

IAEA activities in support of Nuclear Physics Research & Applications

Danas Ridikas

**IAEA Physics Section
Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences
Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications**

Outline

- **Organization and programmatic structure**
- **Selected examples and recent updates**
- **Future plans**



The IAEA: Atoms for Peace and Development



Statute: The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

Mission: To assist its Member States, in the context of social and economic goals, in planning for and using nuclear science and technology for various peaceful purposes.



IAEA Director General **Rafael Mariano Grossi**
(since Dec. 2019)



2005 : IAEA Receives Nobel Peace Prize



Three Pillars - Main Areas of Activity



**Safeguards
&
Verification**

**Safety
&
Security**

**Science
&
Technology**

Science and Technology



Food & Agriculture

Promoting food security and sustainable agricultural development



Human Health

Improving the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and nutrition



Science & Industry

Providing knowledge & expertise for science & industry



Water Resources

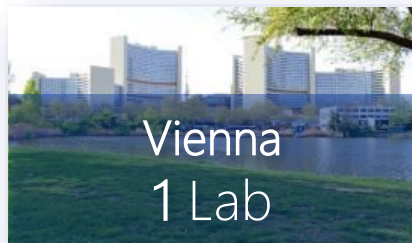
Making more, and cleaner water available to more people



Environment

Understanding and protecting the environment

12 dedicated laboratories



Water Resources

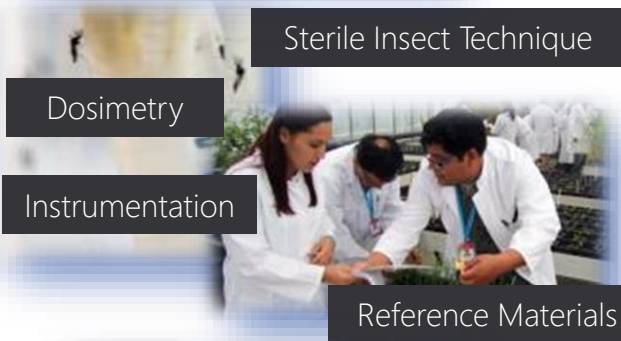


Food & Agriculture

Human Health

Nuclear Science

Environment



Dosimetry

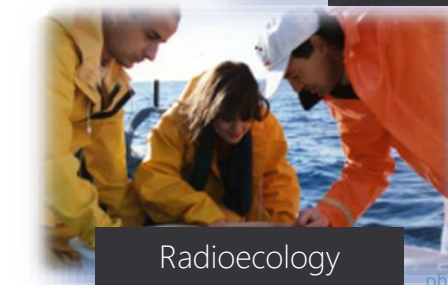
Instrumentation

Reference Materials



Marine Environment

The only marine environment
laboratories in the UN system



Division of Physical & Chemical Sciences (NAPC)



Nuclear Data, Nuclear Science, Physics, Radiation and Isotope Sciences & Applications, Water resource management

Nuclear Data

Data Development

Data Services

Atomic & Molecular Data

Physics

Accelerator & Research Reactor Applications

Nuclear Instrumentation

Nuclear Fusion

Radiochemistry & Radiation Technology

Medical Radioisotope production, Radiopharmaceuticals

Radiotracers, NCS & NDT in industry

Radiation technology applications

Terrestrial Environment

Isotope Hydrology

Isotopic methods for groundwater assessment

Water resource management

Scenario modelling

Physics Section: main technical areas



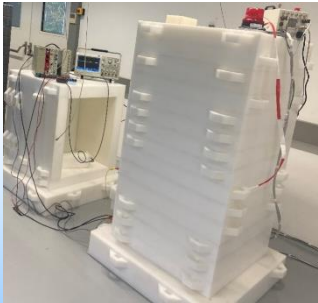
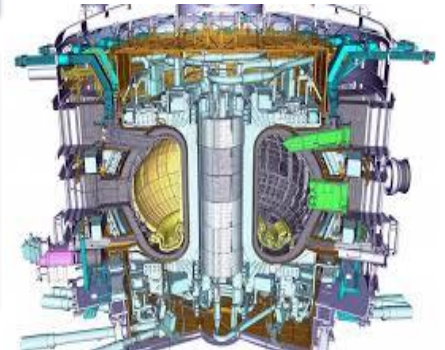
1.4.2 Research & Applications with Accelerators & Neutron Sources (incl. RR applications)



1.4.3 Nuclear Instrumentation (incl. laboratory in Seibersdorf)



1.4.4 Nuclear Fusion Science & Plasma Physics (incl. coop. with ITER)



Modalities of IAEA activities



- ❖ Technical Meetings
- ❖ Training Workshops



Coordinated Research Projects



Publications



Expert Missions (PRS & AS)



IAEA Research Reactor
Information Resources (Databases)



Support CP through
Technical Cooperation

Outline

- Organization and programmatic structure
- **Selected examples and recent updates**
- Future plans



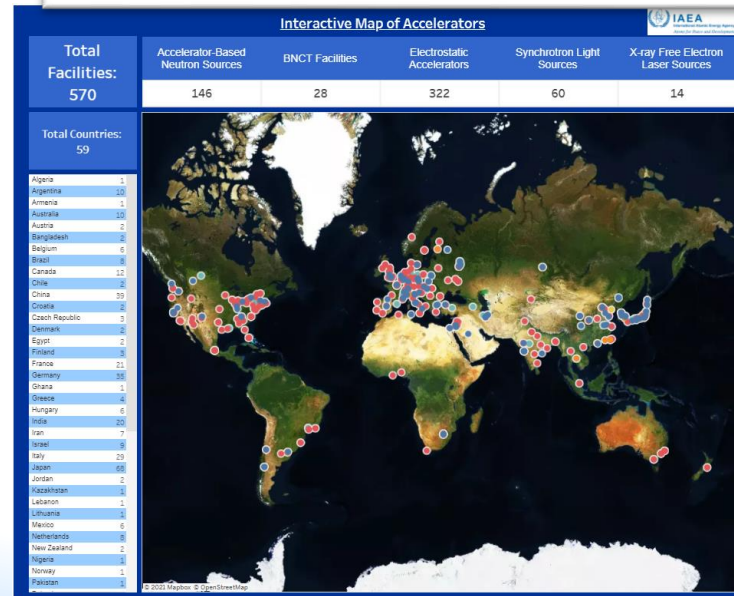
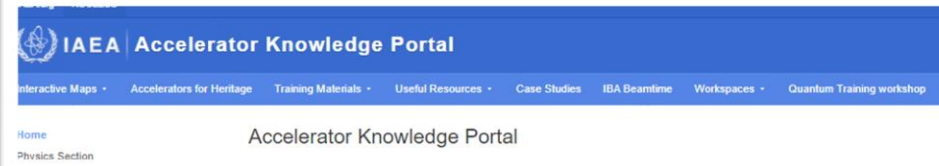
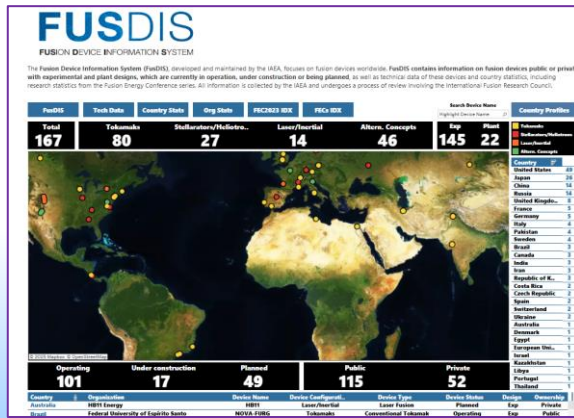
E.g. managing thematic portals and data bases

- 1) **Accelerators:** <https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/accelerators/>
- 2) **Neutrons:** <https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/neutrons/>
- 3) **Instrumentation:** <https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/nuclear-instrumentation>
- 4) **Fusion:** <https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/fusionportal/>

E.g. Physics thematic Portals

20000+ visitors/users in 2024; our interactive maps include

- 570+ ion beam accelerators
- 1200+ medical cyclotrons
- 400+ neutron beam instruments
- 1300+ XRF facilities
- 165+ fusion devices



E.g. IAEA International RR Conference, 11-15 Nov. 2024



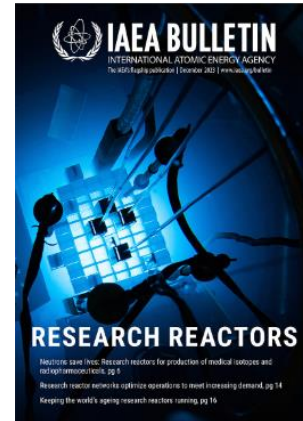
300+ in person and 200+ virtual participants, over 80 Member States, organized jointly with NE and NS departments

- 80+ oral presentations
- 130+ posters
- 5 side events
- Conference proceedings: in progress



Thematic areas:

- Utilization and Applications of Research Reactors
- Research Reactor Operation and Maintenance
- New Research Reactor programmes
- Safety of Research Reactors
- Security of Research Reactors
- Research Reactor Fuel Management
- Common Management Considerations for Research Reactors



→ <https://www.iaea.org/events/conference-on-research-reactors-2024>

Call for participation



The 30th IAEA FEC2025 will gather 1000+ participants and will cover

- OV Overview talks
- EX Magnetic Fusion Experiments
- TH Magnetic Fusion Theory and Simulation
- TEC Fusion Energy Technology
- IFE Inertial Fusion Energy
- IAC Innovative and Alternative Fusion Concepts
- PWF Pathways to Fusion

It will be jointly opened with **World Fusion Energy Group (WFEG)**

It will include **side events, technical tours, exhibitions** and much more!

More information: <https://www.iaea.org/events/FEC2025>



Call for synopses and participation



2nd IAEA
International
Conference on

22 – 26
June 2026
Vienna, Austria

ACCELERATORS

for Research and Sustainable Development



#ACCELERATORS2026



The AccConf2026 in Vienna will

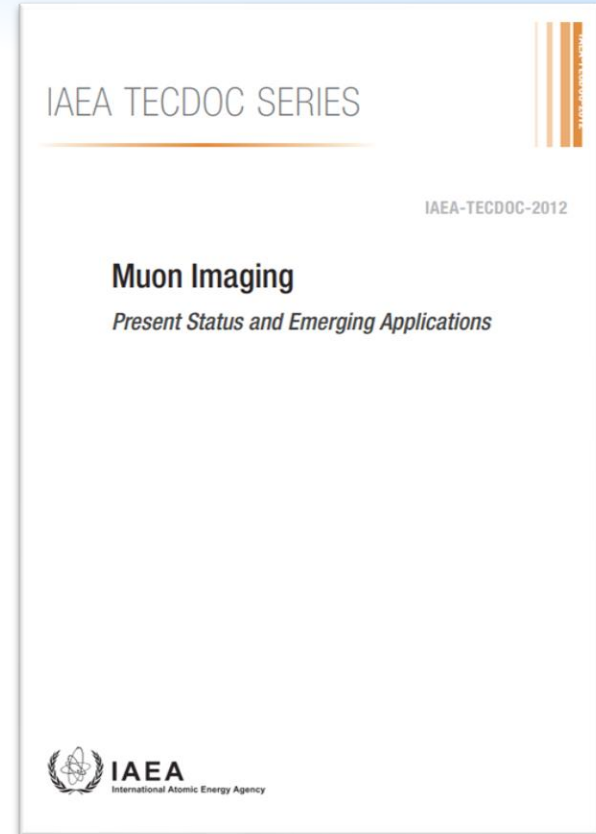
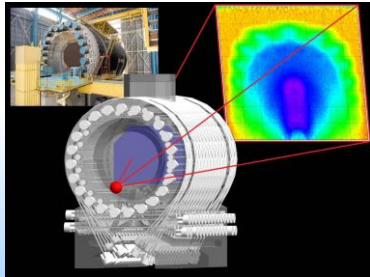
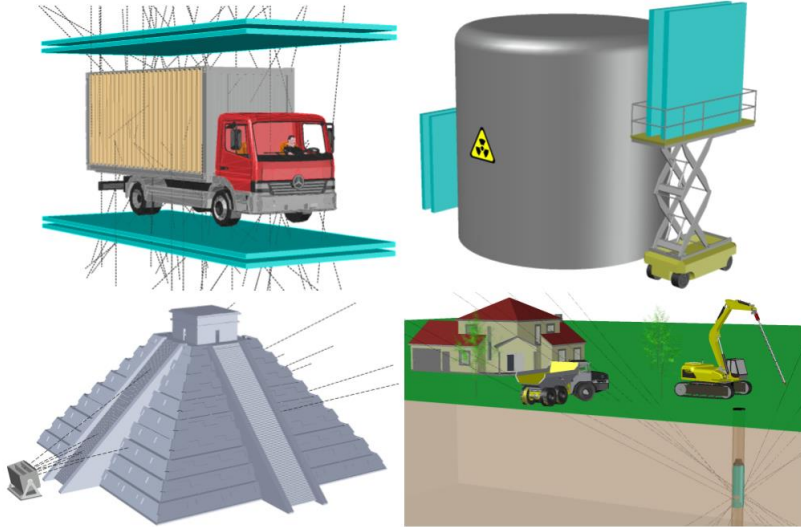
- showcase advances in **particle accelerator technologies and their applications across research, industry, and innovation**;
- highlight accelerator-based solutions with **significant societal and economic impact**, in areas such as health, environment, food safety, energy, and cultural heritage;
- exchange **best practices in establishing and operating accelerator facilities**, from compact systems to large-scale infrastructures;
- foster **new collaborations between academia and industry** in order to address global challenges through accelerator technologies.

More information: <https://www.iaea.org/events/AccConf2026>

Synopses by 31 Oct. 2025: <https://conferences.iaea.org/event/426/>

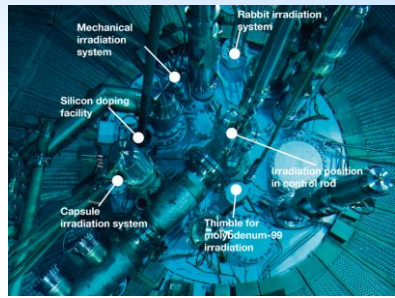
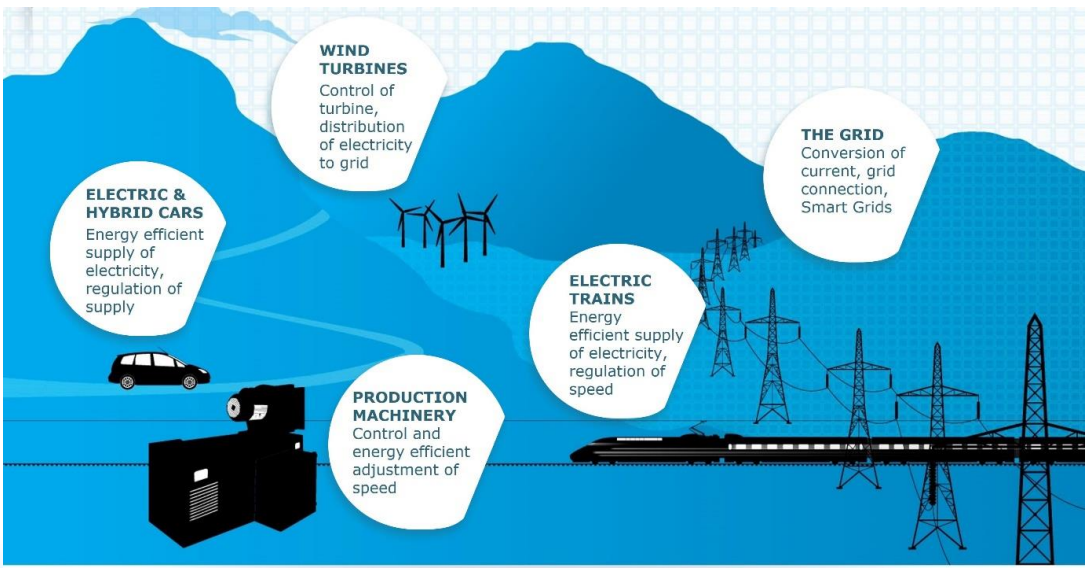
E.g. Organization of Technical Meetings/Workshops

Technical Meeting on Non-destructive Testing Using Muon Radiography: Present Status and Emerging Applications



E.g. Organization of Consultancy Expert Meetings


Consultancy Meeting on The Current Status and Future of Neutron Transmutation Doping of Silicon (NTD Si) at Research Reactors



Start of NTD Si 4 Net Zero initiative



E.g. Organization of Training Events



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New IAEA Neutron Facility Delivers First Hands-on Training

Michael Amdi Madsen, IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication





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IAEA Conducts First Virtual Training on Using Ion Beam Techniques and Applications

Alexandra Peiva, IAEA Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications


APR 7 2021




Related Stories

- First IAEA Webinar to Encourage Women for Careers in Accelerator Science and Technology
- Cyclotrons - What are They and Where Can You Find Them
- IAEA, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation to Work Together on Sustainable Environment
- New Year's Eve Special: Particle Accelerator Creates Miniature 'Lightning Storm'






ICTP
The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics



IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency



UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

60 ICTP
1964-2024

Joint ICTP-IAEA Fusion Energy School

Attend two week-long intensive school lectures from the academia and the develop a wider understanding of fusion and their opportunities to connect with

6 - 17 May 2024


Trieste, Italy

Applications and Deadlines:
Pre-application deadline: 15 February 2024
Final application deadline: 1 April 2024

DIRECTORS:
M. BARBARINO, IAEA, Austria
S. KASER, ICTP, Italy
S. MAHAJAN, University of Texas, USA
R. WAGNER, IAEA, Austria

GRANTS:
A limited number of grants are available to support the attendance of selected participants, with priority given to participants from developing countries. There is no registration fee.

FURTHER INFORMATION:
E-mail: unr3936@ictp.it
Web: <https://indico.ictp.it/event/10474/>
Female scientists are encouraged to apply.



E.g.: development of e-learning tools



<https://elearning.iaea.org/>

1. Strategic Planning for National Nuclear Institutions
2. Specific Considerations & Guidance for Establishment of Ionizing Radiation Facilities
3. **Introductory training course for research reactor personnel (English/Spanish)**
4. **Neutron Activation Analysis**
5. **Neutron Imaging**
6. **Nuclear Analytical Techniques for Forensic Science**
7. **Portable X-ray Spectrometry Techniques for Characterization of Valuable Archaeological/Art Objects**
8. **Quality Assurance of X-ray Fluorescence Analysis of Airborne Particulate Matter**
9. **Introduction to Total reflection X-ray Fluorescence**
10. **Introduction to X-ray Emission Spectrometry**
11. **Introduction to electrostatic accelerators: from basic principles to operation and maintenance**
12. **Ion-beam Engineering of Materials for Quantum Technologies**
13. **Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Radiocarbon Dating for Heritage and Forensic Science**
14. **Introduction to in-situ techniques for radiological characterization of sites**

E.g. active CRP on fusion materials research



CRP F13021 Towards the Standardization of Small Specimen Test Techniques for Fusion Applications – phase II; 2023-2027

- **Emphasis** on the applicability of available guidelines and methodologies with relevance to high temperature (HT) conditions and suited for hot cell (HC) environment
- **Partners** (10) from Argentina, Belgium, China, Germany, Spain, UK, Hungary, Japan, USA

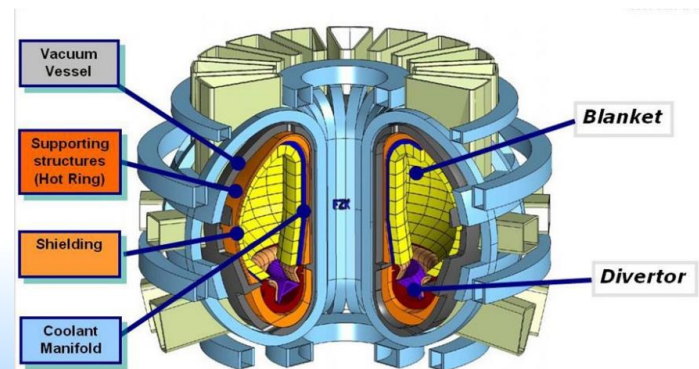


FIG. 8.1. Simplified schematics of the main types of components and materials that will be exposed to the most severe environmental conditions in a fusion power reactor (courtesy of KIT).

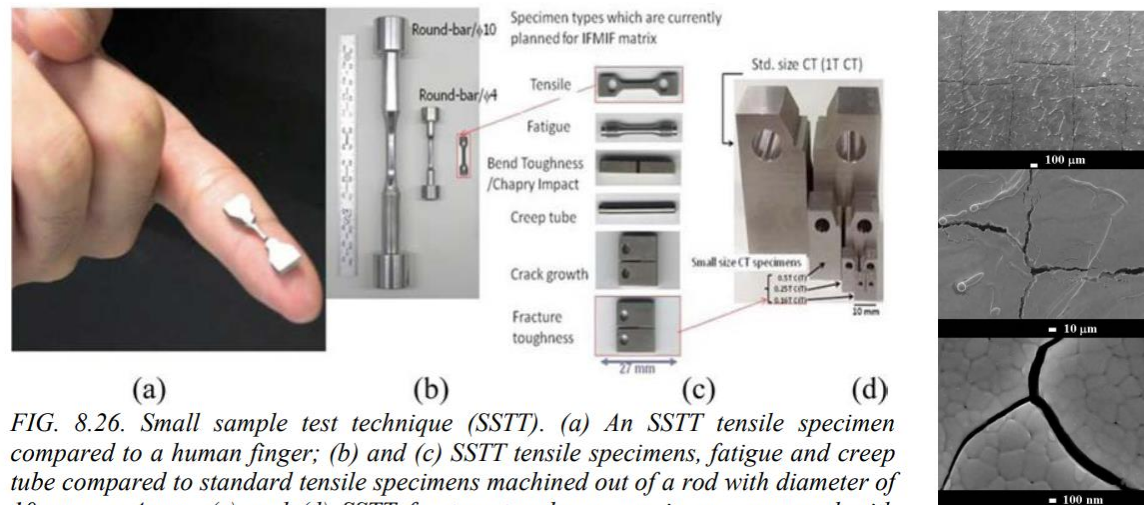


FIG. 8.26. Small sample test technique (SSTT). (a) An SSTT tensile specimen compared to a human finger; (b) and (c) SSTT tensile specimens, fatigue and creep tube compared to standard tensile specimens machined out of a rod with diameter of 10 mm or 4 mm; (c) and (d) SSTT fracture toughness specimens compared with standard compact tension specimens (reproduced from Ref. [8.73] with permission).

E.g. new CRPs: call for project proposals

CRP F12027: Expanding Neutron Beam Capabilities at Low and Medium Flux Neutron Sources

Objective: Increase the utilization of low and medium neutron flux sources of Member States through expanded neutron beam applications

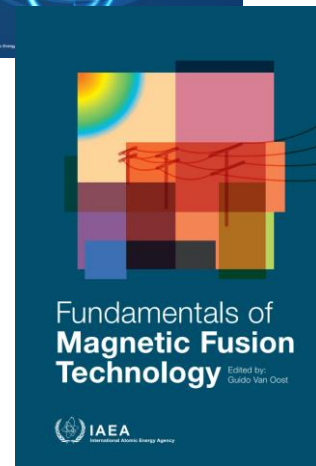
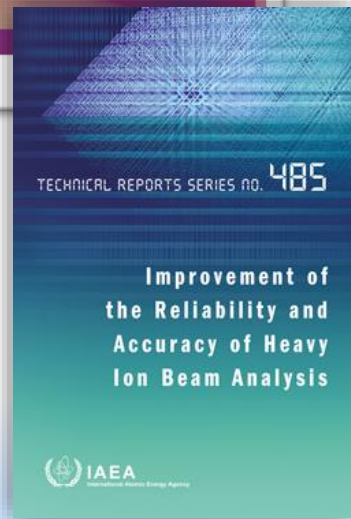
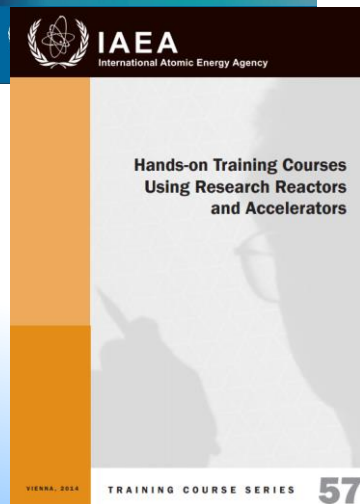
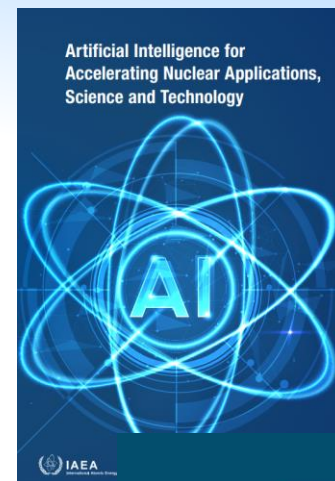
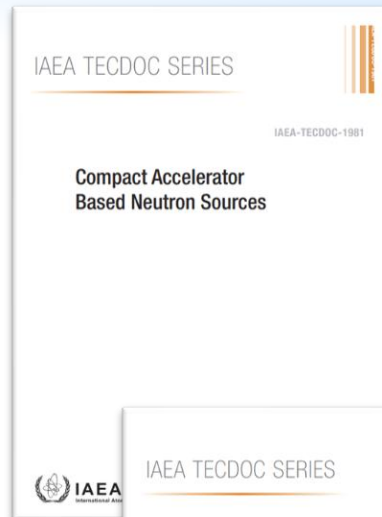
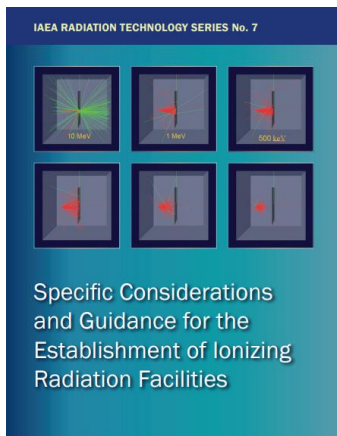
CRP F11026: Preservation and Protection of Cultural Heritage through Synergistic Authentication and Provenance

Objective: Improve authentication and provenance of heritage objects from historical, artistic, societal, raw material, composition and structure, manufacturing technology and legal point of view for their protection and preservation.

E.g.: publishing technical reports and guides



<https://www.iaea.org/publications>

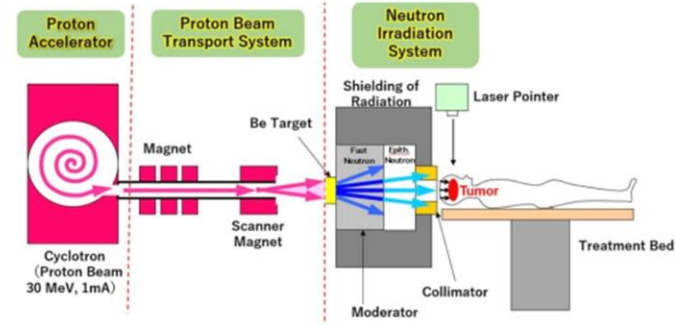


E.g. Publication:

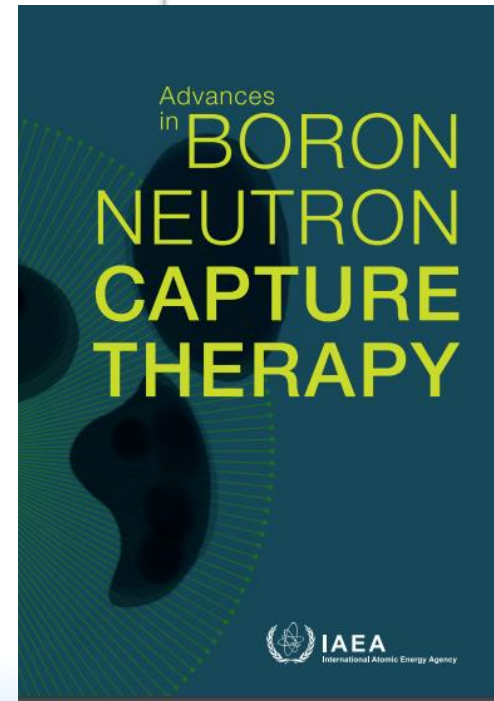
Advances in Boron Neutron Capture Therapy, Non serial Publication (2023) +350 pages

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Accelerator based BNCT
- 3) Beam design
- 4) Dosimetry and neutron field parameters
- 5) Facility design
- 6) Operation and management
- 7) Pharmaceuticals and radiopharmaceuticals
- 8) Boron concentration determination
- 9) Radiobiology
- 10) Methods and models for dose calculations
- 11) Treatment planning
- 12) Reporting
- 13) Clinical trials

+ a number of Appendices, Annexes and Protocols, including regulatory aspects and facility examples



(Courtesy by Sumitomo Heavy Industry Ltd.)



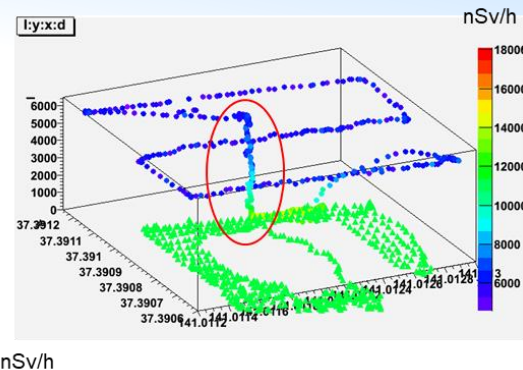
In TOP 10 at IAEA!

E.g. Support to Fukushima Prefecture (Japan)

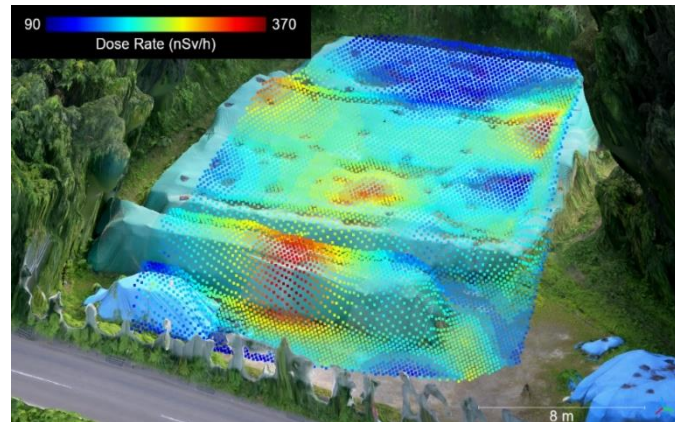
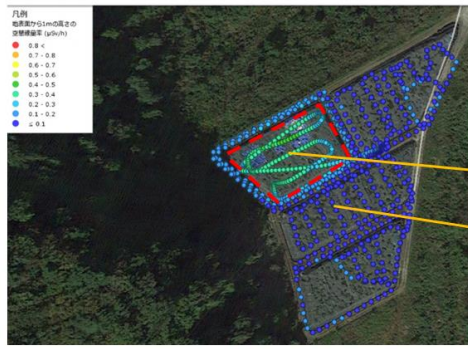
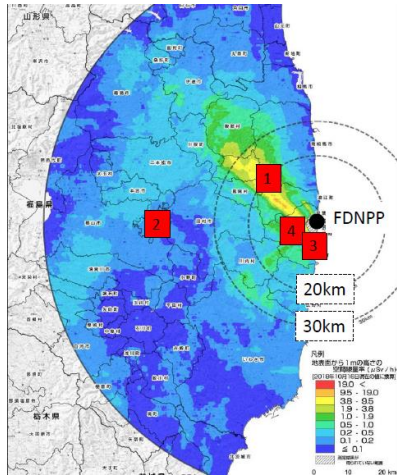
Developed/adapted hardware/software



Developed/adapted methodology



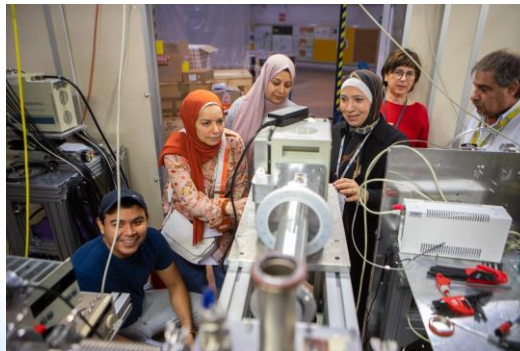
A number of trial measurements completed



E.g. Access to state-of-the-art accelerator facilities



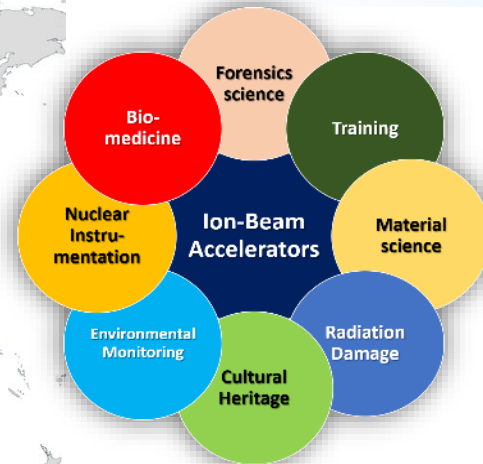
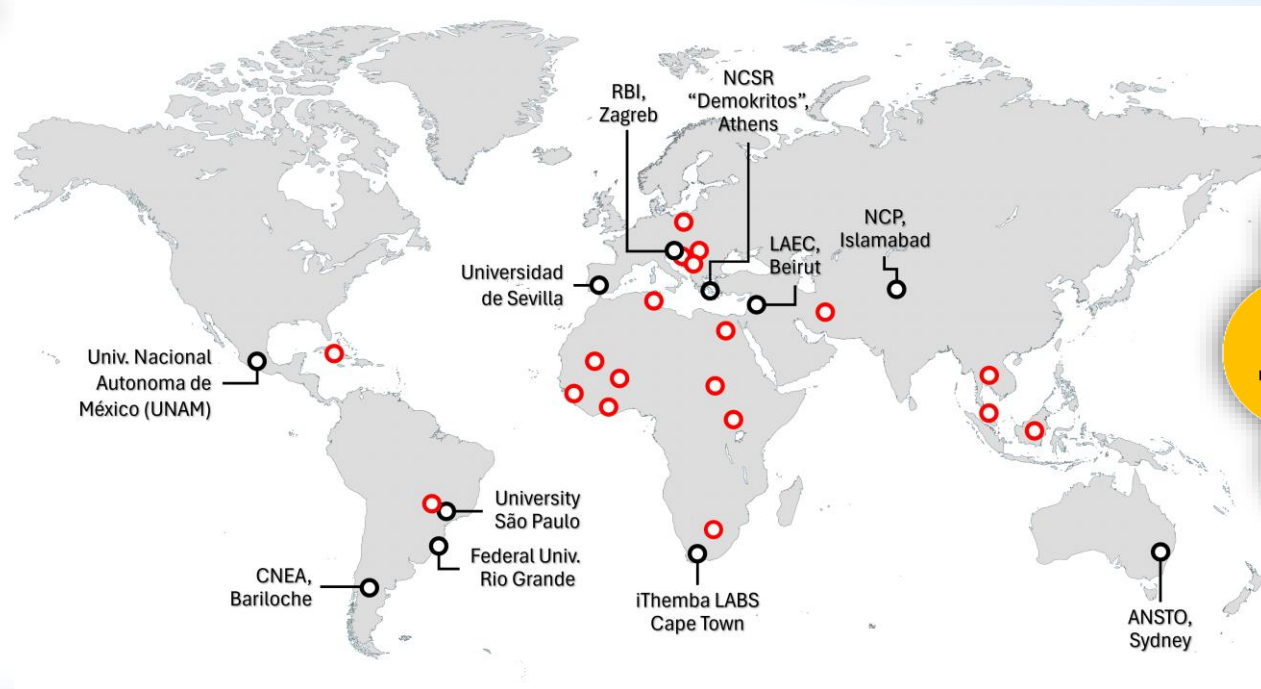
- **IAEA-RBI agreement; co-shared ion beam facility**
 - **20 days of the beam time** available for the developing countries
 - **Annual training workshops**, with emphasis on hands-on-training
 - New He ion source for **dual-beam capability** available (fusion research)
- **IAEA-Elettra agreement; joint XRF beamline**
 - **Dedicated beam-time for users**; +20 research groups from +15 MSs annually
 - **Annual training workshops**, with emphasis on hands-on-training
 - Recent improvements of the beam line and end-station



E.g. Access to state-of-the-art accelerator facilities



CRP G42008 Facilitating Experiments with Ion Beam Accelerators (2019-2025)



- Host Laboratories (10) were assessed and selected in all regions (in black)
- User groups (21/31) from 19 countries performed their experiments (in red)



E.g. Integrated RR Utilization Review missions

Objectives

- Assess current utilization profile
- Identify opportunities to expand utilization
- Strengthen user community and enlarge the utilization base

7 full scope missions implemented since 2022

- Chile (RECH-1): 5MW
- Peru (RP-10): 10 MW
- South Africa (SAFARI-1): 20 MW
- Iran (Isfahan): 30kW, critical/sub-critical assemblies
- USA (NRAD): 250 kW
- USA (MITR): 6MW
- Canada (McMaster): 3 MW

1 mission planned in 2025

- Ghana (GHRR-1): 30 kW



IRRUR

Integrated Research Reactor Utilization Review

Assess current utilization profile of a research reactor

Identify opportunities to expand utilization in education and training, R&D and provision of products and services

Strengthen the research reactor user community and enlarge the utilization base

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IAEA Missions Highlight Potential of Research Reactors for Innovative Nuclear Energy Solutions

Emma Midgley, IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication

JUL 31 2023

Related stories

- IAEA Conducts First Integrated Research Reactor Utilization Review
- Integrated Research Reactor Utilization Review Mission Concludes in Italy
- Supporting the Operation and Safety of Research Reactors: Exploring the IAEA's Peer Review Missions
- Strategically Harnessing the Full Potential of Research Reactors

E.g. Direct support to accelerators through TC projects



- Feasibility studies
- Technical support in setting up dedicated facilities, beamlines and end-stations
- Technical assistance in maintenance and upgrades
- Technical assistance in equipment procurement
- Training of personnel
- Utilization plans

- Algeria
- Bangladesh
- Croatia
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Greece
- Lebanon
- Italy
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Syria
- Thailand
- Uzbekistan



Proficiency Tests for NAA & other Analytical Techniques



Organized twice a year in support IAEA Member States laboratories to:

- identify analytical problems
- improve the quality of their analytical results
- acquire / maintain their accreditation
- provide a regular forum for discussion and technology transfer in this area
- **In 2025: +100 analytical laboratories participate, representing +50 countries**



Scheme of the proficiency test:

- Provision of various samples at no cost
- Full anonymity of laboratories is granted
- Issue of final reports



Previous Proficiency Tests

PTNATIAEA/21	May 2023 - March 2024	soil sample with elevated mass fractions of elements plant sample	Download PDF final report
PTNATIAEA/20	April 2022 - December 2022	clay sample plant sample	Download PDF final report

More info: <http://www.pt-nsil.com/>

Outline

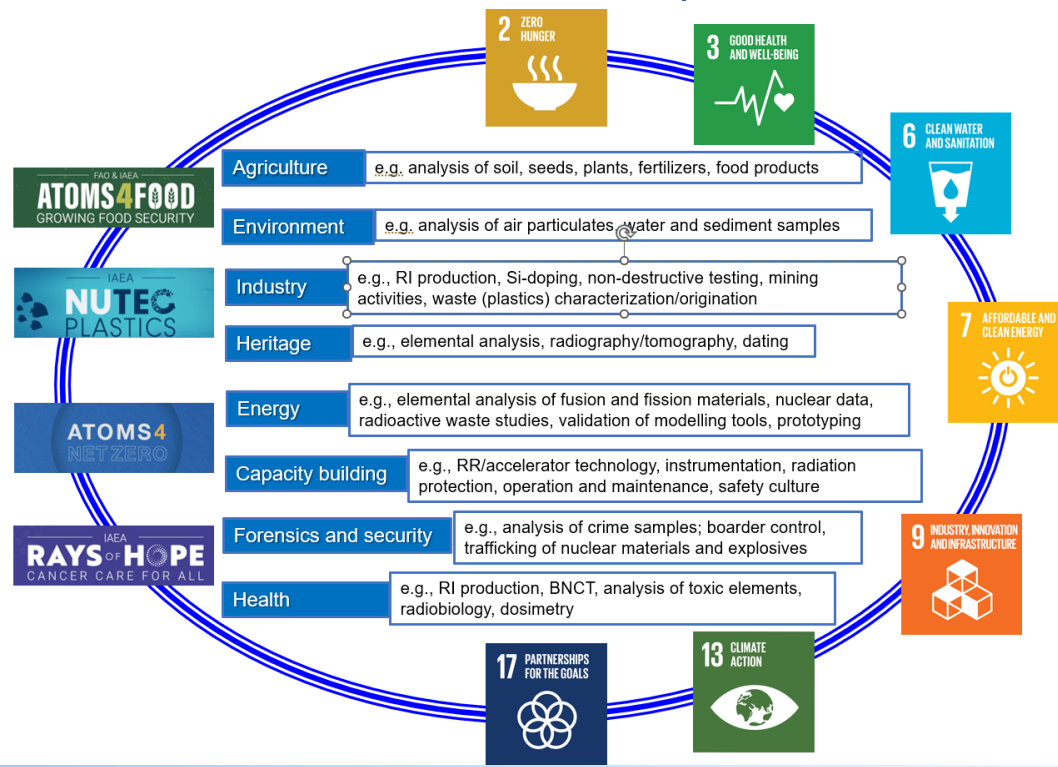
- Organization and programmatic structure
- Selected examples and recent updates
- **Future plans**



Neutrons4NA initiative: rationale



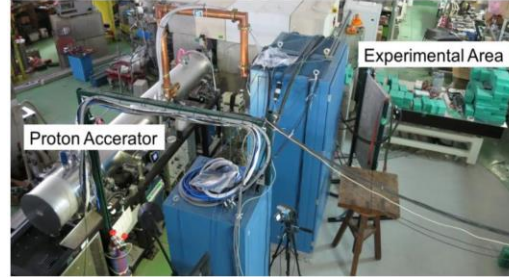
Tailored and stepwise approach through promotion, capacity building, technology transfer and facilitated access to **Neutrons4NA** and resulting socioeconomic development in the Member States



Neutrons4NA: objective



**Bridging the gap between neutron generators, CANS and RRs:
tailored and stepwise approach**



	Neutron generator	Compact accelerator-based neutron source	Research reactor / spallation source
Neutron source, n/s	$<10^{10}$	$<10^{14}$	$>10^{15}$
Capital cost, €M	0.1-0.2	3-10	60-700
O&M costs, €M	0.02	0.2-1.0	3-100
Staff, number	1	2-3	10-100

E.g. IAEA Neutron Science Facility (NSF) at SEIB

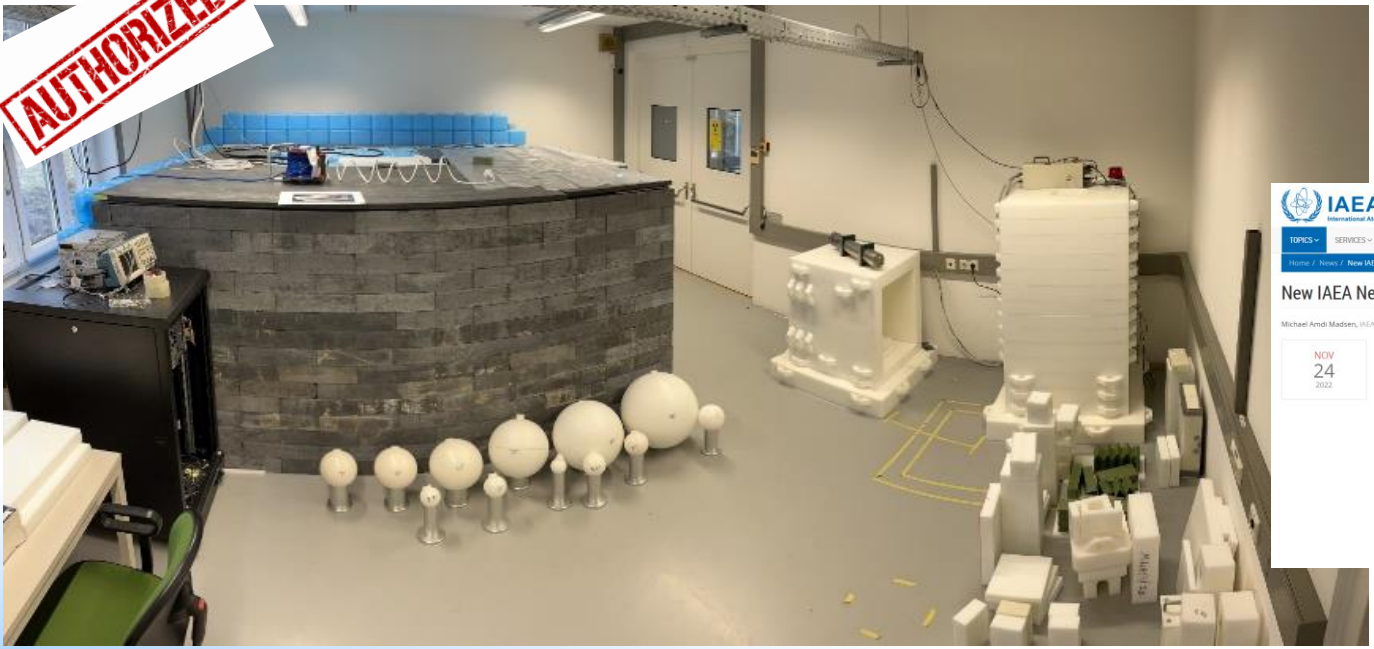



NSF is based on two neutron generators, **operational since 2022**

- **D+D reaction → 2.45 MeV neutron source** (fission-like neutrons, 5e6 n/s)
- **D+T reaction → 14.1 MeV neutron source** (fusion-like neutrons, 5e8 n/s)



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New IAEA Neutron Facility Delivers First Hands-on Training

Michael Arndt Madsen, IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication

NOV 24 2022



Francisco Spillone handles a neutron generator at the new IAEA facility in Seibersdorf, Austria. (Photo: D. Calma/IAEA)

Related stories

- Fingerprinting Materials: IAEA Updates Neutron Activation Analysis E-learning Course
- What Are Particle Accelerators?
- Neutrons Blaze Fusion: Materials in New IAEA Project
- IAEA Breaks Ground to Expand and Modernize its Seibersdorf Laboratories
- IAEA Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre Nears Completion

E.g. IAEA Ion Beam Facility (IBF) project at SEIB

Comprehensive survey conducted high interest from the user communities

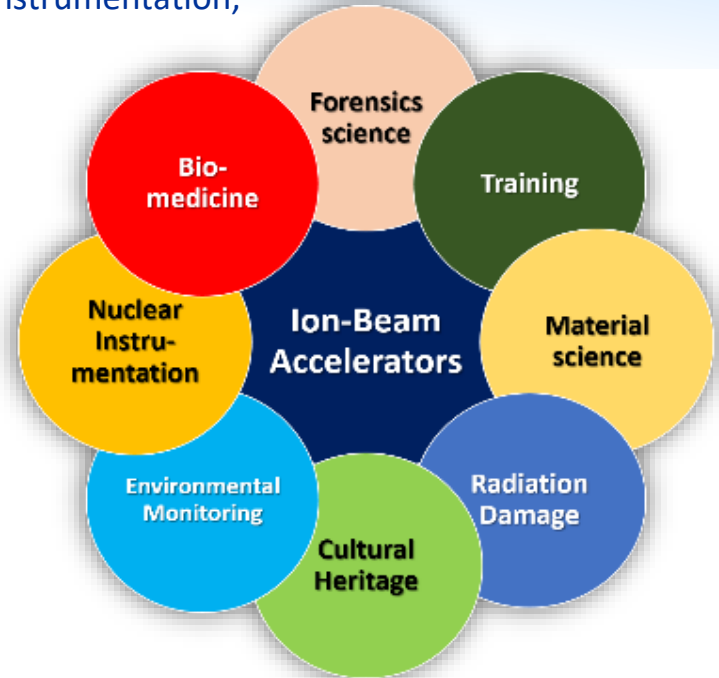
(>60 replies from 40 countries (out of 59 operating accelerators) as well as internally within IAEA:

- **Training** in accelerator technology, applications and associated instrumentation,
- **Services** relevant to ion/neutron beam analysis and irradiations,
- **Enhanced access** to and use of ion/neutron beam techniques.



Feasibility study showed that, to match the NSIL's mission and stakeholder needs, the most **optimal and cost-effective technology option would be 3.0 MV tandem**.

Total capital costs:	10.4 M€
Staff required:	3 persons
Operational costs:	200 k€/year



Call for Extrabudgetary Support and Contributions in kind:

UN Global Market <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/275529>

E.g. IAEA Ion Beam Facility (IBF) project at SEIB

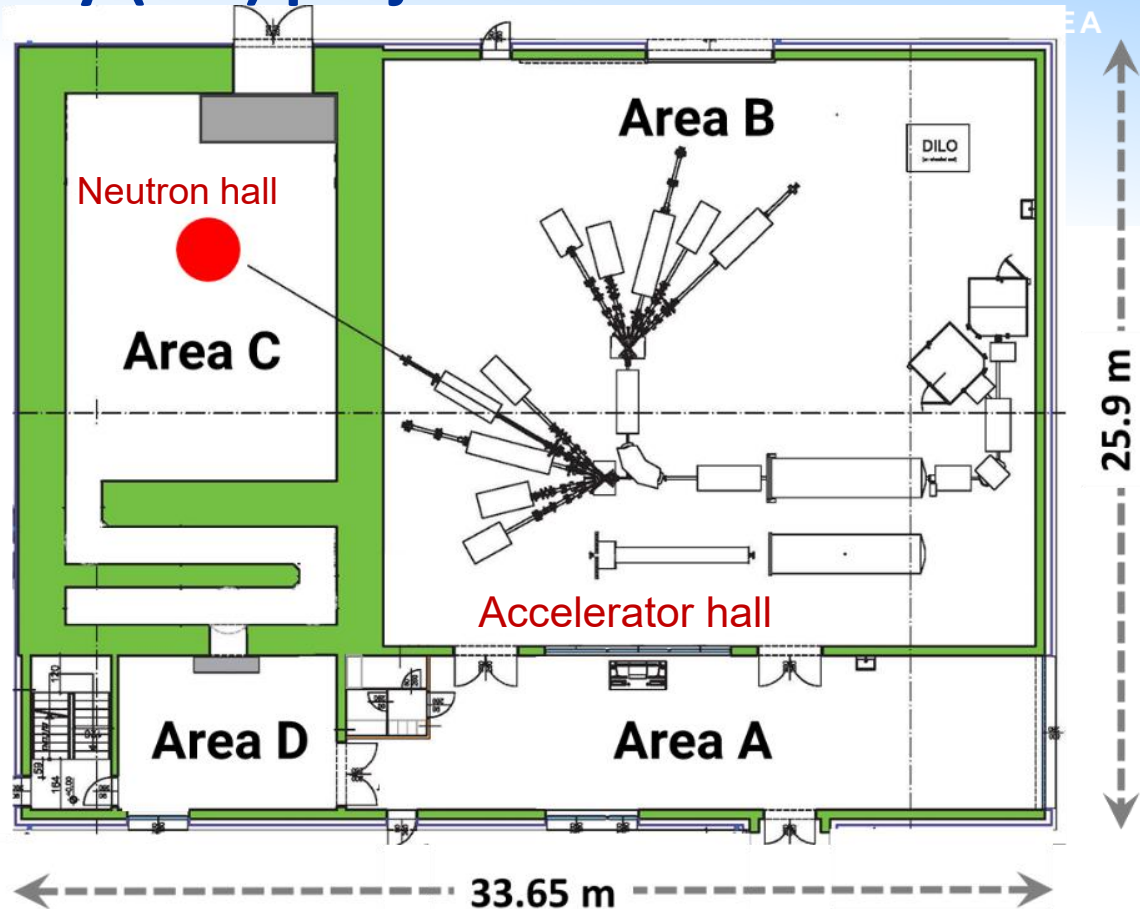


→ 6MeV protons (up to 50μA current)
+ heavier ions

→ Multiple beam lines/end-stations
(PIXE, PIGE, RBS, Microbeam, implanter...)

→ **Neutron production capability**

- **Max. source intensity:** 5×10^{11} n/s
- **Max. thermal flux:** 10^6 n s⁻¹cm⁻²





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Thanks for your attention!



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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
The IAEA's flagship publication | December 2023 | www.iaea.org/bulletin

RESEARCH REACTORS

Neutrons save lives: Research reactors for production of medical isotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, pg 6
Research reactor networks optimize operations to meet increasing demand, pg 14
Keeping the world's ageing research reactors running, pg 16



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APPLICATIONS OF ACCELERATORS AND OTHER SOURCES OF IONIZING RADIATION

What are particle accelerators? pg 4
Ancient Roman archaeology resurfaces with nuclear science, pg 8
Establishing ionizing radiation facilities in the Philippines and beyond, pg 22



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Fusion Energy

What is fusion, and why is it so difficult to achieve? page 4
ITER: The world's largest fusion experiment, page 10
Uniting countries through fusion research and cooperation, page 22



physics@iaea.org