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Giuseppe Martone* (gmartone@usc.edu), Department of Mathematics KAP 415, 3620 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90089. *Boundaries of Hitchin components*. Preliminary report.

Let S be a closed orientable surface of genus $g \geq 2$. Hitchin representations are higher rank generalizations of hyperbolic metrics on S and form a whole component, called the Hitchin component $\text{Hit}_n(S)$, of the space of homomorphisms from the fundamental group $\pi_1(S)$ to $\text{PSL}(n, \mathbb{R})$. Parreau compactified the Hitchin component by actions of $\pi_1(S)$ on certain affine buildings. I am trying to obtain a better description and understanding of this compactification by using a parametrization of $\text{Hit}_n(S)$ recently developed by Bonahon-Dreyer. (Received August 19, 2015)