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P3.030 Optimization of TE11/TE04 Mode Converters for the Cold Test of a 250 GHz CARM Source

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Electron Cyclotron Resonance Frequency (ECRF) systems in future fusion devices, like the DEMO-nstration reactor, foresee an operational frequency in the range 230-280 GHz to match the plasma characteristics. The Cyclotron Auto Resonance Masers (CARM) characterized by a high value of a frequency Doppler up-shift, could represent an alternative to gyrotrons and the design of a 250 GHz, 0.5 MW CARM device has been undertaken by ENEA. A mode conversion from the fundamental TE₁₀ mode in WR-3 rectangular waveguide to the TE₅₃ operational mode in an oversized circular waveguide is required to perform the cold test of the two Bragg reflectors delimiting the CARM resonant cavity. An improved structure for the TE₁₁ to TE₀₄ conversion, using only two transitions with profile and radius optimized in order to obtain high efficiencies and sufficient bandwidth, has been designed and presented in this paper. The first transition is a TE₁₁/TE₀₁ serpentine mode converter in circular waveguide with average radius of 1.48 mm and an appropriate number of geometrical periods. The second one is a TE₀₁/TE₀₄ rippled wall mode converter with an average radius of 3 mm. It consists of a single conversion section with sixteen sinusoidal periods instead of three conversion sections (TE₀₁/TE₀₂, TE₀₂/TE₀₃, TE₀₃/TE₀₄) in cascade, thus reducing the complexity and the length of the full transition chain. The last conversion (TE₀₄ to TE₅₃), a rippled-wall mode converter, made by a helically corrugated waveguide, has been described in a previous paper. The analysis with HFSS and CST- MWS (S-parameters, efficiency and electric field) of each single converter will be reported; for the TE₀₁/TE₀₄ transition, results obtained by in-house codes will be shown too. A first validation of the simulation tools at 250 GHz will be carried out through the construction of a short Bragg reflector during the current year.

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