



Rt. Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg M.P.
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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Aaron Bell Esq. MP and Carol Monaghan MP
Interim Co-Chairs of the Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London
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By email: scitechcom@parliament.uk

2 October 2022

Dear Aaron and Carol,

This letter is to inform you of the outcome of the process to select a site to host the UK Atomic Energy Authority's (UKAEA) Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP) programme. STEP is the UK's programme to design, develop and build, by 2040, a prototype fusion power plant capable of delivering energy to the UK grid. Following a multi-stage selection process, I have taken the decision to choose West Burton as the site to host STEP.

UKAEA scored each of the shortlisted sites through expert assessment of technical, socio-economic, and commercial criteria and found that while all the shortlisted sites proved viable, the site with the highest aggregate score was West Burton. UKAEA therefore submitted a formal recommendation in favour of this site as the most appropriate to host STEP.

A business case for this recommendation was subsequently approved by the BEIS Project Investment Committee and by HM Treasury. Government has therefore taken the collective decision to uphold this recommendation and I have formally selected West Burton as the site to host STEP.

Regardless of where STEP is sited, I am confident that the benefits of the programme will be experienced across the UK. Capability and capacity building within the UK fusion supply chain will be critical to the maturation of the UK fusion market, delivering the UK Fusion Strategy goal of building a world-leading fusion industry which can export fusion technology around the world in subsequent decades.

With every good wish and reiterated thanks for your engagement with the process.

Yours sincerely,