

Neutronics Features of a Dual Coolant Lithium Lead Test Blanket Module for ITER



Dual Coolant Lead-Lithium (DCLL) FW/Blanket Concept

- Idea of "Dual Coolant" concept Push for higher performance with present generation materials (FS) ► Ferritic steel FW and structure
- cooled with helium
- ➢Breeding zone is self-cooled LiPb Structure and breeding zone
- separated by SiC_f/SiC composite flow channel inserts (FCIs) that
- Provide thermal insulation to decouple Pb-17Li bulk flow temperature from FS wall
- Provide electrical insulation to reduce MHD pressure drop in the flowing liquid metal



LiPb exit temperature can be significantly higher than the operating temperature of the steel structure High Efficiency



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Basic Assumptions

- Frontal dimensions $64.5 \times 194 \text{ cm} (1.25 \text{ m}^2)$ ► Neutron wall loading 0.78 MW/m²
- ▶ 2 mm Be PFC on ferritic steel (F82H) FW
- \rightarrow Lead lithium {Li₁₇Pb₈₃} eutectic enriched to 90% Li-6
- ≻5 mm SiC inserts (FCI) used in all PbLi flow channels
- ≻ Total radial depth of TBM is 41.3 cm followed by a 30 cm thick inlet/outlet piping zone
- >Material composition in radial layers carefully determined to account for detailed configuration and material variation in toroidal and poloidal directions based on the current CAD drawings
- >Neutronics calculations performed to determine the relevant nuclear performance parameters for the DCLL TBM

Zone	Description	Thick	%	%	%	%	%
		(mm)	Be	FS	LL	SiC	He
1	PFC Layer	2	100	0	0	0	0
2	Front wall of FW	4	0	100	0	0	0
3	FW coo ling channel	30	0	17	0	0	83
4	Back wall of FW	4	0	100	0	0	0
5	SiC insert 1	5	0	8.1	0	80	11.9
6	Front breeding channel	70	0	8.1	75.7	4.3	11.9
7	SiC insert 2	5	0	8.1	6.1	73.9	11.9
8	Flow divider plate	15	0	54.8	6.1	0.4	38.7
9	SiC insert 3	5	0	8.5	6.1	73.3	12.1
10	Back breeding channel	110	0	8.5	74.7	4.7	12.1
15	SiC insert 4	5	0	8.5	1	78.4	12.1
16	Back wall	170	0	62.8	1	0.2	36
	Total	415					

Radial Build and Material Composition

Assumed TBM inlet/outlet piping zone behind TBM is 30 cm thick with 5% FS, 1% LL, 0.2% SiC, 10% He, and 83.8% void • Separate SS/H₂O shield plug used behind TBM $(25\% H_2O)$

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Tritium Production

- ► Local TBR in the DCLL TBM is only 0.741 because of the small thickness (42.3 cm)
- ≻Tritium generation rate in the TBM is 3.2x10¹⁷ atom/s (1.59x10⁻⁶ g/s) during a D-T pulse with 500 MW fusion power
- ≻For a pulse with 400 s flat top preceded by 100 s linear ramp up to full power and followed by 100 s linear ramp down total tritium generation is 7.97x10⁻⁴ g/pulse
- > For the planned 3000 pulses per year the annual tritium production in the TBM is 2.4 g/year
- > Tritium production in the Be PFC is $2.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g/s} \Rightarrow 1.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ g/pulse} \Rightarrow$
- 3.3x10⁻³ g/year (only 0.14% of total)



Peak tritium production rate in LiPb is 2.94x10⁻⁸ kg/m³s during the D-T pulse



Nuclear Heating in TBM Components









Radiation Damage in Steel Structure

Determined radial variation of dpa, He production, and hydrogen production rates in structure



➤ For 0.57 MW/m² average NWL and total fluence 0.3 MWa/m² total lifetime is 0.526

- > Peak cumulative end-of-life dpa in FW is **5.7 dpa** and He production is **64 He appm**
- > Peak cumulative end-of-life He production in inlet/outlet pipes is **0.34 He appm**
- \Rightarrow Pipe connections at back of TBM are reweldable

Required Shield Plug

Rule of Thumb

Past experience indicated that activation of shield and outlying components will be low enough to result in shutdown dose rates <25 μSv/h allowing hands-on access if the neutron flux at back of shield is kept below $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ n/cm²s during operation

~1 m thick plug shield is required behind the DCLL TBM



Summary and Conclusions

- Local TBR in the DCLL TBM is only 0.741
- > For the planned 3000 D-T pulses per year annual tritium production in the TBM is 2.4 g/year
- > Total nuclear heating in TBM is 0.982 MW and total thermal power is 1.357 MW with He coolant carrying about 54% of it
- ➤ For ITER fluence goal of 0.3 MWa/m² peak cumulative dpa and He production in FW are 5.7 dpa and 64 appm
- Cumulative end-of-life He production in inlet/outlet pipes is 0.34 appm allowing for rewelding
- \geq ~1 m thick shield plug is required behind the DCLL TBM to allow personnel access for maintenance