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SEE/1-1: International Perspectives on a Path to a Magnetic Fusion Energy DEMO

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Nations engaged in magnetic fusion R&D are now examining the needed programmes to move toward DEMO, i.e., a practical demonstration of electricity generation on a power plant scale, also satisfying a range of socio-economic goals. The path to DEMO will include major fusion nuclear facilities and their accompanying programmes to develop the various technologies needed to harness fusion energy for peaceful purposes. An IAEA “consultancy meeting” was held in January 2012 to discuss possibilities and opportunities for a coordinated international approach to addressing the critical issues for DEMO. Three findings resulted: 1) The scientific and technical issues for fusion development are known; 2) There is no single roadmap; and 3) international collaboration on promoting a coordinated DEMO programme would be beneficial to all parties. Concerning the third finding, it was concluded that the best way to move forward is to institute a DEMO Programme Workshop Series under the auspices of the IAEA.

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