Preparation and execution of Deuterium-tritium experiments in JET with the ITER-like wall J. Mailloux on behalf of JET contributors*

2016-2021: JET TFL for Integrated Operational Scenario UKAEA JET science programme leader

*see the author list of list of J Mailloux *et al.* Nucl. Fusion 62 (2022) 042026 https://doi.org/10.1088/1741-4326/ac47b4





This work has been carried out within the framework of the EUROfusion Consortium, funded by the European Union via the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Grant Agreement No 101052200 — EUROfusion). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.

EUROfusion Preparation and execution of Deuterium-tritium experiments in JET with the ITER-like wall J. Mailloux on behalf of JET contributors



+ JET operator





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JET provides key contribution to ITER





JET bridges gap from medium size tokamaks to ITER

With unique set of capabilities:

- Tritium handling
- ITER-like wall (ILW): beryllium & tungsten wall
- Plasma current up to 4MA & heating power up to 40MW
- ITER relevant D-D & D-T neutron fluence
- Shattered Pellet Injection
- Improved set of diagnostics

D-T: key step to prepare fusion power plant operation



Fuel of nuclear fusion reactors



D-T experiments inform:

- Plasma physics & operation
- First wall lifetime & fuel retention
- Material & components irradiation
- Tritium cycle
- Waste management
- Regulatory aspects

→ Impact design and preparation
 of nuclear power plants operation
 & decommissioning

Outline



- 1. JET operations
 - Motivation for JET-ILW
 - JET systems
 - T&D-T ops constraints
- 2. Preparation and execution of scenarios for sustained high fusion power
- 3. Some DTE2 results
 - Isotope impact
 - Integrated scenarios
 - energy record and alpha particle results

Summary



JET characteristics





Major / minor radius (m)	2.96 / ~0.8-0.9
Max plasma current (MA)	4.5 (3.5 in DTE2)
Max toroidal field (T)	3.9
Discharge duration (s) with high input power	Up to 20s flat top
Main fuel	H / D / T / He Pellets: H, D
Extrinsic impurities	N (not in D-T), Neon, Ar
Ion Cyclotron Heating with ELM resilience	~ 6MW / 25-56 MHz
Neutral Beam Injection after recent upgrade	≤ 34 MW (D / T) ≤10 MW (H) < 25 MW (He)

Previous D-T experiments

- Previous D-T experiments:
 - 1991 PTE JET
 - 1994-96 TFTR (US)
 - 1997 DTE1 on JET
 - (2004 Trace T exp. on JET)
- Demonstrated:
 - D-T Fusion
 - Plasma behaviour affected by use of D-T mixture
 - Clear α effects seen on TFTR, but JET results ambiguous
 - Too high retention of tritium by carbon first wall components
 → impacted ITER decision of first wall materials



Europa's support to ITER

Key part of Europe's support to ITER

JET-ILW: W divertor & Be main

• Main goals:

chamber

•

- Confirm reduced fuel retention
- Assess compatibility with ITER relevant scenarios
- D-T integrated operation
- Accompanied by several enhancements (e.g. heating power) & refurbishments

Plan for JET with ITER-like wall started 2006



J. Paméla *et al.,* J. Nucl. Mater. 363–365 (2007)



JET operations: control room



Main roles:

- Engineer in charge ensure ops within safe limits
- Session leader(s) prepare & input pulse parameters
- Scientific co-Ordinator(s) lead experiment
- Diagnostic co-Ordinator
- **PDO** for RTCC
- **Operators** for HVPS, Heating and fuelling, Diagnostics, etc
- etc

First plasma in JET-ILW on 24th Aug 2011



Pulse preparation done well before the day of execution

JET operations

- Safe and co-ordinated operation of JET systems
- JET operation instructions (JOIs) define permitted operating space
- Exceptions (blue forms) can be approved after assessment of risks vs scientific benefits
- Machine lifetime is a controlled scarce resource

Example:

- JOI 1.1 & 1.2 limit I_P*B_T & vessel forces
- The limits have been determined on the basis of a JET reliability assessment report and lifetimeto-leak analysis for:
 - Machine vertical port welds
 - ILW components
 - Pre-ILW components



Lifetime-to-leak analysis for representative configuration



- lifetime to leak for representative low and high δ configurations
 - Recent example of risky experiment: 4MA baseline in 2020 D campaign
 - \rightarrow Disruption budget allocated
 - \rightarrow Prescribed cautious steps in I_P, B_T
- Additional limitations may constraint I_{P} increase, e.g. high δ configuration used for integrated seeding scenario with S-P on vertical tiles limited to 3.2 MA by divertor coils current capability
- JOI address other machine or people safety • risks

Pulse design and validation includes checking JOI limits not exceeded J. Mailloux| IIS2022| San Diego | 25-29th July 2022 | Page 11

Key tritium capabilities: heating and fuelling



5 Tritium Injection Modules (TIMs) (only 1 module in DTE1)



T can be fed to both Neutral Beam Injection Boxes (only 1 in DTE1) P_{NBI} upgraded to 34MW



→ Capability for 100% high power Tritium experiments
 → More flexibility for experiment & pulse design

Key tritium capabilities: Active Gas Handling



Lässer R. et al 1999 Fusion Eng. Des. 46 & 1999 Fusion Eng. Des. 47

- → 69g Tritium on site for T and DTE2 (21g in DTE1)
- → T&D-T experiments used 1kg T overall: 240g (TIMs) and 763g (T-NBI) (100g in DTE1)

- Stores, supplies and recycles T going to and from JET systems
- AGHS Plant capabilities limits:
 - Operational days (10 days in 4/5 weeks for T reprocessing & accounting)
 - daily tritium budget: 44barL (11g)

→ Needed to budget experiments and minimise pulse tritium consumption, e.g.:

- Plasma initiation in H or D
- Pulses shortened to minimum needed for conclusive results
- Detect and stop dud plasmas
- Prepare pulse schedule in advance

JET operations: Real-time control capabilities



- Several Real-time measurements and calculations available, e.g.:
 - ELM frequency calculation (spectroscopy)
 - Te hollowness factor calculation (ECE)
 - Radiation and radiation tomography via Neural Network applications
 - Surface temperature from NIR cameras (wide-angle view and tile 6)
 - GIM/TIM flow calculation within PDLM
 - LIDAR and High Resolution Thomson Scattering
- The real-time central controller (RTCC) can drive gas, pellets, NBI and RF, including during a Jump To Termination (JTT)
- Plasma Event Triggering Avoidance and Mitigation (PETRA) runs event detectors and checks conditions to raise alarms
- RT early detection of unhealthy plasmas and JTT response was integral to scenario development for DTE2 to reduce risk of damage from disruptions
- Also used routinely to avoid wasting tritium or neutrons budget: dud detection with controlled pulse stop

D vs T & D-T experiments

- D, H, He: ops 5 days a week, 2 shifts/day
- Sessions-based preparation
- Scarce resource (budget for disruptions, high TF, high tile temperature or energy, etc.) approval required
- Duty SL prepares pulses with the SC & team the week before

D vs T & D-T experiments



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- Sessions-based preparation
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- T & D-T: 10 ops days in 3 weeks, + 2 weeks for T reprocessing & accounting
- 'Pulse-based' preparation with several experiments per session
- Each scientific goal attributed pulse(s), T and neutron budget, additionally to usual scarce resources
- Reference SL submit detailed pulse(s) for approval ≥4 weeks ahead, with predicted T & neutron
 - Must have D reference executed with TIMs (in D) & relevant RTC schemes
 - Must have demonstrated tolerable disruption rate, etc

Successful T & D-T campaign despite many challenges



- Machine issues frequently interrupted the campaigns
- Sustained D-T NBI \approx 30MW available only in last D-T cycle
- Having the detailed pulse prepared in advance helped with the frequent timeline re-optimisations, though the pulse approval process would gain in being streamlined
- COVID-19 meant all scientists had to participate remotely



Part 2 - Preparation and execution of scenarios for sustained high fusion power

JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2



JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2



JET-ILW: journey towards DTE2





- Integrated seeded plasma
- for clear α effects or isotope effects
- Set of H, D, T campaigns to study the impact of isotope mass in preparation for DTE2 and ITER
- Plasmas addressing specific physics questions to better prepare ITER – including clarifying impact of parameters not ITER relevant, e.g. high rotation

Development requirements for high P_{FUS} scenarios

D experiments

- Demonstration in deuterium of sustained high fusion power in JET-ILW with:
 - Divertor plate temperature within limits
 - Tolerable high Z impurity content
 - Detrimental MHDs avoidance
 - Tolerable disruption rate and/or impact
 - T-ops constraints (TIMs, tritium and neutron saving methods, etc.)

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Strategy:

- 2 routes pursued to maximise chances:
 - Baseline, 'high current' route
 - Hybrid, 'High beta' route
- Large amount of experimental time in D to scenario development
 - Included documenting impact of gas & power to prepare strategy in case of unexpected behaviour in D-T
- Pure tritium experiments helped to prepare response to isotope effects
- 'Predict first' approach guided experiments

Baseline scenario development to high I_P in JET-ILW



D experiments



- ILW up to 2014: lower confinement for I_p>2.5MA than equivalent plasmas in JET with C-wall
 - W in the plasma → high gas to reduce W source → loss of performance
 - loss of C as intrinsic impurity
 → impact on edge radiation
 and transport

Baseline scenario development to high I_P in JET-ILW



D experiments



- ILW up to 2014: lower confinement for I_p>2.5MA than equivalent plasmas in JET with C-wall
- ILW 2016: Confinement recovered at 3MA, thanks to:
 - D pellets pace ELMs → flush impurities
 - Low fuel injection, for improved pedestal and core confinement
- ILW 2019-2020: successful recipe extended to 3.5MA, with clear progress at 3.6-4MA
- Recipe not relevant to ITER baseline flat-top but could be in ramp-up & ramp-down

High performance at high I_P compatible with ILW

Dedicated effort to reduce disruption rate in Baseline



Baseline disruptions (D plasmas)



- High disruption rate in baseline plasma motivated dedicated disruption avoidance effort
- Most disruptions during ramp-down, when near H-L threshold: high radiation leads to back transition & loss of ELMs accelerate impurity accumulation & lead to disruption
- RTC schemes implemented to identify 'unhealthy' plasmas by monitoring:
 - Radiation peaking or high edge radiation detected with fast tomographic reconstruction (NN)
 - Proximity to H-L threshold (next slide)
- Overall disruption rate not significantly reduced though taking place at lower I_P

Optimised termination algorithm for baseline plasmas



D experiments

Disruption avoidance during plasma termination by controlling power and gas



- Algorithm monitors proximity to H-L and density limit and acts on power and gas requests
- Successfully applied in several 3 MA flat top baseline cases
- Application at higher current so far much less reliable because of reduced margin in input power vs P_{RAD}

Best baseline sustained performance



D experiments



- Best sustained performance for 3MA
- Equivalent D-T fusion power: 8MW
- Good 3.5MA reference also obtained though slightly less performing
- Overall disruption rate high:
 - 3MA: 60% in 2015–2016 to 20% in 2019-2020
 - ≥3.5MA: 70% in 2020
- Baseline D-T experiment given go ahead after detailed review of disruption data because of high scientific value

Baseline scenario: reduced operational space in D-T



50/50 D/T results

- Very few pulses because of low availability of high P_{NBI}
- Good access to H-mode after reoptimisation to compensate for combined isotope effects
- Stopped by too high impurity radiation due to less effective W flushing by ELMs
 - higher density in D-T + higher impurity radiation → reduced operational space
 - Complex interplay between MHD modes, sawtooth instability, energetic particles & radiation
- More time needed in D-T!



D. Frigione, L. Garzotti, F. Rimini, D. van Eester

Hybrid Scenario overview





CD Challis et al., EPS 2022

D experiments

- Equivalent D-T fusion power: 8MW
- Disruption rate reduced to 5%

[#]neglects gas system response time

Impact of isotope mass on Hybrid ramp-up



D/H experiments



CD Challis et al.,NF 60 2020

- q-profile evolution sensitive to main ion isotope mass in Ohmic current ramp phase of JET 'hybrid' plasmas due to impurities
- Can lead to disruptions:
 - Central cooling Reduced or reversed magnetic shear 2/1 tearing mode Locked mode
- Strategies developed to avoid I_P ramp disruptions in T & DT plasmas due to q-profile changes
 - Increase plasma density to restore temperature peaking
 - Early pulse termination when hollow temperature profile detected

Prediction of impact of tritium on q



q₀ increases with isotope mass due to core radiation

 Increased W sputtering and/or reduced ion temperature (e-i decoupling)

• Effect compensated by increasing density during Ohmic ramp phase

CD Challis *et al.,* EPS 2022 D & T predictive modelling done before T experiments



T plasma profile matched to D reference



 Ohmic tests used to tune q-profile

- D reference repeated using T:
 - ➤ Hollow T_e profile
 - Locked mode
 - > MGI triggered

CD Challis et al.,

EPS 2022

- Mitigated disruption
- D plasma q-profile matched in T by increasing density, as predicted



Hybrid scenario optimised for sustained performance



high initial gas flow low initial gas flow



radiation over plasma cross-section at t=11s

D experiments

- Initial Hybrid experiments in JET-ILW 2011-2014: good confinement but not sustained due to impurity accumulation
- Optimisation of ramp-up phase led to high pedestal ion temperature & clear demonstration of outwards W convection at plasma edge → 'impurity screening'

Increases confidence that this will take place in ITER as predicted (R. Dux *et al.*, PPCF 56 (2014) & Nucl. Mat. and Energy 12 (2017))

J. Garcia et al., IAEA 2021 A. Field, submitted to NF

Hybrid scenario: sustained performance





- Hybrid scenario run for the first time in D-T
- Successful sustained pulse after reoptimisation
- Fusion energy record for 50/50 D/T plasmas (42MJ)
- Analysis on-going to disentangle effects on edge and core, and identify isotopic and α effects

Fusion power confirms predictions made before DTE2





50/50 D/T results

- Predict-first approach applied as part of preparing for DTE2
- **D-T fusion power achieved in hybrid plasmas is in range predicted**, when taking into account power available
- Also for baseline scenario (not shown)
- Improvements to models and codes needed to reproduce details of the experiments

Fusion power boosted by optimising heating & fuel mix





- Fusion reactions from JET 50/50 D/T plasmas NBI comprise 'thermal' and 'non-thermal' D+T reactions
- Non-thermal part can be maximised with D-only-NBI in plasma with high tritium
- Further boost with Ion Cyclotron Radiofrequency heating of D ions
- → Significantly more fusion power at same plasma energy

[predictions carried out for T_e = 10keV and T_i = 12 keV] with TRANSP [1] [1] Goldston R.J. et. al., 1981 J. Comput. Phys. 43; Breslau J, et al., 2018 TRANSP Computer Software (https://transp.pppl.gov/index.html)

DTE1 Fusion energy record surpassed



#99869 (2.3MA/3.45T) Hybrid with ~50/50 D/T NBI and plasmaCD Challis, J. Hobirk, A. Kappatou, E. Lerche#99971 (2.5MA/3.86T) Hybrid with D-NBI in T-rich plasmaM. Maslov, E. Lerche



- Fusion energy record surpassed with hybrid scenarios
- Demonstrates compatibility of ILW with sustained high fusion performance



Part 3 – other DTE2 results with impact on ITER IRP

Isotope mass impacts properties in all regions of tokamak plasma 🔘







Detailed W sputtering measurements in H, D, T, DT

- Unique set of JET W-erosion experiments in H, D, T and D-T, combined with ERO2.0 PWI simulations, provide improved predictions of W erosion in ITER
- Support JET operation and interpret challenging W behaviour in T & DT
 - [S Brezinsek et al., PSI 2022]

- W sputtering caused by:
 - a mix of impinging hydrogenic (H,D,T) and impurity ions (Be)
 - Be sputtering increases with isotope mass (see previous slide)
 - a mix of intra-ELM (E_{in}>500 eV) and inter-ELM sputtering (E_{in}<500 eV)
 - CAPS as additional minor channel for erosion identified via WH, WD, WT molecules

[E Pawelec et al., EPS 2021]

Increase of total W source from H → D → T measured on JET-ILW



Impact of fuel mass clarified in T&D-T experiments



- Power threshold for accessing H-mode lower at higher fuel mass
- Unique dataset to test hypothesis on underlying physics

G. Birkenmeier et al., EPS 2022

- Plasma pedestal density (& pressure) higher at higher fuel mass
- Improved diagnostic capabilities since DTE1 allow better understanding of role of pedestal

L. Frassinetti et al., EPS 2022

Integrated neon seeded scenario in deuterium





- Confirmed high divertor radiation with neon as predicted by SOLPS-ITER
- Compatible with high fusion performance
- Inherently small ELMs
- Compares favourably to nitrogen

→Influential results for ITER decision on seed gas



Ne seeded radiative H-mode achieved in D-T



50/50 D/T results



- Ne seeded scenario performed for the first time in D-T, with ITERrelevant Be/W wall
 - Sustained pulse with detached divertor plasma & high radiated fraction
- \rightarrow Confirms neon as promising for ITER
- More time in D-T with sustained high power needed to
 - Confirm improved confinement & small ELMs with neon as seen in D
 - Test our understanding of isotope mass effects on seeded plasma & detachment physics

Clear observation of instabilities triggered by α -particles





50/50 D/T results

- DTE2 included a range of experiments designed to ensure clear α effects observed
- Dedicated 'afterglow' scenario to test models used to predict αdriven instabilities in ITER
 - Inspired by TFTR D-T afterglow experiment (R. Nazikian *et al* PRL 1997)
- α triggers high frequency modes before and during afterglow -Only observed in D-T plasmas

ITER relevant D-T RF schemes demonstrated



50/50 D/T results



Efficient core heating demonstrated with novel RF heating scheme

- Clear increase in T_i with ICRF
- Increased neutron rate & Generation of α -particles
- JET DTE2 provided unique chance to validate this technique & to investigate other ITER relevant ICRF heating schemes

Y. Kazakov, M. Nocente

Summary

- Tritium constraints required a change to experiments management and pulse preparation & validation
- Integrated scenario operation impacted by higher isotope mass, but required few adaptation shots thanks to preparation strategy
- Record sustained high $\mathsf{P}_{\mathsf{FUS}}$ obtained and compatibility of high D-T performance with ILW demonstrated
- Sustained baseline & disruption-free ramp-down not demonstrated
- Preliminary 'lessons learnt' for ITER FPO:
 - Needs to take into account isotope mass impact on PWI, SOL, pedestal, core in codes & control
- Months & years of analysis & modelling needed before fuller implications of D-T results understood and applied in preparation for ITER RP execution & future reactors

Final JET experimental campaigns in 2022-2023



- JET scientific programme under EUROfusion WPTE leadership. TFLs: E. Joffrin, M. Wischmeier
- WPTE: Research Topics across machines with experimental time on AUG, JET, MAST-U, TCV, WEST
- JET D campaigns in 2022-2023 includes
 - 14 sessions for 'RT22-04: Physics-based machine generic systems for an integrated control of plasma discharge', SCs: F. Felici, L. Piron, B. Sieglin
 - 13 sessions for 'RT22-05: Physics of divertor detachment and its control for ITER, DEMO and HELIAS operation', SCs: M. Bernert, D. Brida, H. Reimerdes, N. Fedorczark



Additional slides

Improved diagnostic capabilities compared to DTE1



- better spatial and temporal edge coverage
- ➔ Improved edge/divertor spectroscopy
- ➔ Better diagnosed fusion quantities, e.g.:
 - TAE antenna (α instabilities)
 - Neutron camera & spectrometer
 - γ-ray tomography
 - Fast Ion Loss Detector (alpha losses)
 - high-resolution sub-divertor residual gas analyser for measuring H, D, T, ⁴He & ³He

J. Figueiredo et al., IAEA FEC 2018



Final enhancements installed & commissioned in 2019-2020

Fusion power confirms predictions made before DTE2





- Predict-first approach applied as part of preparing for DTE2
- D-T fusion power achieved is in range predicted, when taking into account power available
- Improvements to models and codes needed to reproduce details of the experiments