

## **The Collaborative Tokamak Control Room\***

D.P. Schissel<sup>1</sup> for the National Fusion Collaboratory Project

<sup>1</sup>*General Atomics, P.O. Box 85608, San Diego, California 92186-5608 USA*

email: schissel@fusion.gat.com, Phone: (858) 455-3387, Fax: (858) 455-4515

The National Fusion Collaboratory Project is developing a robust, user-friendly collaborative software environment to unite fusion research in the United States. In particular, the NFC is developing and deploying a national FES “Grid” (FusionGrid) that is a system for secure sharing of computation, visualization, and data resources over the Internet. One goal of the NFC Project is to enable more efficient utilization of experimental time through more powerful between pulse data analysis and enhanced scientific collaboration resulting in a greater number of experiments at less cost. This goal is being realized through the development and deployment of the Collaborative Control Room that requires (1) secured computational services that can be scheduled as required, (2) the ability to rapidly compare experimental data with simulation results, (3) a means to easily share individual results with the group by moving application windows to a shared display, and (4) the ability for remote scientists to be fully engaged in experimental operations through shared audio, video, and applications. The capabilities of the Collaborative Control Room were first demonstrated at the SC03 meeting where offsite collaborators (in Phoenix) joined in a mockup of a DIII-D experiment located in San Diego. Access Grid technology allowed for shared audio and video as well as shared applications. The offsite collaborators could hear DIII-D announcements and see via a web interface the state of the pulse cycle, the status of data acquisition, and the state of between pulse data analysis. The fusion visualization application ReviewPlus was shared between the two sites allowing for joint scientific exploration. Between pulse data analysis of the plasma shape and transport properties was conducted on FusionGrid through a computational reservation system giving scientists data that was previously only available after the experimental day had ended. The offsite team was able to collaborate more efficiently amongst themselves by being able to share their personal display with the room’s shared display. Since that first demonstration, components of the Collaborative Control room have been used to enhance utilization of experimental run time on the main U.S. experimental facilities as well as those in England, France, Germany, and Japan. Although significant progress has been made, more work is required on ease-of-use and efficiency so that these technologies become ubiquitous within the fusion community. Issues such as the interplay of grid and site security, the efficiency of high-resolution visualization sharing, large-scale simulation data storage, and the seamless integration of analysis tools with remote collaboration tools have been identified as needing more work and are now in the NFC Project’s work plan. Our long-term vision is that the collaborative technology being deployed is scalable to fusion research beyond the present programs, in particular to the design, construction, and operation of the ITER experiment that will require extensive collaboration capabilities worldwide.

TOPICS: Database Techniques and Data Handling;  
Remote Participation Techniques and their Application

PREFERENCE: Oral + Poster

JOURNAL PUBLICATION: Yes

INTERNET CONNECTION: No

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\*Work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy SciDAC program and at General Atomics under Cooperative Agreement No. DE-FC02-01ER25455.