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Project co-ordination challenges during W7-X completion

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The end of the first operation phase of Wendelstein 7-X, OP1.1, in March 2016 marked the start of an ambitious device completion campaign to install and commission a set of systems and components able to extract and support steady state operation from 2020 when OP2 is planned to start. Challenging assignments need to be completed such as the fabrication and installation of the high heat flux divertor and its cooling water supply system as well as the fabrication and installation of the plasma vessel cryo pumps and their cryo supply transfer system and extension. To manage the timely execution of these work packages the project “W7-X Completion”(W7-X/C) has been set up replacing the previous construction project. Furthermore, W7-X/C has to take into account and to shape the new role of the scientific and technical divisions as contributors of integrable, operational and safe components. The divisions will design, fabricate and partially enhance three auxiliary heating systems and around 50 diagnostic systems requiring intensive co-ordination and prioritization amid the natural resource split between technical project work and scientific exploitation of W7-X. Using the best part of the monitoring experience and where possible the established procedures, the role of Project Coordination (PC) has been tailored to suit the new requirements, away from mostly routine schedule and contract monitoring toward critical interface and priority management. The condensed time window until OP2 also calls for systematic early warning checks on both, time and finance schedules. Complementary to this, the new PC task of coordinating the revamped, more stringent design review process has become an effective tool to enforce systematic detailed work breakdown planning and review in the component supplying divisions.

Eligible for student paper award?

No

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