



**TBM Consortium of Associates** 



## Solid and Liquid Breeder Blankets



Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft



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## **Breeding blankets functions and requirements**



### Main functions of the blanket:

- 1. Tritium production (breeding) and extraction
- 2. Transforming surface and neutron power into heat and collection of the heat for electricity production
- 3. Contribute to the shielding of the Vacuum Vessel and Toroidal Field Coils

### The design has to be featured in order to achieve:

- 1. Low maintenance time
- 2. Sufficiently long lifetime
- 3. High safety level (e.g. accidents, operations, etc.) and low environmental impact (including waste)
- 4. Reasonable direct cost including operation (e.g. small dimensions, high efficiency, etc.)





### In general there are three types of blanket concepts

- 1.) Ceramic Breeder Blanket (solid breeder)
  - a) Helium-cooled HCPB
  - b) Water-cooled in Japanese concept

2.) Self Cooled Liquid Metal Blanket The liquid breeder cools the structure

3.) Liquid Metal Blanket with Helium cooling
The structure is cooled by Helium
and the Breeder in the Blanket is
a) also cooled by Helium and moved slowly (HCLL)
b) Breeder is not cooled but moved fast (DCLL)







•Reduced activities characteristics: e.g EUROFER can be recycled after ~100 years storage.

•Withstand vs. radiation damages: e.g. EUROFER target 80 up to 150 dpa.

•Compatibility with breeder/multiplier and coolant (e.g. corrosion): EUROFER is compatible (up to 550°C with Solid Breeder and Be); corrosion with PbLi is an issue starting from 450°C.

•**Temperature window**: EUROFER >300-550°C, SiC<sub>f</sub>/SiC ~600-1100°C, V-4Cr-4Ti ~400-650°C

•**Thermal properties:** conductivity, thermal expansion, allowable stress, etc.: good for EUROFER and V-alloy. Worst for SiC<sub>f</sub>/SiC due to low conductivity.

•Code and Standards: e.g. EUROFER is under an EU programme with the aim to qualify it for ITER up to 3 dpa (in 2018) and up to 80 dpa for DEMO (~2030).

•EUROFER is a ferritic martensitic steel: C12%, Cr9%. Very low content of Ni, Mo, Nb. Substituted by V, W and Ta.

•SiC<sub>f</sub>/SiC: Silicon carbide composites are attractive as structural materials in fusion environments because of their low activation, high operating temperature and strength.

•V-alloy: it exhibits favorable neutronic properties which include lower parasitic neutron absorption leading to better tritium breeding performance (e.g Li-V blankets).







#### Water:

exceptional cooling capability. High density that allow small flow section. Low  $\Delta T$  in Blanket. PWR range (275-315°C @15.5 MPa): lower temperature range for use with F/FM steels. Corrosion. Issue with T contamination.

#### Helium:

exceptional compatibility with the material used in blanket and other part of the reactor. Possibility to cope with all the temperature windows of the materials. Lower heat removal features and higher pumping power. Large tubes with low shielding features (issue for the reactor integration of pipes and manifolds).

#### Liquid Metal (PbLi and Li):

high heat removal capability but strongly conditioned by MHD effects (suitable only if insulation barriers with conducting structures are available). Low pressure. Must accomplish the double functions of heat removal and T transport. Corrosion.

#### Molten salt (FLiBe):

Low pressure. Must accomplish the double functions of heat removal and T transport. High corrosion issues. Low thermal conductivity. Difficult chemistry.





## **Blanket concepts**





### **Classification according to:**

- Maturity level (near term -> Very Advanced)
- Structural material (e,g. steel, SiC<sub>f</sub>/SiC or V-alloy)
- Breeder / multiplier (solid and liquid breeder)
- Coolant (water, gas, liquid metal, molten salt)
- Heat and T extraction (e.g. Self Cooled, Dual Coolant)



Not exhaustive



Concept	Structural Material	Breeder/Multiplier	Coolant	T-Extraction	Known Blanket Concepts
HCSB (*)	RAFM (***)	Ceramic Breeder /Beryllium	Helium	He low pressure purging	EU, Japan, China, Korea, RF, (US)
WCSB	RAFM (***)	Ceramic Breeder /Beryllium	Water	He low pressure purging	Japan
HCLL	RAFM (***)	PbLi	Helium	PbLi slow recirculation	EU
DCLL	RAFM (***)	PbLi	Helium PbLi	PbLi fast recirculation	US, EU, China

(\*) in EU the HCPB (Helium Cooled Pebble Bed) is the solid breeder concept (\*\*) in EU EUROFER is the RAFM steel under development

Legenda: HC = Helium Cooled; WC = Water Cooled; SB= Solid Breeder; LL = Lithium-Lead; DC = Dual Coolant; SC = Self Coolant

Note: in this category only concepts that use RAFM (reduced activation ferritic martensitic) steels are present.





## **HCPB: Breeder and neutron multiplier**









## Solid breeder shape pebbles vs. pellets



Large brittle ceramics are weaker than small ones.

- Single small pebbles (size below ~ 1 mm) get small thermal gradients as shared by a "pebble-bed" undergoing a large heat generation,
  - their mechanical degradation should be reduced as compared to an equivalent geometric pile of pellets (dimensions ~ cm and above).

Small spheres are easy movable and handled in (remote) plants.





## **HCPB: Tritium extraction**





To possible variants: in B the radial direction in the Be beds is reversed. The direction in CB is important for T control.

## Purge flow:

Tritium extraction in CB and Be.

Independent loop.

Pressure ~0.4 MPa

Chemical composition (H<sub>2</sub> addition, ref 0.1% to enhance T extraction from CB)

Mass flow: to optimise in order to reduce H circulation and minimise T partial pressure (~10 cm/sec).

### **CB=Ceramic Breeder**



## A Li-ceramic breeder list with main properties



Items Materials	Li2O	Li2TiO3	Li2ZrO3	Li4SiO4	γ-LiAlO <sup>2</sup>	Important
Li Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	0.94	0.43	0.38	0.51	0.27 ┥	for Tritium breeding
Thermal Conductivity (500°C)•(W/m/°C)	4.7	2.4	0.75	2.4	2.4	rate
Thermal Expansion (500°C)•(DL/L₀%)	1.25	0.8	0.50	1.15	0.54	
Reaction of Water	very	less	less	little	little	
Residence Time (440°C)•(h)	0.03	(-)	0.01	3.0	50	
Swelling* (DV/V₀%)	7.0	(-)	<0.7	1.7	<0.5	
Transmutation Nuclides	<sup>16</sup> O(n,p):7s	<sup>46</sup> Ti(n,p):84d <sup>47</sup> Ti(n,p):3.4d <sup>48</sup> Ti(n,p):1.8d	<sup>90</sup> Zr(n,p):64h <sup>91</sup> Zr(n,p):57d <sup>94</sup> Zr(n,2n):10 <sup>6</sup> y <sup>96</sup> Zr(n,2n):64d	<sup>28</sup> Si(n,2n):4s <sup>29</sup> Si(n,p):6m <sup>30</sup> Si(n,α):9m	<sup>27</sup> Al(n,2n):6s <sup>27</sup> Al(n,p):9.5m <sup>27</sup> Al(n, α):15h	Operation T < 0.60.8 x T <sub>m</sub>
Melting Point (°C)	1430	1550	1615	1250	1610 ┥	sintering <sup>‴</sup> closes pores





### • $Li_4SiO_4$ medium lithium content;

fair mechanical properties, hygroscopic, fair tritium residence time, higher thermal expansion

## Li<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub> low lithium content;

good mechanical properties, not hygroscopic, fair tritium residence time, lower thermal expansion

 LiO<sub>2</sub> highest lithium content; Good conductivity; large thermal expansion Poor mechanical behavior; precipitate formation (LiOH) → loss of Li



## HCPB: Hermsmeyer-Malang (FZK, 2003)





Box Dimensions: 2m (pol) x 2 m (tor)



Operational parameters	HCPB/HCLL
FW heat flux (peak)	0.5 MW/m <sup>2</sup>
Neutron wall load (peak)	2.4 MW/m <sup>2</sup>
Power Generation System	Rankine
Pressure Coolant	He: 8 MPa
Temperature Coolant	He: 300 – 500°C





## **HCPB** for ITER







## Japanese solid breeder concept







## Japanese solid breeder concept







Several liquid breeder concepts have been proposed, all have key feasibility issues. Selection needs additional R&D and fusion testing.

Type of Liquid Breeder:

a) Liquid Metal: Li, PbLi<sub>eu</sub>(15.7 at%).

High conductivity, low Pr number, melting point: ~235°C for PbLi<sub>eu</sub>

Dominant issues: MHD, chemical reactivity for Li (corrosion and water reaction), tritium permeation for LiPb

b) Molten Salt: Flibe  $(LiF)_n \cdot (BeF_2)$ , Flinabe  $(LiF-BeF_2-NaF)$ 

Low conductivity, high Pr number, melting point  $Li_2BeF_4$ : ~459°C, not flammable and does not react with air or water

Dominant Issues: Melting point, chemistry, tritium control, corrosion.



### **European concepts and TBMs**



 Helium Cooled Pebble Beds (HCPB) and Helium Cooled Lithium Lead (HCLL) Test Blanket Modules (TBMs) are the two DEMO blankets concepts selected by EU to be tested in ITER.

 The Test Blanket Systems (TBS) are developed by different Associations throughout EU.

• The European Joint Undertaking "Fusion for Energy" is in charge of delivering the Test Blanket Modules System (TBS) to ITER.

• The European partners developing the TBS are joint together into a Consortium Agreement (TBM-CA).

The TBM CA works under contracts with F4E

• KIT and CEA develop within TBM CA the design of the HCLL and HCPB TBMs.



**TBM-CA** is a strategic and organisational cooperation among Associates (CEA, CIEMAT, ENEA, FZK, NRI and RMKI) to implement contracts with the domestic agency to develop, produce, qualify, install and operate the EU TBM Systems in ITER.



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### **European TBMs**



#### TBM test programme main objectives in ITER

• Demonstrate tritium breeding capability and verify on-line tritium recovery and control systems;

• Ensure high grade heat production and removal;

 Demonstrate the integral performance of the blanket systems in a fusion relevant environment;

 Validate and calibrate design tools and database used in the blanket design process.

**DEMO relevancy:** HCPB and HCLL TBMs insure maximum resemblance to the corresponding DEMO blanket

#### **DEMO relevancy for the TBMs:**

- Maximum geometrical similarity between the design of the TBM and the corresponding DEMO blanket modules;
- Active cooling of the structure by Helium at 8 MPa with 300°C/500°C inlet/outlet temperatures,
- Same structural materials:
- Maximum structural temperature limited to 550°C;
- Same manufacturing and assembly techniques.

#### Structural material

HCPB and HCLL TBMs structural material is the Reduced Activation Ferritic-Martensitic (RAFM) steel EUROFER97. RAFM steels derive from the conventional modified 9Cr-1Mo steel eliminating the high activation elements (Mo, Nb, Ni, Cu and N). Main advantages: excellent dimensional stability (low creep and swelling) under neutron irradiation. Drawback: ductility characteristics considerably lower than austenitic steels and severely reduced following irradiation.





### **HCPB TBM design description**





#### 1660 mm (poloidal) × 484 mm (toroidal) × 710 mm (radial)

- Robust box (First Wall and Caps)
- Internal structure of **Stiffening Grids** (SGs)
- 5 backplates (BP) constitute the coolant manifolds
- Horizontal SGs crossing the TBM box to ensure the box stiffness

eeder Units (BUs): <sup>●</sup> Arranged in the space defined by the SGs. <sup>●</sup> Filled by ceramic breeder pebbles (Li₄SiO₄) and Beryllium neutron multiplier pebbles <sup>●</sup> Based on U-shaped Cooling Plates (CPs) extracting the heat

Helium at 80bar cools the TBM box components and the BUs CPs. Helium at 4bar purges the Breeder Zone for tritium removal





### **HCLL TBM design description**





#### 1660 mm (poloidal) × 484 mm (toroidal) × 626 mm (radial)

- U-shaped First Wall closed by lateral CAPs
- Internal radial-poloidal and radial-toroidal stiffening grids (SG).
- 5 backplates (BP) constitute the coolant manifolds
- Additional Rods to ensure the box stiffness

#### **Breeder Units:**

- Arranged in the space defined by the SGs
- Horizontal cooling plates (CPs) in the BU ensure the insert rigidity
- Breeder and neutron multiplier: the eutectic PbLi

Helium at 80bar cools the TBM box components and the BUs CPs. PbLi at 3bar purges the Breeder Zone for tritium removal





## **HCPB: Helium cooling**





23 | Solid and liquid breeder blankets; Fabio Cismondi



## **HCPB: Manifold system**













# Radial-poloidal cut and BU zoom









#### **Design based on DEMO relevancy criteria:**

I) Maintain the same architecture used for the DEMO Blanket,

Geometrical similitude: Maintain the same architecture used for the DEMO Box Maintain about the same dimensions of the Breeder Units II) Consider the parameters values with respect to a specific class of experiments,

III) Design a TBM for each ITER phase

Geometrical similarity = look-alike design, Internal design of the BU = act-alike design

Basic relevant design parameters identified for the HCPB TBM considered in the D-T high duty phase are:

- EUROFER temperature limit (550°C),
- Helium coolant outlet temperature (500°C).
- Ceramic breeder temperature (920°C),
- Beryllium multiplier temperature (650°C),









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### **Blanket development**









#### Design analyses aims at:

- Qualify the thermal-hydraulic performances of the box: reach a set of operating cooling parameters to ensure the respect of the imposed temperature limits. Limits fixed by DEMO relevancy criteria and by specificities of the ITER/TBS environment.
- Qualify the thermo-mechanical behaviour of the box: verify the accordance of the mechanical analyses with respect the C&S design limits.
- Assess the reachable **DEMO-relevancy** level;

#### Fluid dynamic analyses:

Helium coolant mass flow and pressure drop in the TBM components





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- Definition of ITER/TBM operational domain (plasma operation, stand-by, test and conditioning...)
- Definition of loads and assign loads to each operational condition
- Definition of the loading conditions to be considered:

ld.	Loading Condition description	
LC1	<ul> <li>Nominal operation in D-T phase / Design of the Box</li> <li>VV pressure: 10<sup>-6</sup> Pa</li> <li>Pressure in cooling circuit: PS</li> <li>Pressure in PbLi volume: 3bar, in purge gas 4bar</li> <li>Heat flux on FW: max, value 0,5 MW/m<sup>2</sup>, 30s ramp-up, 400s plateau, 60s ramp down, total pulse duration 1800 s</li> <li>He inlet temperature: 300°C</li> <li>He mass flow: to be determined in the frame of design assumptions</li> <li>3000 cycles/year</li> </ul>	Normal operation during a typical DT phase plasma pulse
LC2	<ul> <li>Nominal operation in D-T phase / Conservative global design</li> <li>VV pressure: 10<sup>-6</sup> Pa</li> <li>Pressure in cooling circuit: PS</li> <li>Pressure in PbLi volume: 3bar, in purge gas 4bar</li> <li>Heat flux on FW: 0,5 MW/m<sup>2</sup> max, with 10s 0,64 MW/m<sup>2</sup> transient</li> <li>He inlet temperature: 300°C</li> <li>He mass flow: nominal, to be determined in the frame of design assumptions</li> <li>100 cycles/year</li> </ul>	Power excursion associated to a MARFE event
LC3	<ul> <li>Internal LOCA in D-T phase / Conservative global design13)</li> <li>VV pressure: 10<sup>-6</sup> Pa</li> <li>Pressure in cooling circuit: PS</li> <li>Pressure in PbLi or in purge gas volume = Pressure in cooling circuit</li> <li>Heat flux on FW: 0,5 MW/m<sup>2</sup> as maximum</li> <li>He inlet temperature: 300°C</li> <li>He mass flow: nominal, as determined in previous loading conditions</li> </ul>	Accidental pressurization of the box in case of internal LOCA



### **Codes & Standard**



#### Codes and Standards for TBM design

- TBMs must fulfill French regulations on pressure vessel equipments (ESPN order)
- **RCC-MR 2007** is proposed as main reference design code for the TBM box design.
- RCC-MR is completed by **ITER SDC-IC** for some specific aspects (irradiation effects, etc.).
- RCC-MR provides:
  - consistent design, manufacturing and materials rules implementing regulation requirements related to ESPN order.
  - specific rules for "box structures" (RB 3800).

#### -Rules to be considered:

- Design rules in RCC-MR are meant to protect the component against Monotonic and Cyclic type damage modes (M-type and C-type damage modes).

- Design rules are applied in order to insure protection of the components against:

- Immediate plastic collapse and instability (M-type);
- Immediate plastic flow localization (M-type);
- Local fracture due to exhaustion of ductility (M-type);
- Thermal creep (M-type);
- Ratcheting (C-type);
- Fatigue (C-type).

-RCC-MR assigns **Criteria Level** to the loading conditions defined. -Criteria Level protect the components against a **specific type of damage.** 

ld.	Loading Condition description	Criteria Level
LC1	<ul> <li>Nominal operation in D-T phase / Design of the Box</li> <li>Heat flux on FW: max, value 0,5 MW/m<sup>2</sup>, 30s ramp-up, 400s plateau, 60s ramp down, total pulse duration 1800 s</li> </ul>	Α
LC2	<ul> <li>Nominal operation in D-T phase / Conservative global design</li> <li>Heat flux on FW: 0,5 MW/m<sup>2</sup> max, with 10s 0,64 MW/m<sup>2</sup> transient</li> </ul>	Α
LC3	Internal LOCA in D-T phase / Conservative global design) <ul> <li>Pressure in cooling circuit: PS</li> <li>Pressure in PbLi or in purge gas volume = Pressure in cooling circuit</li> </ul>	D



### **Design and analyses studies**



#### LC1: steady state thermo-mechanical analyses FE model built in ANSYS (KIT) and CAST3M (CEA).

Geometry: ¼ scaled TBM assembly. Boundary conditions:

- Heat flux deposed on the plasma side of the FW, 0,5MW/m2.
- Heat generation in the TBM components, input from neutronic.
- 3D CFX model (HCPB TBM) of the BUs calculating: 
   Heat flux produced in the BU and deposed on the TBM box
   Helium coolant mass flow distribution.
- 3D CFX models calculate the HTC in the FW cooling channels.
- Gnielinski correlation to determine the HTC in the other actively cooled components.

#### LC1: transient thermo-mechanical analyses

#### Same FE model and boundary conditions

**Typical plasma pulse, D-T phase**: 30s ramp-up, 400s plateau, 60s ramp-down

• Are plasma pulses sufficiently long to attain stationary temperature conditions?

• Transient thermo mechanical conditions are the most demanding for the mechanical withstanding of the box structure. The temperature field resulting from the steady state thermal analysis is applied to the structure for the structural analysis



32 | Solid and liquid breeder blankets; Fabio Cismondi



### **Design and analyses studies**



Finite Element analyses with ANSYS

#### LC1: Steady state thermal analyses (ITER high duty DT phase), temperature field on the HCPB TBM





Accidental case analyses: internal LOCA at 100bar, displacement field



### **Transient thermo-mechanical analyses**



#### HCLL simulation of the thermal transient :

- Apart from the FW, stationary conditions are never reached.
- Helium outlet temperature at the end of the plasma pulse ~435°C.
- Inversion of the thermal gradient between FW and BZ Time instants significant for the mechanical analysis:
  - $-t_1$ =60s: FW reaches nearly stationary conditions.  $t_3$ =600s: cooling phase, inversion of the temperature difference between FW and BZ is maximal

#### HCPB simulation of the thermal transient:

 By the end of the pulse the BU works in steady state condition
 Helium outlet temperature at the end of the plasma pulse ~500°C
 Inversion of the thermal gradient between the FW and the BZ
 Time instants significant for the mechanical analyses: 11=40s, FW reaches nearly stationary conditions 12=500s: cooling phase, inversion of the temperature difference between FW and Manifold region is maximal

Evolution of maximum temperature in TBM subcomponents during a typical ITER plasma pulse.



Thermal fields calculated at these instants have been used as input for the thermo-mechanical analysis.



### **Transient thermo-mechanical analyses**



HCPB TBM The most demanding condition for the structural integrity of the manifold region is the inversion of the thermal gradients during the plasma ramp-up and ramp-down phases.

Even in steady state conditions the horizontal SGs in the manifold region undergo high stresses (primary stresses) with peak values up to 850MPa.






#### **Transient thermo-mechanical analyses**





#### Immediate plastic flow localization

	T (°C)	$\overline{P_m}_{t_1} + Q_s$	(MPa) ™ t₂	Limit (MPa)	Margin
Line 2	360	169	442	200	-121%
Line 3	384	70	248	174	-43%
Line 4	307	551	673	258	-161%

#### Ratcheting

	T ("C)	T <sub>1</sub> -t <sub>0</sub>	$\frac{1}{L} + P_{\delta} + \overline{\Delta \zeta}$ t <sub>z</sub> -t <sub>o</sub>	Limit (MPa)	Margin	
Line 1	434	252	196	247	495	49%
Line 2	360	198	496	323	543	9%
Line 3	384	265	254	422	528	20%
Line 4	307	593	736	246	567	-30%

Good behavior of the FW against ratcheting and primary stresses Problematic behavior of the manifolds region: In P4 limits for immediate plastic collapse and instability and creep are largely exceeded.

			$\frac{1}{P} (MPa) = \frac{1}{P} \frac{1}$				$P$ (MPa) Creep $P + P_c/k_c$ (MPa)				(MPa)			
Primary stresses + creen		T (°C)	Value	Limit	Margin	value ′	Limit	Margin	Value	Limit	Margin	Value ***	Limit	Margin
	Line 1	493	21	147	86%	25	220,5	89%	21	249	92%	36	249	86%
	Line 2	458	21	159	87%	27	238,5	89%	21	315	93%	38	315	88%
	Line 3	448	22	162	86%	44	243	82%	22	322	93%	36	322	89%



#### **Transient thermo-mechanical analyses**



#### **HCLL TBM**

Most demanding condition for the structural integrity of the box: alternation between tensile and compressive stress states in the FW.



Deformation pattern of the FW at the selected time instants during the plasma pulse

Most demanding condition for the structural integrity of the box: inversion of the thermal gradients during plasma ramp-up and ramp-down in the manifold region associated to the weakness of the horizontal SGs.

CPB TBM



Deformation pattern of the TBM box at 40s (left) and 500s (right) during the plasma pulse

**Solution: FW design of the HCPB TBM + Manifold design of the HCLL TBM.** The FW higher bending radius (HCPB design) compensates the tension/compression states, the stiffening rods (HCLL design) release the stresses in the manifold region.

#### Open issues:

Design rules developed for austenitic-type steels (i.e. 316L(N)-IG ITER shielding steel), Limited experience with martensitic steel in a fusion relevant environment. Concerns regarding the validity/degree of conservatism of the C&S rules when taking into account Eurofer97 mechanical properties.





## Liquid metal flows in fusion blankets





#### Blanket

- Radiation shielding  $\geq$
- **Breeding of tritium**  $\geq$ <sup>6</sup>Li + n  $\rightarrow$  He + T + energy
- Cooling of the first wall  $\geq$
- **Conversion of nuclear power**  $\triangleright$
- Heat removal  $\geq$

**Requirements can be accomplished** with Li-containing liquids as breeder and coolant

Eutectic PbLi

#### Liquid metal magnetohydrodynamics (MHD)





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# What is MHD?



#### Movement of electrically conducting fluids in a magnetic field







# **Governing equations**





#### Nondimensional groups



# **MHD channel flows**





 $\mathbf{j} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} (-\nabla \boldsymbol{\phi} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$ Induced electric field Lorentz force

 $\mathbf{f}_L = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B}$ 





# **MHD channel flows**





 $\mathbf{j} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} (-\nabla \boldsymbol{\phi} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$ Induced electric field Lorentz force

 $\mathbf{f}_L = \mathbf{j} \times \mathbf{B}$ 





### MHD flows in rectangular ducts, *Ha* = 50



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Thin Hartmann and side layers

# **Things to remember!**



#### Magnetic fields affect the flow of electrically conducting fluids

Utility: measuring, pumping, braking, stirring, melting, .....

Disadvantage: high pressure drop in channel flows

#### Channel flows in strong magnetic fields

- Core flow with uniform velocity
- Thin Hartmann layers perpendicular to B,  $d_H \sim Ha^{-1}$
- Side layers parallel to B,  $d_{\rm S} \sim Ha^{-1/2}$
- Strong braking of flows perpendicular to B
- Turbulence suppressed or strongly damped (laminarisation)
  - Time dependent structures highly correlated and aligned with B
  - Deterioration of heat transfer





#### **Separately - cooled concept**

- Liquid metal used only as breeder  $\triangleright$ 
  - Small velocities (1mm/s)
- Heat removed by helium  $\triangleright$ (thermal conductance)

#### **HCLL** blanket features

- Modular concept
- Stiffening plates forming a grid
- Frame array of rectangular cells  $\rightarrow$ breeder units (BU)







#### Blanket $\leftrightarrow$ MHD issues



- ◆ Expansion along B lines
  → strong MHD effects
- > Gap at FW  $\rightarrow$   $\rightarrow$  Change of cross-section
  - Increased velocity
  - → strong inertia effects





#### Blanket $\leftrightarrow$ MHD issues

- > Gap at BP  $\rightarrow$  + Change of cross-section
  - Expansion along B lines
    - → strong MHD effects
- > Gap at FW  $\rightarrow$  + Change of cross-section
  - Increased velocity
    - $\rightarrow$  strong inertia effects





#### Blanket $\leftrightarrow$ MHD issues



- Gap at FW Change of cross-section  $\rightarrow$ 
  - Increased velocity
  - $\rightarrow$  strong inertia effects

> Manifolds

\*\*

\*\*



PbLi inlet pipe

B



stiffening

plates (SP)

cooling plates

(CP)

first wall

(FW)

### Mock-up of an HCLL blanket

- **\*** Mock-up scaled 1:2 compared to original TBM (4 breeder units)
- Model fluid: sodium potassium alloy NaK ( $\sigma$  = 2.88 10<sup>6</sup> 1/ $\Omega$ m)







## **Contributions to the total pressure drop**



- Identify critical elements/locations
- Defining scaling laws



- Main pressure drop in manifolds and gaps
- All  $\Delta p$  contributions increase linearly with N<sup>-1</sup>
- Strong MHD effects across BP gap
- Intense inertia effects are present at the FW
- Pressure almost unform in breeder units





### **Contributions to the total pressure drop**







0.01

## **Contributions to the total pressure drop**



Ha = 3000



Defining scaling laws





### **Measured surface potential**





Measured electric potential at Ha = 3000, Re = 1000









### **Experiments and numerical results**





Comparison of potential profiles along the Hartmann wall



# **Things to remember!**



#### HCLL blanket and MHD issues:

MHD flow through geometries with different-cross sections, long manifolds, electric flow coupling

- $\Rightarrow$  Influence on pressure and flow distribution
- Experiments in a mock-up of a HCLL blanket:
  - Measurements of pressure differences and surface electric potential

#### Pressure measurements:

- Main pressure drop in manifolds and across BP gap (3D MHD effects)
- Pressure drop correlation derived from experimental data

#### Electric potential measurements:

Contour plots of potential give overview of flow distribution (*p* streamfunction)

#### Fundamental role of numerical calculations:

- Support definition of scaling and extrapolation laws
- First overview of flow phenomena: position and number of sensors
- → Need of high-performance parallel computing



### **Development of HCPB sub module concept for DEMO**





#### Compatible with MMS concept.

Flexible attachment concept adaquate for transient thermal and electromagnetic loads.

> Reduced number of single parts and welds. (improved feasibility)

> > Reduced Helium pressure drop.



### Advanced HCPB approach with SiC<sub>f</sub>/SiC structures







#### Advanced HCPB approach with mixed beds and SiC inserts









### FZK DCLL Blanket (EU-PPCS Model C, 2002)









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### FZK DCLL Blanket (EU-PPCS Model C, 2002)





#### Main features:

- helium-cooled RAFM steel structures (EUROFER)
- ODS plated FW to use the hightemperature strength of ODS
- self-cooled breeding zone with Pb17Li as breeder and coolant
- SiC<sub>t</sub>/SiC flow channel inserts as electrical (MHD) and thermal insulators leading to high exit temperature and high thermal efficiency

Dual Coolants	T <sub>Intet</sub> (°C)	Toutlet (°C)	ΔT (K)
Helium (8 MPa)			
Overall blanket	300	480	180
FW	300	450	150
Grida	450	480	30
Pb-17Li	480	700	220
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### **US ARIES Blanket system**



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- Simple, low pressure design with SiC structure and LiPb coolant and breeder.
- Innovative design leads to high LiPb outlet temperature (~1100°C) while keeping SiC structure temperature below 1000°C leading to a high thermal efficiency of ~ 60%.
- Simple manufacturing technique.
- Very low afterheat.
- Class C waste by a wide margin.
- LiPb-cooled SiC composite divertor is capable of 5 MW/m<sup>2</sup> of heat load.



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### (Very) Advanced Solid Breeder concepts: JA Dream





Concept	Structural Material	Breeder/ Multiplier	Coolant	T-Extraction
HT-HCSB	Sic/Sict	CB / Be-alloy	He	Coolant He





Blanket has to optimize: That neutrons from the plasma 1.) are causing neutron multiplication with Be and 2.) are absorbed in <sup>6</sup>Li

 $\rightarrow$  Avoid inelastic scattering with and absorption in iron

- $\rightarrow$  Small amount of steel structure, especially thin first wall
- → Enrichment with <sup>6</sup>Li (e.g. 30%), especially where slow neutrons are present

But safety and from this strength of the blanket has to be optimized, too













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### Materials Solid Breeder Multiplier Structure Coolant Purge Material form

Solid breeder and multiplier Configuration  $Li_2O$ ,  $Li_4SiO_4$ ,  $Li_2TiO_3$ ,  $Li_2ZrO_3$ Beryllium/Beryllides<sup>\*\*</sup> Ferritic or austenitic (ITER base) Helium or water Helium + %H<sub>2</sub>

Sphere-pac or sintered block

BIT, BOT, layers

\*\*High temperature capability and less reactivity



## **First Wall cooling**





Roughness effects on heat transfer





### First Wall rib cooling







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### **R&D** on pebble beds at KIT: overview









### **Tritium inventory**

Tritium generation rate **G** and its recovery rate **R** must satisfy self-breeding and start-up **TBR > 1** 

Tritium inventory I = (G-R)dt

Tritium residence time **τ = I/G** 



Tritium inventory in the blanket 0 should be small → Tritium should not stay long in the breeder. (safety and start-up issues)

- → Small pebbles with porosity > 30 %, reduce τ typical size of breeder pebbles: d = 0.2 mm
   → Temperature shall not be to small as this would reduce the
  - diffusion of Tritium in the material (for  $Li_4SiO_4$  : T > 300°C)



### **Mechanism of Tritium transport**





#### Mechanisms of Tritium transport

- 1) Intragranular diffusion
- 2) Grain boundary diffusion
- 3) Surface Adsorption/desorption
- 4) Pore diffusion
- 5) Purge flow convection

Purge flow Purge gas composition: He + 0.1% H<sub>2</sub> Tritium release composition:  $T_2$ , HT,  $T_2O$ , HTO


# Tritium breeding modules tested in High Flux fission reactors



TBM with <sup>6</sup>Li-tailored ceramics are being irradiated in representaive environment (neutron flux, dose, BU and dpa):

In EU (in HFR-Petten), In JAERI (in JMRT-Oarai).





# **Tritium release from Li-ceramics**



### Effect of the average temperature

Irradiation in HFR-Petten:

**R**,  $I = \int (G-R)dt$  and  $\tau = I/G$ , are evaluated by step-changing the temperature in purge gas He+0.1%H<sub>2</sub>

For  $Li_2TiO_3 T_{min} = 410^{\circ}C$  for  $\tau = 1$  day Note the increase of  $\tau$  in pure He

Expressions used for  $\mathbf{T}$  in design calculations:

$$\tau = 1.280 \cdot 10^{-5} \exp\left(\frac{9720}{T}\right) \quad for \ Li_4 SiO_4$$
$$\tau = 1.995 \cdot 10^{-5} \exp\left(\frac{10315}{T}\right) \quad for \ Li_2 TiO_3$$





# **Tritium recovery from Li-ceramics**



- Pellets or pebbles are swept by He flowing during the reactor operation.
- Tritium in gaseous forms are carried by the He purge, adding H<sub>2</sub> (as isotope swamping) to He the removal rate is improved
- $T_2$ , DT (or HT in the experiments) are preferred to water vapor condensable forms  $T_2O$  or DTO (or HTO).
- <u>He doped with D<sub>2</sub></u> (0.1% as H<sub>2</sub> in the experiments) is the "<u>reference</u>" purge gas to get tritium in DT (or HT) form

It is generally accepted that  $\tau < 1$  day states the minimum operative temperature  $T_{min}$ 



# Li-orthosilicate fabrication





75 | Solid breeder blanket; Fabio Cismondi

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# Li-orthosilicate fabrication











Fabrication of lithium orthosilicate pebbles using LiOH and  $SiO_2$  as raw materials in a melt-sprying process

- material meets the specification of HCPB
- single process for all required <sup>6</sup>Li enrichments
- low impurities by high-purity raw material
- rejections and irradiated material can be recycled
- variation in batch properties are due to batch processing and will be reduced by a continuous process







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 $P_{pb}$  = pebble bed density = ratio of pebble bed mass to pebble bed volume  $\gamma$  = packing factor = ratio of pebble volume to pebble bed volume

$$\rho_{pb} = 1.455 \frac{g}{cm^3}, \gamma = 64.5\% \qquad for \ Li_4 SiO_4$$
$$\rho_{pb} = 1.74 \frac{g}{cm^3}, \gamma = 63.5 \qquad for \ Beryllium$$

 $P_{pb}$  = important quantity for nuclear calculations

 $\gamma$  = characteristic quantity in **pebble bed engineering** 



# Pebble beds topology

# X-ray tomography investigation on pebble beds structures in the ESRF

# Vertical positions of sphere centers in a capsule





(a) z = 1.1mm









80 | Solid breeder blanket; Fabio Cismondi



# **Pebble beds tests**

### **Uniaxial stress-strain and creep tests**







## Pebble beds tests: Young modulus







# Pebble beds tests: thermal creep



Thermal creep measured by UCT keeping constant stress at a given T.





# Pebble beds tests: thermal conductivity



Effective thermal conductivity of 1 mm Be pebble bed (475 °C) depends on the compressive strain



84 | Solid breeder blanket; Fabio Cismondi



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No reliable measurement. Difficulty to measure T differences between wall and pebble beds.



Yagi and Kunii model is recommended

$$h\left(\frac{W}{m^{2}K}\right) = 2577 + 4.327T(^{\circ}C) - 8.91 \cdot 10^{-4}T(^{\circ}C)^{2} \qquad for \ Li_{4}SiO_{4}$$
$$h\left(\frac{W}{m^{2}K}\right) = 2207 + 4.014T(^{\circ}C) - 0.0004 \cdot 10^{-4}T(^{\circ}C)^{2} \qquad for \ Beryllium$$



#### Reaction with H<sub>2</sub>:

after complete reduction process, no change in the T release properties.

### Interaction with H<sub>2</sub>O:

- Surface adsorption
- Grain boundary adsorption
- Dissolution inside crystal

Above 700°C dissolution is dominant.
Below 700°C microstructure plays an important role:
H<sub>2</sub>0 grain boundary absorption acts slowly but significantly





### Chemical reactivity in air

### Chemical reactivity in steam





### Pebble beds properties: activation under 14 MeV neutrons



3D activation calculation for a 2200 MW fusion power reactor operating at 20,000 hours.

10<sup>21</sup> 1020 Eurofer --Li\_SiO\_ 1019 Beryllium 10<sup>18</sup> — Total 10" Activity [Bq] 10<sup>13</sup> 10<sup>12</sup> 1011 10<sup>10</sup> 10<sup>9</sup> 10<sup>-3</sup> 10<sup>-5</sup> 10<sup>-2</sup> 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10\* 10 10-1 10<sup>0</sup> 101 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 10 Time after irradiation [years] Activity dominated by T generated in Be

Activity inventory of the HCPB DEMO BB

Shutdown dose rate in Be



Major contribution of contact dose rate up to 50 years is <sup>60</sup>Co originating from <sup>59</sup>Co impurity



# **TBM System in ITER**





89 | Solid breeder blanket; Fabio Cismondi



# **TBM System in ITER**







# TBM system: development of Helium Cooling System for ITER (HELOKA as a prototype)



# HELOKA Helium Loop Karlsruhe

## Helium Loops for TBM, TDM, IFMIF

- Development of Components
- Qualification for use in ITER
- Development of Helium Loop Technologies
- TBM: up to 100 bars, 550°C, 1.4 kg/s
- TDM: up to 100 bars, 700°C, 5.5 kg/s,
- pulsed load operation \*ITER scenarios
- long term operation





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# **TBM system: development of HELOKA**





## **HELOKA-HP/TBM**

- Qualification for ITER
- Development of Helium Loop Technologies
- 80 bars, (max 100 bars)
- 500°C\*\*
- 1.4 kg/s
- pulsed load operation \*ITER scenarios
- long term operation
- Graphite radiation surface heaters





**93** | Thermo-mechanical performance of the EU TBMs under a typical ITER transient; Fabio Cismondi



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### Transient thermo-mechanical analyses



#### **HCLL TBM**

The most demanding condition for the structural integrity of the FW is the inversion of the thermal gradients during the plasma ramp-up and ramp-down phases which causes an alternation between tensile and compressive stress states in the structure.

Stress intensity ranges between t3=600s and t1=60s (MPa).





Zone 2

#### Ratcheting: criteria exceeded in several zones of the FW

			Limit						
	T (°C)	t <sub>1</sub> -t <sub>0</sub>	t2-t0	t3-to	t <sub>3</sub> -t <sub>1</sub>	t3-t2	t2-t1	(MPa)	Margin
Line 1	471	560	448	264	690	514	307	411	-68%
Line 2	484	518	322	205	673	474	247	406	-66%
Line 3	488	490	287	198	650	446	245	405	-60%
Line 4	376	458	541	243	454	427	279	534	-1%
Line 5	368	297	351	224	384	254	269	539	29%

#### Immediate plastic flow localization

		$\overline{P_{m}} + q$	2, (MPa)	Limit		
	T (°C)	t <sub>1</sub>	t <sub>2</sub>	t₃	(MPa)	Margin
Line 4	376	128	262	243	182	-44%
Line 5	368	99	220	176	191	-15%

#### Primary stresses + creep

		Immediate plastic collapse and instability						Creep						
		$\overline{P_{**}}$ (MPa)			$P_m + P_\delta$ (MPa)			<i>Р</i> " (МРа)			$P_m + P_\delta / k_t$ (MPa)			
	T (°C)	Value	" Limit	Margin	Value	Limit	Margin	Value	Limit	Margin	Value	Limit	Margin	
Line 1	471	30	154	81%	70	231	70%	30	194	85%	62	194	68%	
Line 2	484	33	150	78%	52	225	77%	33	181	82%	48	181	73%	
Line 3	488	24	149	84%	40	223	82%	24	178	87%	37	178	79%	
Line 4	376	22	178	88%	50	267	81%	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Line 5	368	32	180	82%	44	269	84%	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	

Highest stress intensity range: relevant quantity for C-type damages!



### Conclusion



#### Main results achieved:

- Definition of C&S for TBM design and analyses
- Definition and analyses of main TBM specific loading conditions
- Analyses of LC1 (transient thermo mechanical analyses of a standard ITER pulse) presented in this work.

#### Important outcomes of the TBM transient analyses:

- Several junctions present peak stresses and an optimization of their geometry is necessary to remove sharp singularities.
- HCLL: problematic behavior of the FW
- HCPB : problematic behavior of the back manifolds
- Solution envisaged: adopt the FW design of the HCPB and adapt the HCPB manifold design to the HCLL configuration

#### Open issues:

- Design rules developed mainly for austenitic-type steels (i.e. 316L(N)-IG ITER shielding steel)
- Limited experience with martensitic-type steel in a fusion relevant environment,
- Concerns regarding the validity/degree of conservatism of the C&S rules when taking into account Eurofer97 mechanical properties.

#### Next priorities:

- Develop dedicated models and studies addressing design geometrical issues
- Assess possible requirements and operating scenarios limiting the margins under which the design can evolve.
  - (i.e. thermal loads to be used for the TBM design are provided under conservative assumptions and they will not be reconsidered before starting of the ITER machine or uncertainties in the PS can strongly affect the design)



# **HCPB: Helium cooling**







### **Design development strategy**



**<u>Objective:</u>** develop a design of the TBM boxes maximizing the similarities.

**<u>Strategy:</u>** synergies are maximized but differences are kept in the most critical points to investigate different design options and minimize the risk.

#### **Critical points:**

- FW, fabrication issues
- Manifold, design different for the different internal engineering of the 2 TBMs







Rough survey by homogenized model of

- cooling layer (F82H + H<sub>2</sub>O) + breeder (Li<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub>) + multiplier(Be or Be<sub>12</sub>Ti)









# <sup>6</sup>Li increase gives higher heat deposited in layers

Layer thickness is limited by T<sub>max</sub>



High nuclear heating at front implies thin Be and SB layers



Enrichment of individual layers adjusted to keep heating and upper temperature within limits













Time evolution of peak temperature of three breeder layers of water-cooled TBM with 400 sec burn/ 1400sec dwell cooled by 15MPa, 320°C water.







Detail structure of watercooled TBM: 2 breeding layers, Coolant flow route.





# DCLL Blanket (US & FZK, 2000)







# **US ARIES Blanket system**





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105 Breeder blanket; L.V. Boccaccini





## Transient thermo-mechanical analyses



#### Fatigue

	T (℃)	$(\overline{\Delta \sigma}_{tot})_{max}$ (MPa)	$egin{array}{c} & \Delta arepsilon_{elas.} \ & (\%) \end{array}$	Κ,	K,	∆ε <sub>real</sub> (%)	Allowable cycles
Line 1	471	579	0,26	1,08	1,10	0,31	1878
Line 2	484	619	0,28	1,15	1,14	0,36	1062
Line 3	488	607	0,28	1,15	1,14	0,36	1175
Line 4	376	504	0,22	1,00	1,03	0,23	8341
Line 5	368	295	0,13	1,00	1,00	0,13	No limit

**106** | Thermo-mechanical performance of the EU TBMs under a typical ITER transient; Fabio Cismondi





### **Transient thermo-mechanical analyses**



#### Fatigue

	Т	$(\overline{\Delta \sigma}_{tot})_{max}$	$\Delta \varepsilon_{elas.}$	Κ,	K,	$\Delta \varepsilon_{\rm real}$	Allowable
	(°C)	(MPa)	(%)			(%)	cycles
Line 1	434	227	0,12	1,00	1,00	0,12	No limit
Line 2	360	468	0,24	1,01	1,01	0,24	40000
Line 3	384	404	0,15	1,02	1,02	0,16	1,E+09
Line 4	307	657	0,35	1,00	1,00	0,35	10000

**107** | Thermo-mechanical performance of the EU TBMs under a typical ITER transient; Fabio Cismondi






