

The document provides detailed insights and opinions on the proposed change of wall materials in the DIII-D tokamak to enhance its relevance for future fusion reactors. Key points include:

1. Materials Integration and PFC Design:

- The DIII-D wall change aims to address gaps in integrating solid materials and plasma-facing component (PFC) design.
- No current material system meets all the high heat flux (HHF) requirements of a fusion power system, so the DIII-D should support performance understanding of transitional materials like tungsten (W) and test next-generation materials for power reactor applications.

2. Testing and Diagnostics:

- Testing new materials for plasma-facing components in future pilot plants.
- Understanding plasma-material interactions and fitting new walls with international consensus and industry initiatives.
- Implementing in-operando material health diagnostics to monitor material performance during operations.

3. Material Performance and Challenges:

- Tungsten-based solutions are considered promising, but carbon-based walls have shown issues, as seen in JET operations.
- Reactor relevance includes power balance, impurity accumulation, and material durability under plasma interactions.
- Specific challenges include stress allowable of tiles, mechanical and thermal fatigue, and handling of disruption dynamic loads.

4. Advanced Manufacturing:

- Electron Beam Powder Bed Fusion (EB-PBF) of pure tungsten is highlighted for manufacturing dense, crack-free parts with favorable grain orientation.
- EB-PBF allows design freedom to optimize thermal expansion mismatch and enhance resistance to cyclic loads.

5. Research Deliverables:

- Quantify fuel retention, damage, and lifetime of PFCs under heat loads and transients.
- Investigate impurity accumulation from surface erosion and its impact on plasma scenarios.
- Evaluate material performance under combined high heat and particle fluxes, and transients.

6. Strategic Objectives:

- Demonstrate material component solutions with high integrity and long-term durability.
- Provide data and insights for the design of future fusion power plants.
- Develop and test manufacturing solutions that extend beyond short-term coatings to lasting, robust components.

7. Community and Research Focus:

- The document emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive material testing strategy to inform and support the fusion community.
- Focus on understanding and mitigating impurity transport, erosion rates, and maintaining good plasma performance while ensuring material longevity.

- The need for collaboration and sharing data to advance the development of next-generation materials for fusion reactors.

Overall, the document outlines the critical importance of selecting and validating new wall materials that can withstand the demanding conditions of fusion reactors while supporting high-performance plasma operations and contributing to the broader goals of fusion energy research.