

Abstract Submitted  
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**Development of High Non-Inductive Fraction High Poloidal Beta Discharges at ITER Q=5 Equivalent Performance on DIII-D**<sup>1</sup> SIYE DING, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, ANDREA GAROFALO, JOSEPH MCCLE-NAGHAN, General Atomics, JINPING QIAN, XIANZU GONG, JUAN HUANG, Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences — Modelling of DIII-D high poloidal beta scenario predicts new off-axis current drive capabilities will enable nearly 100% non-inductive operation at ITER Q=5 equivalent performance. Experiments on DIII-D have extended high energy confinement ( $H_{98} > 1.5$ ), large radius internal transport barrier (ITB) operation from  $q_{95} \geq 10$  to lower  $q_{95} \sim 7$ , which is more relevant for the ITER steady-state mission. While large Shafranov shift can stabilize all ion turbulence at  $\beta_N \sim 3$  and  $q_{95} \geq 10$ , some drift wave instabilities remain in the lower  $q_{95}$  regime. With  $\beta_N = 3.8$ , gyrokinetic simulations predict a stronger ITB and better confinement in comparison with experimental data at  $\beta_N = 3.1$ . Recent DIII-D upgrades, including additional off-axis NBI power, increase off-axis external current drive. This should increase stability and non-inductive fraction at higher  $\beta_N$ . 0D modelling predicts  $\beta_N \sim 4$  and  $H_{98} \sim 1.5$  should enable  $f_{NI} \sim 90\%$  with  $q_{95} \sim 7$ . It gives  $G_{98} = \beta_N * H_{98} / q_{95}^2 \sim 0.122$ , matching the normalized performance goal of ITER's Q=5, according to the latest ITER simulations using high beta concept ( $G_{98} \sim 0.113$ , J. McClenaghan, NF 2017) Work supported in part by US DOE under DE-SC0010685, DE-FC02-04ER54698, and NNSF of China under Grant No11575248.

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