Abstract Submitted for the DPP17 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Integrated, Reactor Relevant Solutions for Lower Hybrid Range of Frequencies Actuators<sup>1</sup> S SHIRAIWA, P. T. BONOLI, Y LIN, G. M. WAL-LACE, S. J. WUKITCH, PSFC, MIT — RF (radiofrequency) actuators with high system efficiency (wall-plug to plasma) and ability for continuous operation have long be recognized as essential tools for realizing a steady state tokamak. A number of physics and technological challenges to utilization remain including current drive efficiency and location, efficient coupling, and impurity contamination. In a reactor environment, plasma material interaction (PMI) issues associated with coupling structures are similar to the first wall and have been identified as a potential show-stopper. High field side (HFS) launch of LHRF power represents an integrated solution that both improves core wave physics and mitigates PMI/coupling issues. For HFS LHRF, wave penetration is vastly improves because wave accessibility scales as 1/B allowing for launching the wave at lower  $n_{\parallel}$  (parallel refractive index). The lower  $n_{||}$  penetrate to higher electron temperature resulting in higher current drive efficiency  $(1/n_{\parallel}^2)$ . HFS RF launch also provides for a means to dramatically improve launcher robustness in a reactor environment. On the HFS, the SOL is quiescent; local density profile is steep and controlled through magnetic shape; fast particle, neutron, turbulent heat and particle fluxes are eliminated or minim

<sup>1</sup>Work supported by the U.S. DoE, Office of Science, Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, User Facility Alcator C-Mod under DE-FC02-99ER54512 and US DoE Contract No. DE-FC02-01ER54648 under a Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing Initiative

S Shiraiwa PSFC, MIT

Date submitted: 14 Jul 2017

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