 MW gyrotron units, capable to operate at 170 GHz for heating and 204 GHz for current drive. This last corresponds to a moderate

upshift of 1.2 for the CD function while the two frequencies (170/204 GHz) have been selected to satisfy the $\lambda/2$ -resonances of the diamond-disc window. These frequencies have been selected for the pulsed EU DEMO1 2015 baseline [3] and used as reference to calculate CD efficiency and localization. At the end of the EU DEMO Conceptual Design phase, the appropriate frequencies will be selected. Within EUROfusion research is ongoing to consider gyrotron operating frequencies of up to 240 GHz.

The transmission line (TL) is based on a quasi-optical approach, inspired to the Multi-beam (MB)TL of W7-X stellarator experiment [4], enclosing the mirrors in an evacuated pipe to make it compatible with the nuclear environment. The concept is based on a mirror confocal layout with single units composed by two mirrors forming a dog-leg and replicated few times for transmitting along straight paths (150 m as reference length).

Table 2. Transmission losses estimation of DEMO EQO for a length of 150 m

Distance between mirrors = 8 m	170 GHz	204 GHz
Ohmic Losses (H-plane - 45°)	3.2%	3.5%
Truncation (40 mirrors)	1.5%	1.4%
Mode conversion	1.5%	1.4%
Total Losses	6.2%	6.3%

One pumping system is located in each mirror unit. As reference it is considered to transmit 8 beams with one MBTL, with an overall losses estimated to be <10% (see Table 2). This choice would allow a simpler and compact solution capable to reduce the complexity of the system and to save space.

The design of the launching system is strongly limited by severe constrains imposed by the environment of a nuclear reactor as the vicinity of a hot burning plasma and under a heavy neutron bombardment. In particular, no movable parts are allowed in proximity of a burning plasma, and shielding and suitable structural component need to be included in the design [5]. A remote steering antenna, with a dogleg in the vessel port, is under study as one of the options for a launcher concept. The proper choice of steering plane and the inclination of the corrugated square waveguide are the free parameters for the required EC power localization and CD efficiency, to be combined with the engineering requirements. In Fig. 1 the result of a beam tracing performed with TORBEAM [6] is shown. Using both the frequencies the possibility to cover the assigned tasks of Table 1 is demonstrated,

while the 204 GHz exhibits a higher central CD efficiency (for ST control), the 170 GHz can be efficiently used for NTM control and for central or off-axis heating.

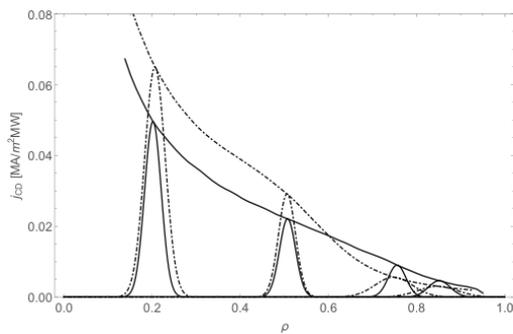


Fig. 1. With full lines (dashed lines) calculated CD profiles for 170 GHz (204 GHz) launched from equatorial plane with antenna toroidally inclined of 17° (22°). For the different depositions a steering of $\pm 12^\circ$ is considered

A comparison of remote steering antennas and alternative simpler solutions, truncated waveguides used as launchers with step tunable gyrotron, is ongoing, on the basis of the physical requirements of Table 1. This study can be complemented considering the use of step tunable gyrotrons used in the truncated waveguide launcher concept, in order to have enough localization control for NTM stabilization. The other tasks can be satisfied increasing the number of launching points with the aid of fast microwave switches.

The reliability of the auxiliary power to be delivered, and, more in general, the RAMI of the whole EC system, is another characterizing point of the conceptual design. The maximization of reliability is obtained with appropriate system architecture, characterized by a modular design. An ideal overall reliability of 100 % to deliver 50 MW to the DEMO plasma using an EC system is possible to reach by considering a proper redundancy in the different sub units. Therefore, the system concept is

based on a strong modularity which considers a cluster of 8 sources (gyrotrons) fed by one high voltage cathode power supply and individual anode power supply. The 8 beams are transmitted to the launchers with a single MBTL. The launcher of each cluster is individual and in the same port plug in structure. The best combination [7] is composed by 5 clusters of 8 units, with 7 gyrotrons operating in each cluster (and one in standby) and one full cluster in standby. Therefore only 28 lines will be on simultaneously with 12 lines off ready to substitute the unit (gyrotron or line / launcher) eventually in fault.

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