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Advances in the Physics Basis for the European DEMO Design

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In the European Fusion Roadmap ITER is followed by a Demonstration Fusion Power Reactor (DEMO), for which a conceptual design is now under development. The relevant physics knowledge need for the concept design analysis –referred to as DEMO Physics Basis –is incomplete. This contribution reports first results of a coherent effort to develop the DEMO Physics Basis, carried out by European experts. Based on an earlier assessment this program has been started in recent years and expanded in 2014 towards a more systematic and broader activity.

To give an example, the vertical stability of a DEMO plasma has been investigated. Especially for typical ramp-down conditions critical growth rates have been found. Furthermore employing a realistic feedback control system, the required installed power to control the ramp-down plasma after an initial perturbation has been found to be out of the acceptable range. In order to quickly resolve this, it is planned to start already at this stage searching for a stable ramp-down trajectory.

The program to develop the DEMO Physics Basis includes investigations in the areas of transport, MHD, fast particles, plasma wall interaction and disruptions. In this phase of the program it is essential to have an intense discussion with the international fusion science community on various aspects of DEMO modelling and extrapolation of experimental results to DEMO.

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