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Joint ICTP-IAEA School of Nuclear Energy Management

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Nuclear Infrastructure for R&D and Applications: Research Reactors

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Nuclear Infrastructure for R&D and Applications: Research Reactors

19 November 2012

Danas Ridikas

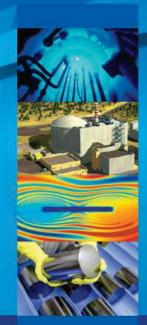
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications (NA) Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria



Outline

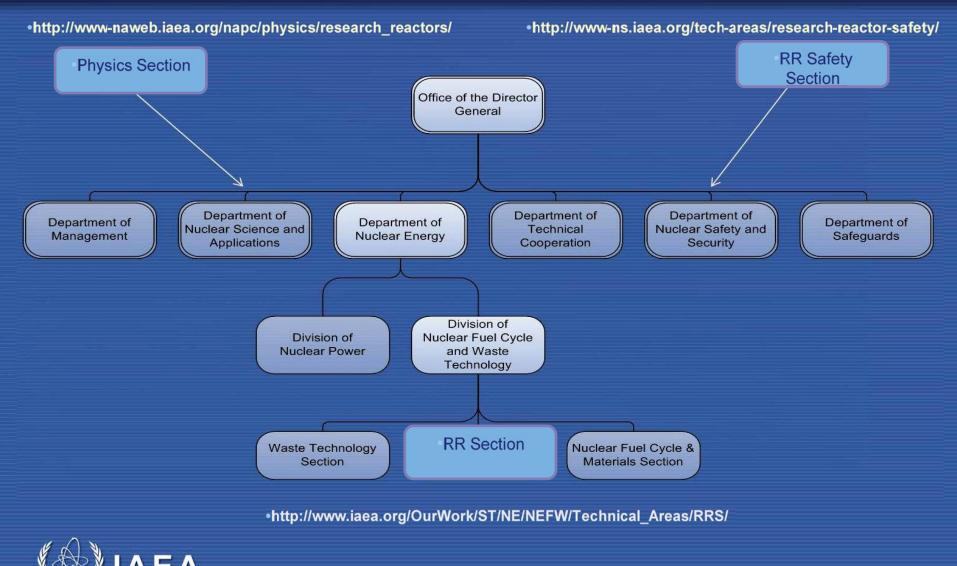
- Background
- IAEA RR Data Base
- Latest news on RRs
- Key Issues and challenges
- Role of RRs in Development of Nuclear Infrastructure
- (Applications of RRs TECDOC-1234, 2001)

Research Reactors: Purpose and Future





Research Reactors: organization within the IAEA



Major Activities within Physics Section

Assistance and support of Member States in the field of

- 1. Accelerators
- 2. Research Reactors
- 3. Controlled Fusion
- Nuclear Instrumentation
- 5. Cross-cutting Material Research

Based on Member States needs, requests & recommendations

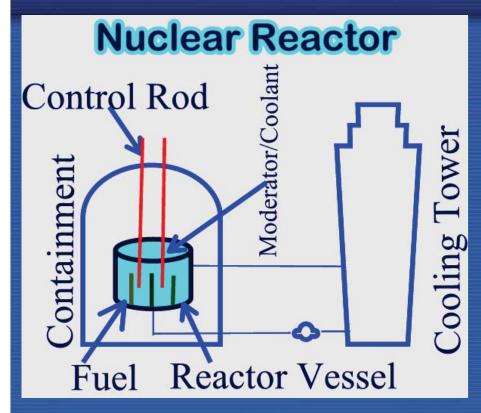
- Planning & implementation of P&B activities
- Proposal and implementation of CRPs
- Management of Data Bases
- Organization of Conferences, Technical & Consultancy Meetings
- Organization of ICTP workshops, training schools and courses
- Support of TC projects
- Promotion of Nuclear Sciences, Applications and Technologies





Contact: D.Ridikas@iaea.org

Introduction



Main Components of Research Reactor

FUEL Natural Uranium / Enriched Uranium

FORM Metal, Alloy, Oxide, Silicide CLAD Aluminium, Zirconium, SS

MODERATOR H2O, D2O, Graphite, Beryllium

CONTROL Boron, Cadmium, Nickel

COOLANT Water, Gas, Sodium, PbBi

VESSEL to contain all components

Basic Nuclear Physics

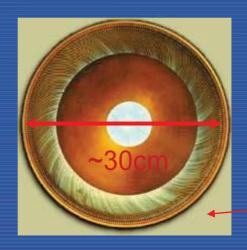


Interaction of neutrons with matter (fission, capture, scattering)
Criticality, role of delayed neutrons, radiocative decay
Basics of thermohydraulics

Introduction

Other general information: features

- Typically, RR cores have small volume
- Many have powers less than 5 MW(t)
- Higher enrichments than power reactors
- Natural and forced cooling
- Pulsing capability







Some historical facts

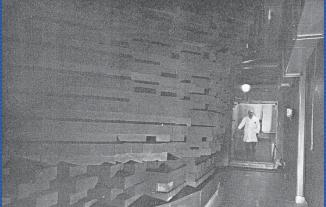
- USA, Dec. 1942: Chicago Pile (CP1), E. Fermi
 - Objective: neutron source for Pu production





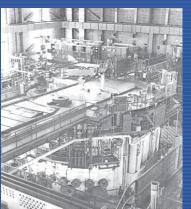
- Russia, Dec. 1946, F-1, I. Kurchatov
 - Objective: excess neutrons for Pu production





- Canada, Jul. 1947, Chalk River Laboratories
 - NRX National Research Experiment
 - Reached 20MW(t) in 1949
 - Used for basic research
 - Contributed to nuclear x-section data





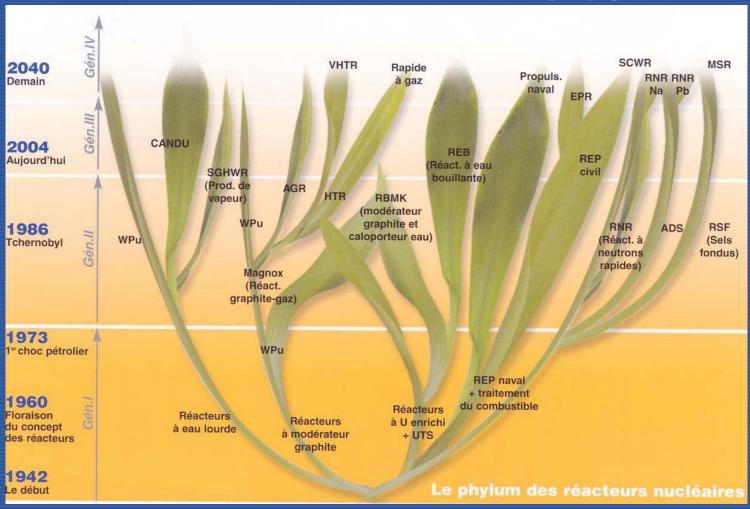
Some historical facts (continued)

- Obninsk, Russia, 1954 APS-1: Institute of Physics and Power Engineering
 - First reactor to generate appreciable electric power, 5 MW(e)
 - Start of nuclear energy...





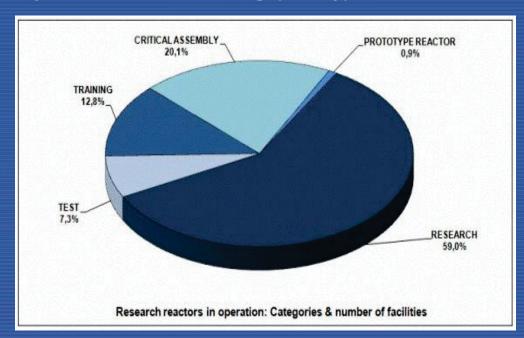
« If any species do not become modified and improved in a corresponding degree with its competitors, it will soon be exterminated » Charles Darwin. The origin of species, 1859





Status of RR as of today (IAEA RR Data Base): type of RRs

- Huge variety, no easy categorization, 26 different types
- Manufacturer types: Slowpoke, MNSR, Argonaut, TRIGA, IRT, WWR
- Coolant/moderator: heavy water, pool, light water, liquid metal, organic
- Fuel: plate, TRIGA, rods, homogeneous
- Purpose: critical assembly, research, test, training, prototype





Source: IAEA RRDB, January 2012

TOTAL:	679
Operational	231
Temp. shutdown	13
Under construction	3
Planned	2
Shutdown/Decommissioned	424
Cancelled	5
Unverified	1



Operational RRs are distributed over 56 countries

Russia 47 USA 39 China 15 Japan 13 France 10

Region	Operational RRs
Africa	8
Americas	64
Asia-Pacific	53
Europe (with Russia)	106



IAEA Research Reactor DataBase (RRDB)

http://nucleus.iaea.org/RRDB/

Research Reactors

Includes:

- * Detailed information of 680 facilities
- * Operational status
- * Reactor data
- * Fuel data
- * Utilization records

*

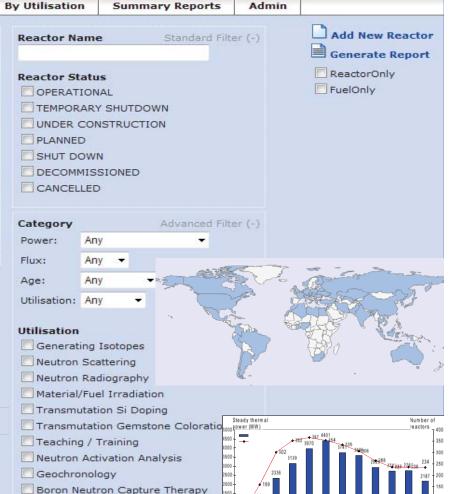
Jointly coordinated and managed by NAPC & NEFW.



Location Location Location Filter (-) Countries Algeria Argentina Australia Bangladesh Belarus Belgium Brazil Bulgaria Canada

Now possible:

- * Online updates
- * Multiple search
- * Up-to-date statistics
- * Maps, and
- * Much more!



Other Application

Reset Filter

Find

(A)IAEA

RRDB: Utilization and Application Oriented, new capability

Neutron Scattering Facilities - "Click here for details"

This database contains 44 research reactors performing Neutron Scaterring distributed over

44 RRs employ neutron beams; they are distributed over 30 MSs

	No.	Country	Name	Reactor Type	Power, kW	Flux, n/cm²/s	n/cm ² /s	Critica Date		
	1	Algeria	ES-SALAM	HEAVY WATER	15000	2.1E14	4.2E12	1992-0	2-17	
	2	Algeria	NUR	POOL	1000	5.9E12	4.0E12	1989-0	3-24	
	3	Australia	OPAL	POOL	20000	3.0E14	2.1E14	2006-0	5-08-12 2-03-07	
_	4	Austria	TRIGA II VIENNA	TRIGA MARK II	250	1.0E13	1.7E13	1962-0	3-07	
3	5	Bangladesh	TRIGA MARK II	TRIGA MARK II	3000	7.5E13	3.8E13	1986-0	9-14	
	6	Brazil	IEA-R1	POOL	5000	4.6E13	1.3E14	1957-0	57-09-16	
	7	Canada	MNR MCMASTER UNIV	POOL	3000	1.0E14	4.0E13	1959-0	04-04	
	8	Canada	NRU	HEAVY WATER	135000	4.0E14	4.5E13	1957 Temp	Ho	
	9	Chile	RECH-1	POOL	5000	7.0E13	5.0E13	1974	Day	y
	10	Czech Republic	LVR-15 REZ	TANK WWR	10000	1.5E14	3.0E14	1957	We	
	11	France	HFR	HEAVY WATER	58300	1.5E15		1971	MM	
	12	France	ORPHEE	POOL	14000	3.0E14	3.0E14	1980	ex	0
	13	Germany	BER-II	POOL	10000	2.0E14	1.4E13	1973	Iso	t
	14	Germany	FRG-1	POOL	5000	1.4E14	4.5E13	1958	• T	0
ľ										

DEMOKRITOS

Hungary BUDAPEST RES.

8.0E14

1.0E14

2.5E14

10000

4.5E13

1.0E14 1959

Neutron Scattering Facilities

tilization 24 urs per Day ys per Week eks per Year 21 Days per Year 2160 terials/fuel test NO periments tope Production 99Mo, 131I,192Ir, 32P 33741 otal Activity (GBq) 5.0E14 2004 Neutron Scattering HRPD, NRF, HRSANS, FCD/TD, SANS, PD 2100 On-line beam hours **Neutron Radiography** On-line bear hours: N/A **Neutron capture** NO therapy **Activation Analysis** INAA number of samples irradiated 300 Transmutation NO NO Geochronology Number of students: N/A Teaching Training Number of operators/experimenters trained: 13 NO Other Uses

Available at: http://nucleus.iaea.org/RRDB/



RR application-oriented functions of RRDB

Application	Number of RR involved	Involved / Operational, %	Number of countries
Education & Training	161	67	51
Neutron Activation Analysis	122	51	54
Radioisotope production	90	37	44
Neutron radiography	68	28	40
Material/fuel testing/irradiations	60	25	25
Neutron scattering	48	21	32
Nuclear Data Measurements	42	18	20
Gem coloration	36	15	22
Si doping	35	15	22
Geochronology	26	11	21
Neutron Therapy	20	8	13
Other	95	40	29



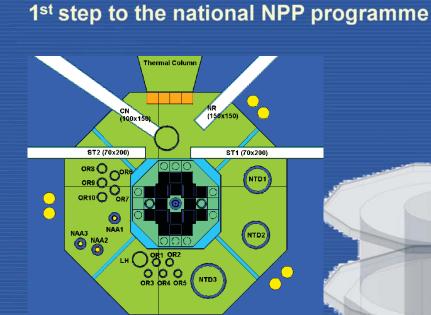
IAEA Indispensable to define priorities and plan our activities!

Jordan Research & Training Reactor (JRTR)

In the detailed design stage, construction is about to start



- 5 MW (upgradable to 10MW), neutron flux ~1.5*10¹⁴ n/(s cm²)
- Fuel: ~19.75 % U-235, U₃Si₂-Al, Coolant & Moderator: H₂O, Reflector: Be
- Multipurpose RR: radioisotope production, Si doping, neutron beams, NAA, E&T, etc.



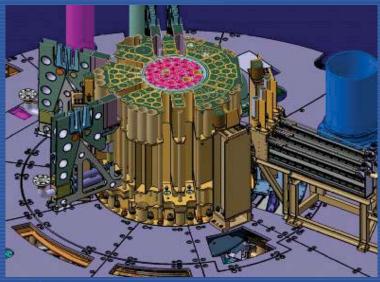




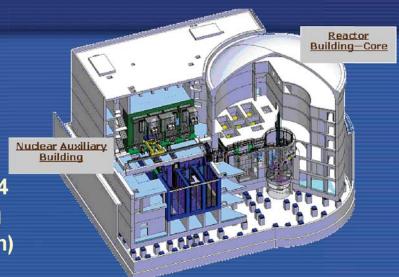
RR under construction

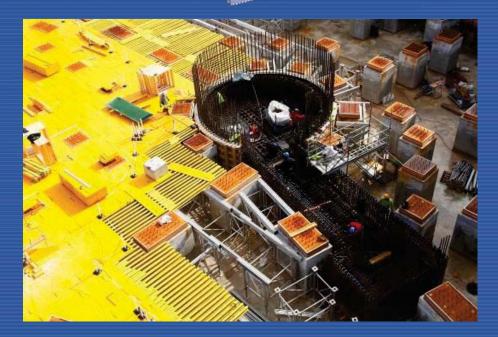
JHR, France, operation expected in 2015

- MTR pool, 100 MW, in core flux ~1*10¹⁵ n/(s cm²)
- Fuel: Ref. UMo LEU, Backup: U₃Si₂ 27 % U-235
- In support of future nuclear power, Gen3+ & Gen4
- Dedicated for material/fuel irradiation and testing
- Other applications envisaged (isotope production)
- International consortium









CARR, China

1st criticality in May 2010; full power reached in 2012

- 60 MW, in core flux ~1*10¹⁵ n/(s cm²)
- Fuel: 19% U-235, Moderator: H₂O, Reflector: D₂O
- Replacement for 10MW HWRR (2007)
- Multipurpose RR with the main objectives in basic research
- Open to users from universities, governmental laboratories, industry





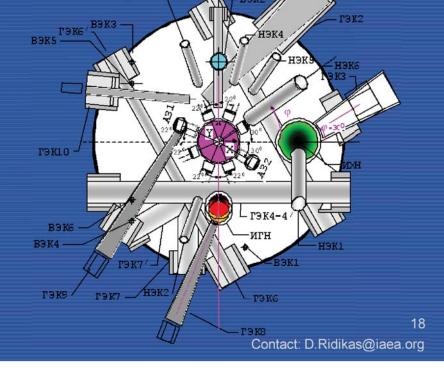


PIK, Russian Federation

1st criticality in March 2011, full power expected in 2013

- 100 MW, in neutron trap flux ~4.5*10¹⁵ n/(s cm²)
- Fuel: ~90% U-235, Moderator & Reflector: D₂O
- Replacement for WWR-M (18MW)
- Multipurpose RR with the main objectives in basic research
- Open to users from universities, governmental laboratories, industry







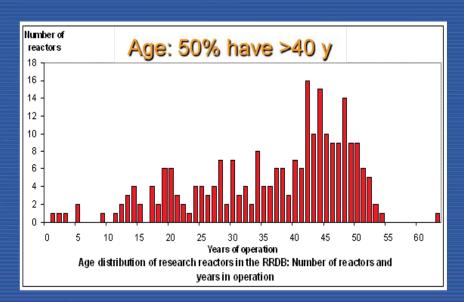


Key issues and challenges

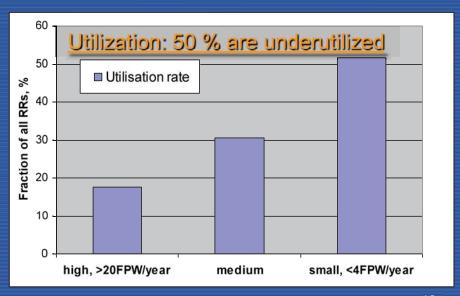
Source: IAEA RRDB, February 2011

- RR underutilization
- Ageing & needs for refurbishment
- Fuel cycle issues
- Requests for new RRs
- Safety & security

• ...









Key issues and challenges: underutilization

- <u>Lack of purpose</u> (and strategy) objectives formulated long time ago; no new/clear strategy available
- <u>Lack of budget</u> (and staff); prefer operate on "survival" level rather than shut-down and decommission; no plan/funds for decommissioning
- <u>Lack of pro-activity</u> (and motivation); no action to search for new users/clients; no action to analyse/penetrate the market for potential commercial products & services
- <u>Lack of QA/QC</u> (and Integrated Management System); decreased confidence from major stakeholders (funding and regulatory authorities); decreased chance to go commercial; no courage for re-organization

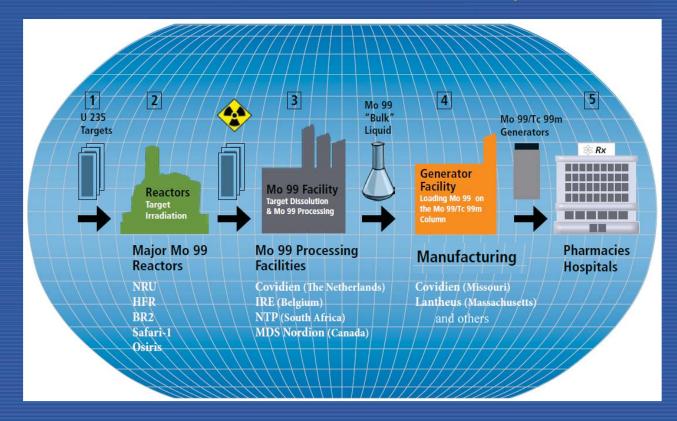
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Key issues and challenges: supply of Mo-99

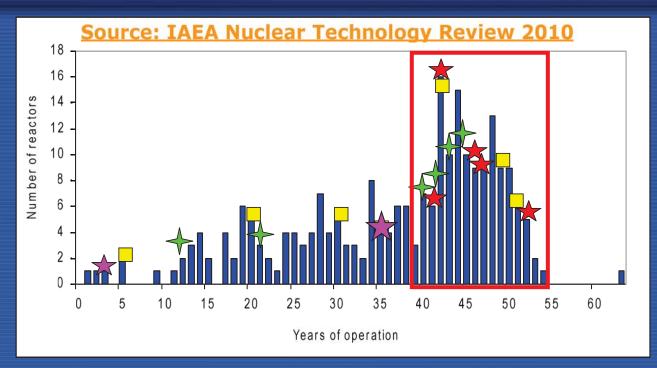
- Over 80% of diagnostic nuclear medical imaging uses radiopharmaceuticals containing technetium-99m (99mTc), entailing over 30 million investigations per year
- Over 95% of the ⁹⁹Mo required for ^{99m}Tc generators is produced by the fission of uranium-235 targets in nuclear research reactors

Source: IAEA NTR 2010, Annex





Key issues and challenges: supply of Mo-99



- The five major RR currently producing more than 95 % of 99Mo
- **7 The OPAL (Australia) and Maria (Poland)**
- -• Existing RR that are already used by regional ⁹⁹Mo producers or for which commissioning is underway
- Existing RR which are now studying the feasibility of providing irradiation services.

Latest news:

NRU (Canada) and HFR (Netherlands) are back to operation!

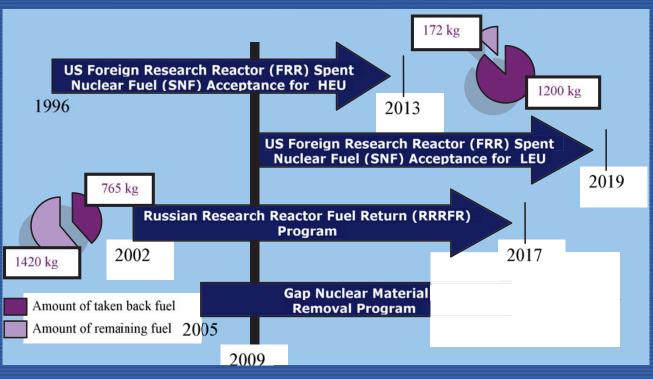
Maria (Poland) & LVR-15 (Czech) have entered as new important players!



Key issues and challenges: reduction of HEU

- Reduction of HEU through the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI)

 ☐ 76 RR cores converted to LEU, ~20 RR are expected/on-going
 ☐ Sport and fresh fuel take back programmes
 - ☐ Spent and fresh fuel take back programmes



Latest news:

□2500 kg of Russian-origin HEU spent fuel has been removed from Serbia

SAFARI-1 is entirely LEU!





Other countries, where HEU is being removed:

Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, ...

Recommended strategy for enhanced RR utilization

Today existing or planned RR facilities should concentrate on three major issues:

Strategic Planning &

Performance Monitoring

International Cooperation

&

Networking

Sustainability
through
Provision of Products & Services



Activity: RR strategic & business plans

Preparation/revision of

- Justification and Demonstrated Needs
- ☐ Strategic & Business Plans

Facility Status
Capabilities
What can I do?

Current Stakeholder
Requirements/Needs
What should I do?

IAEA-TECDOC-1234

The applications of research reactors

> Report of an Advisory Group meeting held in Vienna 4-7 October 1999

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AGENCY

Production of a strategic plan supports an increase in utilization by increasing capabilities and creating new requirements

IAEA-TECDOC-1212

Strategic planning for research reactors

Guidance for reactor managers

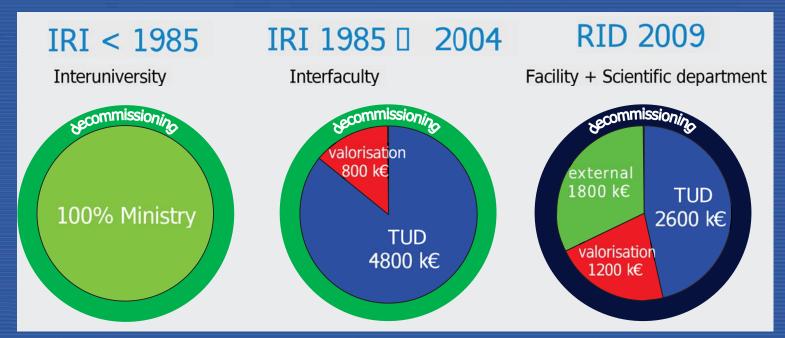
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY [A = /

Support/assistance from the IAEA is dependent A F Aon having a demonstrated need, i.e. ... a strategic plan

Example: 2MW RR, HOR of TU Delft

Today:

- It is a partially self sustained RR (operational costs ~6M Euros)
- Multipurpose RR
- NAA, neutron beams, positron source, E&T, isotope production
- Special efforts on QA/QM, accreditation, recognition, etc.



Future:

New applications, advanced R&D, search for specific niche...



Activity: RR Networks and Coalitions

Objectives:

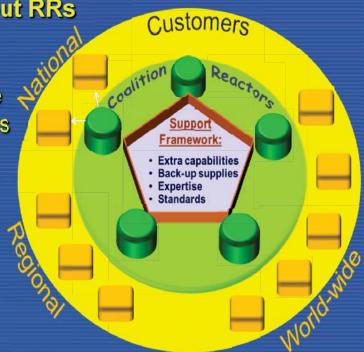
- ☐ increase utilization & sustainability
- □ promote regional/international cooperation
- □ access to RRs from Member States without RRs

Role of the IAEA

- ☐ Catalyst and facilitator towards self-reliance
- Preparation of strategic and business plans
- Initial support via regional TC projects

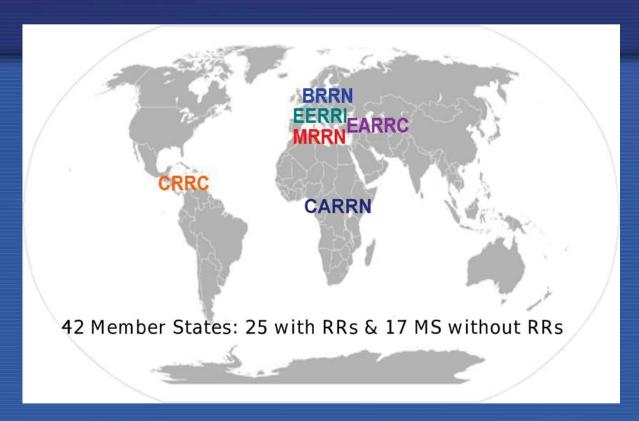
Performance indicators:

- Number of RR facilities forming networks
- Number of non-RR countries forming networks
- Number of RRs with new/updated strategic plans
- Number of RRs with increased utilization/revenues





Activity: RR Networks and Coalitions, status



- 2. EARRC Eurasian RR Coalition,
- 3. EERRI Eastern European RR Initiative,
- 4. CRRC Caribbean RR Coalition,
- 5. MRRN Mediterranean RR Network,
- 6. CARRN Central Africa RR Network,

multipurpose, 10MS isotope production, 5MS multipurpose, 6MS mainly NAA, 3 MS multipurpose, 12 MS multipurpose, 9 MS



Activity: RR Networks and Coalitions, highlight

RR Group Fellowship Training Course (6 weeks):

- <u>EERRI</u>: organized by partners in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, & Slovenia
- IAEA: implementation and financial support through TC projects
- <u>Contents:</u> theoretical courses, hands on training, IAEA lectures, evaluations
- Participants: ~49 fellows trained during 6 courses
- <u>Future:</u> similar initiatives in other regions





Internet Reactor Lab (IRL)

PULSTAR
Reactor
NCSU/ U.S

Reactor
Parameters
Audio/ Video
data

NE Department JUST/Jordan





Source: JUST, Jordan



Similar initiatives in other regions

Activity: TC projects and new RRs

Planned RRs as of today

- <u>Last TC cycle:</u> more than 30 on-going IAEA TC projects related to RR utilization, safety, fuel cycle, refurbishment and modernization, etc.
- (2010-2011) 4 on-going projects to start the 1st RR in the country
 - 1) Azerbaijan: Conducting a Feasibility Study for Planning and Establishing a RR
 - 2) Jordan: Establishing a RR
 - 3) Sudan: Sudan Nuclear RR Project
 - 4) GCC: Developing Regional Nucl. Training Centre for Capacity Building & Research
- (2012-2013) similar number of all projects but already 8 new projects related to the 1st RR in the country
- Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, and Tanzania +
 new RR projects in Argentina, Brazil, Korea, the Netherlands, South Africa, Vietnam...



New Publications: NES NP-T-5.1 available

IAEA Nuclear Energy Series

No. NP-T-5.1

Basic Principles Objectives

Specific Considerations
and Milestones for
a Research Reactor
Project

Technical Reports

Guides





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Activity: Newcomer Member States

Planning, Building and Operation of RR: phases/milestones

Possibility of a research reactor considered Justification for Research Reactor INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE1

Ready to make a knowledgeable commitment to a Research Reactor project INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE2

Ready to invite bids for a Research Reactor

INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE3

Ready to commission and operate the Research Reactor Research Reactor Decommissioning

PHASE 1 Pre-project PHASE 2 PHASE 3 **Operations Project Formulation** Implementation Continuous development of infrastructure elements. Ongoing research reactor Implementation of a technology assessment & fuel/ research reactor cycle assessment Preparatory work for a research reactor after a policy Considerations before decision has been taken a decision to launch a research reactor project is taken Research Reactor Justification Pre-Project Assessment Feasibility Bid Commissioning Report and Specification Study Licence Preliminary Strategic Plan

5 - 10 years



Decommissioning

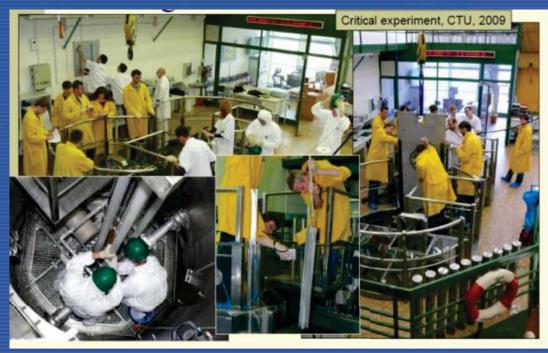
License

☐ Role of RR in E&T: ~164 RRs involved world-wide

- Public tours and visits
- Teaching physical and biological science students
- Teaching radiation protection and radiological engineering students
- Nuclear engineering students
- NPP operator training

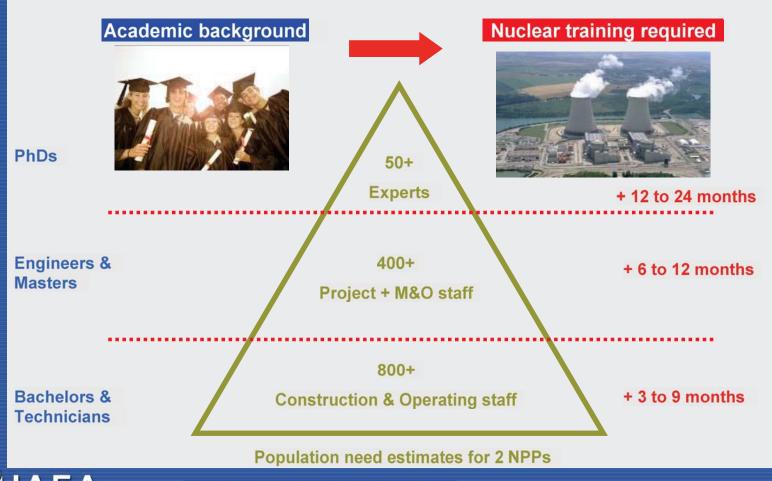






☐ Role of RR in the context of national NPP programme

Typical flow from Academics to Nuclear





☐ Role of RRs in the context of national NPP programme

Example of Nuclear Research Centre in Morocco













Source: CNESTEN, Morocco

Issues (from Milestones Document)	Potential
	role of RR
1. National position	Х
2. Nuclear safety	х
3. Management	
4. Funding and financing	
5. Legislative framework	Х
6. Safeguards	Х
7. Regulatory framework	Х
8. Radiation protection	Х
9. Electrical grid	
10. Human resource development	Х
11. Stakeholder involvement	Х
12. Site and supporting activities	Х
13. Environmental Protection	Х
14. Emergency planning	х
15. Security and physical protection	х
16. Nuclear fuel cycle	Х
17. Radioactive waste	х
18. Industrial involvement	
19. Procurement	



RR application-oriented functions of RRDB

Application	Number of RR involved	Involved / Operational, %	Number of countries
Education & Training	161	67	51
Neutron Activation Analysis	122	51	54
Radioisotope production	90	37	44
Neutron radiography	68	28	40
Material/fuel testing/irradiations	60	25	25
Neutron scattering	48	21	32
Nuclear Data Measurements	42	18	20
Gem coloration	36	15	22
Si doping	35	15	22
Geochronology	26	11	21
Neutron Therapy	20	8	13
Other	95	40	29



IAEA Indispensable to define priorities and plan our activities!

Revised RR power (~flux) - applications table

Power level	E&T	NAA	PGNAA (2)	Isotope production	Geochro	nology	Transmutation effects			Neutron imaging (2)	Neutron scatterin g (2)	Positron source (2)	BNCT (2)	Testing		
					Ar/Ar	Fission Track (1)	Silicon Doping (3)	Gamma irradiation	Gemstone Coloring (3)					I&C	Material s (3)	Fuels (3)
<1kW	F	S												S		
100kW	F	F	S	S	S	S		S		S	S		F	S		
1MW	F	F	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	F	F	S	
10MW	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	S
>10MW	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Time required, years	0.5-1	2-3	2-3	0,5-5	0.5	0.5	3-5	0.5	2	2-4	3-10	5-10	5	0.5	3-5	3-10
Investme nt costs, US \$k	5-80	150- 300	200-600	50-5000	10	10	200- 1000	10	100-500	150 – 1000	>1000*	500-700	2000- 5000	1-20	>2000	>5000
Staff required, number	1-3	2	2	2-20	1	1	2-6	1	1-2	2-3	2-3*	2-3	2-3**	1	2-10	5-20

- S Some capability (e.g. R&D or demonstration capability)
- F Full capability (e.g. capable in commercial production)
- •(1) Requires fully thermalized neutrons.
- (2) Requires a beam tube.
- (3) Requires a loop or special irradiation facility.



- · Time required for completion and implementation
- ► **A** Investment costs for completion and implementation
 - Staff required for operation (in addition to reactor operation team)

Basics on neutron scattering research

Why Neutrons?



1. Neutrons have the right wavelength



2. Neutrons see the Nuclei



3. Neutrons see Light Atoms next to Heavy Ones



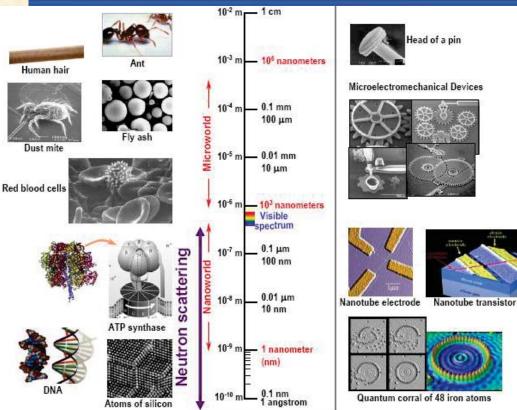
4. Neutrons measure the Velocity of Atoms



5. Neutrons penetrate deep into Matter



6. Neutrons see Elementary Magnets



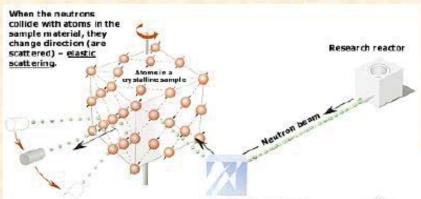


Basics on neutron scattering research

What do neutrons do?

Nobel Prize in Physics 1994 - Shull and Brockhouse

Neutrons show where atoms are.....



Crystal that sorts and forwards neutrons of a certain wavelength (energy) - monochromatized neutrons

... and what atoms do

Detectors record the directions

positions of the atoms relative

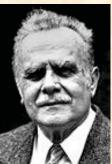
pattern is obtained.

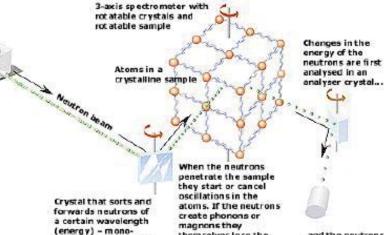
to one another.

The pattern shows the

of the neutrons and a diffraction







chromatized neutrons

themselves lose the

energy these absorb

- in elastic scattering

...and the neutrons

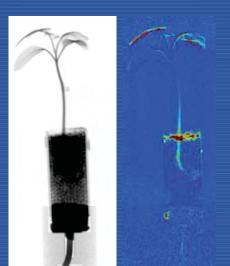
then counted in a

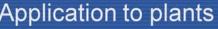
detector.

□ Neutron Radiography (1)

- Provide static or dynamic "picture" in 2D or 3D
- Non-destructive technique
- Various applications □Potential income









Mineral distribution in stones



Lubricates in engines



Voltage sources/cells





Medical applications



□ Neutron Radiography (1) continued

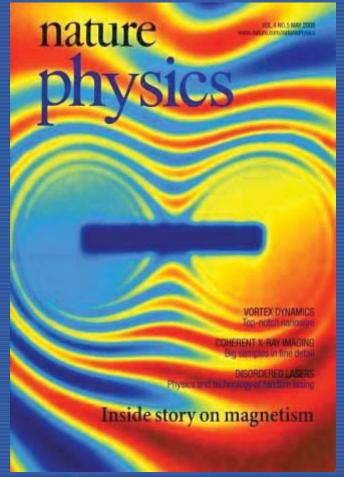


Cultural heritage: Photo, x-ray, radiography, tomography



Brasing connections

Polarised neutron tomography

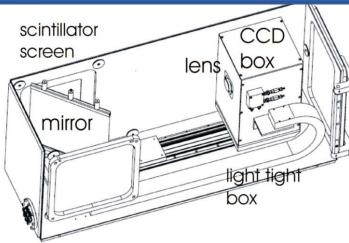


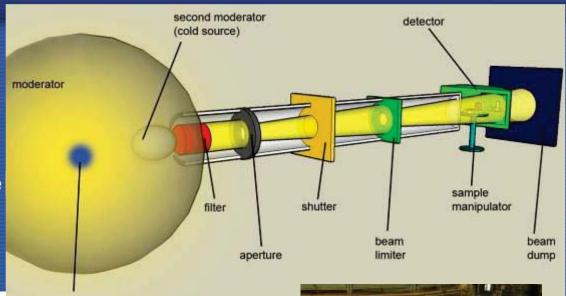
N. Kardjilov et al. Nature Physics 4 p. 399-403, (2008)

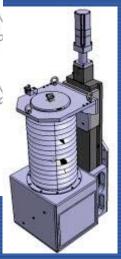


□ Neutron radiography (2)

- Neutron beam
- Detection system
- Manipulation system
- Computer system
- Image Reconstruction Software
- Image display
- Operator Interface







primary source



□ Neutron radiography (3)

Service	Flux, n/s cm ²	Facilities	Equipment	Staff	Budget
Neutron radiography & tomography	Thermal neutrons >10 ⁶	Neutron beam, beam ports, filters, collimators, shielded room	Sample manipulator, mirrors, scintillation detector, CCD camera	Physicist, technician	Variable: from \$50000 to \$400000

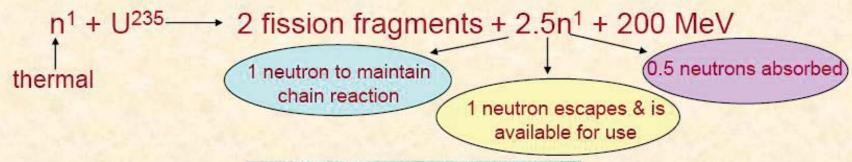
See "Applications of RRs" TECDOC-1234 (2001) for all examples



a) www.ill.fr

How do we produce neutrons?

a. Fission Reactions



1 neutron



2 to 3 neutrons

Example: 20 MW Research Reactor

No. of fissions/sec =

20 x 10⁶ watts 200 MeV/fission

= 6 x 10¹⁷ fissions/second

generates 1.5 x 10¹⁸ neutrons/sec in the whole reactor volume

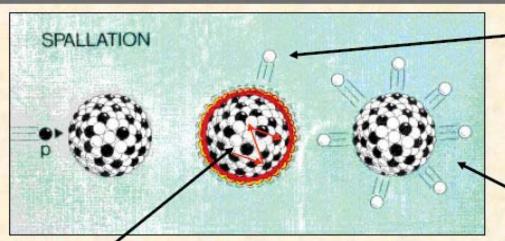


How do we produce neutrons?

b) www.sns.gov

b. Artificially accelerated particles

(iii) Spallation with Protons

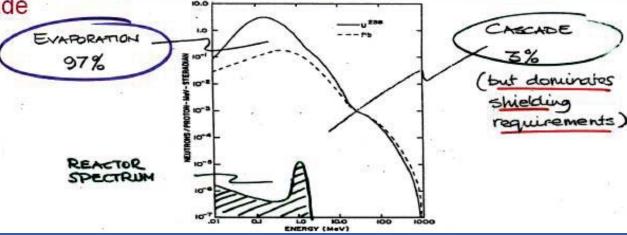


2. Inter Nuclear Cascade

Up to 40 neutrons per incident proton

3. Evaporation

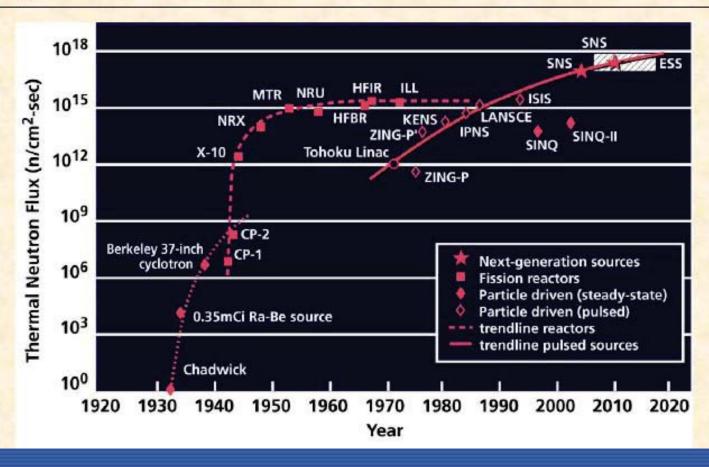
1. Internal Cascade





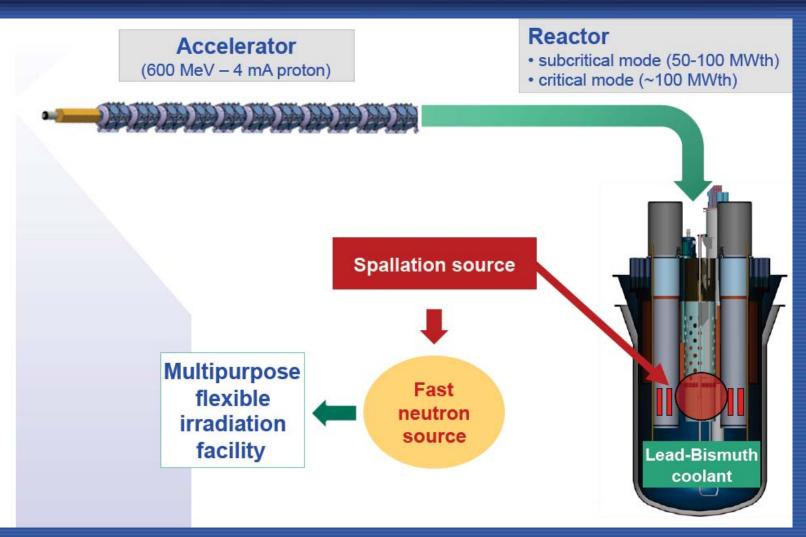
Higher neutron fluxes?

Reactors have reached the limit at which heat can be removed from the core Pulsed sources have not yet reached that limit and hold out the promise of higher intensities





Accelerator Driven System: MYRRHA project in Belgium





Thanks for your attention and...





...we continue with accelerators later...