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MEPs approve additional ITER funding

By Toby Vogel - Today, 14:31 CET

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Extra money needed to cover €1.3 billion cost overrun at experimental fusion reactor.

The European Parliament today approved €650 million in additional funding to cover cost overruns at the international nuclear fusion project, ITER. In December, MEPs and EU member states agreed in principle to cover €1.3 billion in additional costs for the reactor in 2012-13. The vote in Strasbourg today (20 April) formalised the portion of that funding that comes out of the 2012 budget, a figure approved by national governments in March.

The Green group in the Parliament voted against the funding because it believes that ITER, located in the south of France, will not deliver on the promise of sustainable energy generation. Helga Trüpel, a German Green MEP, described ITER as a "black hole".

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