



Atoms for Peace and Development

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
国际原子能机构
International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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In reply please refer to: **EVT2102888**
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The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presents its compliments to the IAEA's Member States and has the honour to draw their attention to the **Technical Meeting on Operation, Maintenance and Ageing Management for Research Reactors** (hereinafter referred to as "event") to be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from **21 to 25 November 2022**.

The purpose of the event is to bring together operators, designers and regulators of research reactors in order to discuss issues related to the operation, maintenance, and ageing management of such facilities and further improve their safety, reliability and performance. The meeting will also provide a forum for the participants to exchange information and experience on good practices, issues and challenges related to research reactor operation, maintenance and ageing management.

The attached Information Sheet provides further details of the event.

The event will be held in English.

Member States are invited to designate one or more participants to represent the Government at this event. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify women participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event. The application for financial support should be made at the time of designating the participants using the attached Grant Application Form (Form C).

It should be noted that compensation is not payable by the IAEA for any damage to or loss of personal property. The IAEA also does not provide health insurance coverage for participants in IAEA events. Arrangements for private insurance coverage on an individual basis should therefore be made. The IAEA will, however, provide insurance coverage for accidents and illnesses that clearly result from any work performed for the IAEA.

Designations should be submitted to the IAEA through the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) not later than **23 September 2022** using the attached Participation Form (Form A). Completed and authorized Participation Forms should be sent either by email to: Official.Mail@iaea.org or by fax to:

+43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Copies should be sent by email to the Scientific Secretaries of the event, Mr Kaichao Sun, Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security; Mr Ruben Mazzi, Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, Department of Nuclear Energy (Email: K.Sun@iaea.org; R.Mazzi@iaea.org), and to the Administrative Secretary, Ms Lissy Parokkil (Email: L.Parokkil@iaea.org). The Scientific Secretaries of the event will liaise with the participants directly concerning further arrangements, including travel details, as appropriate, once official designations have been received.

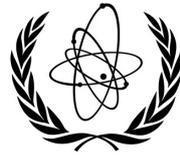
Should Governments wish, in addition, to appoint one or more observers to assist and advise the designated participants, they are kindly requested to inform the IAEA of the names and contact details of any such observers by the above date. In accordance with the established rules, Governments are expected to bear the cost of attendance of any observers they may send to IAEA events. Compensation is not payable by the IAEA for any damage to or loss of observers' personal property or for illness, injury or death occurring while travelling to or in connection with their attendance at IAEA events.

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA's Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.



2022-07-26

Enclosures: Information Sheet
 Participation Form (Form A)
 Grant Application Form (Form C)



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Operation, Maintenance and Ageing Management for Research Reactors

**International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna, Austria**

21 – 25 November 2022

Ref. No: EVT2102888

Information Sheet

Introduction

For over the past six decades, research reactors have played an important role within several fields of basic sciences; in the development of nuclear science and technology; in the production of radioisotopes for various applications; and in the development of human resources and skills in the nuclear field. Moreover, research reactors have been effectively utilized to support sustainable development worldwide.

The information collected in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Research Reactor Database (RRDB) shows that there are 220 research reactors currently operational in 53 countries. They vary in type, design, power level, utilization, operation cycle, management aspects, etc. Operating practices also vary in different Member States based on national regulations and available resources. The IAEA Incident Reporting System for Research Reactors (IRSRR) shows that human factor, including inadequate operating procedures or insufficient compliance with the procedures, is one of the major root causes that cause events occurred at research reactor facilities. The operating organizations of many research reactor facilities have established, or are in the process of establishing, integrated management systems to safety and reliability of operations of the facilities.

In addition, the RRDB also shows that over two-third of the research reactors that are currently operational are over 40 years with many exceeding their originally conceived design life. Majority of them is challenged by the negative impacts of ageing of systems, structures and components. The IRSRR also shows that ageing is the other major root cause for a large number of events that occurred at research reactor facilities. Many research reactor facilities have established, or are in a process to establish, a proactive strategy and a systematic programme to manage ageing and to mitigate its impact on the safety and availability of the facilities.

Collecting and sharing this information and experience within the research reactor community will help in improving operation, maintenance, and ageing management programmes, in particular by preventing the negative consequences on the safety, operability and lifetime of operating and future research reactors. The exchange of good practices for the operation, maintenance, and ageing management of research reactors can also help to improve the design of new facilities from the viewpoint of safe operation and effective utilization.

On the basis of the facts above mentioned, the IAEA is organizing this Technical Meeting on Operation, Maintenance, and Ageing Management for Research Reactors to be held at its Headquarters in Vienna from 21 to 25 November 2022.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to bring together operators, designers and regulators of research reactors in order to discuss issues related to the operation, maintenance, and ageing management of such facilities and further improve their safety, reliability and performance. The meeting will also provide a forum for the participants to exchange information and experience on good practices, issues and challenges related to research reactor operation, maintenance and ageing management.

Target Audience

Participation in the event is subject to designation by governmental or national organizations that are involved in the planning, construction, commissioning or operation of research reactors. To ensure maximum effectiveness in the exchange of information, participants should be persons responsible for the operation, maintenance, or aging management of research reactors. Specialists from regulatory bodies who are responsible for the regulatory supervision of research reactors are also invited to participate in the meeting. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

Working Language (s)

English

Topics

A. Research Reactor Operation and Maintenance

Participants are expected to report on the existing experience, examples and programmes related to research reactor operation and maintenance, including utilization and modifications. The examples of this subject include, but are not limited to, 1) experience of application of the IAEA safety standards and technical publications related to research reactor operation and maintenance, 2) activities performed to enhance availability and reliability, including measures for reducing risks and unplanned shutdowns, 3) operating procedures including those on responding to anticipated operational occurrences and design basis accidents, 4) core management and fuel handling, including optimization of fuel burn-up and spent fuel management, and 5) reactor management, staffing, training and qualification, knowledge management and succession planning for safe and reliable operation 6) quality assurance programmes and methods used for continuous improvement pursuing high availability and reliability figures.

The discussions will focus on the practical aspects related to the operating and maintenance programmes for safe and reliable operation and effective utilization of research reactors.

B. Research Reactor Ageing Management

Participants are expected to report on the existing experience within the following scopes:

- Experiences, examples and programmes related to research reactor ageing management, including modernization and refurbishment activities,
- All areas, aspects, and issues within the field of ageing and measures to minimize or mitigate the effects of ageing as well as features of research reactors designed to minimize the adverse effects of ageing.

The ageing management subject can be divided into two themes: general and specific. The examples of general theme include, but are not limited to, 1) experience of application of the IAEA safety standards and technical publications on ageing management, 2) activities performed to minimize ageing degradation, and 3) activities performed to mitigate ageing effects, including modernization and refurbishment activities in different phases of research reactors lifetime. The examples of specific theme include, but are not limited to, 1) ageing (including physical ageing and obsolescence) of instrumentation and control systems, 2) ageing of core structures including high-performance reflector/thermal column materials (beryllium, graphite) and related measures/services, 3) ageing of pool liners and spent fuel storage tank pits, spent fuel bays (tile/brick lined) and related measures (materials, welding, cleaning, repairs, chemistry), and 4) ageing of experimental facilities such as beam tubes and irradiation loops.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **23 September 2022**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)**, which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Forms (Form A)** by **23 September 2022**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:
<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

Scientific Secretaries:

Mr Kaichao Sun

Research Reactor Safety Section
Division of Nuclear Installation Safety
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
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1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 26475

Fax: +43 1 26007

Email: K.Sun@iaea.orgmailto:D.V.Rao@iaea.org

Mr Ruben Mazzi

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PO Box 100
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Tel.: +43 1 2600 22762

Fax: +43 1 26007

Email: R.Mazzi@iaea.org

Administrative Secretary:

Ms Lissy Parokkil

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Division of Nuclear Installation Safety
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 22665

Fax: +43 1 26007

Email: L.Parokkil@iaea.org <mailto:D.V.Rao@iaea.org>

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Participation Form

Technical Meeting on Operation, Maintenance and Ageing Management for Research Reactors

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

21 to 25 November 2022

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) of his/her country for subsequent transmission to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) either by email to: Official.Mail@iaea.org or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Please also send a copy by email to the Scientific Secretaries: Mr Kaichao Sun, Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security; Mr Ruben Mazzi, Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, Department of Nuclear Energy (Email: K.Sun@iaea.org; R.Mazzi@iaea.org) and to the Administrative Secretary, Ms Lissy Parokkil, (Email: L.Parokkil@iaea.org).

Participants who are members of an invited organization can submit this form to their organization for subsequent transmission to the IAEA.

Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 23 September 2022

Family name(s): (same as in passport)	First name(s): (same as in passport)	Mr/Ms
Institution:		
Full address:		
Tel. (Fax):		
Email:		
Nationality:	Representing following Member State/non-Member State/entity or invited organization:	
If/as applicable:		
Do you intend to make a presentation?	Yes	No
Title:		

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

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Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 23 September 2022

Family name(s): (same as in passport)	First name(s): (same as in passport)	Mr/Ms:
Mailing address:	Tel.:	
	Fax:	
	Email:	
Date of birth (yyyy/mm/dd):	Nationality:	

1. Education (post-secondary):

Name and place of institution	Field of study	Diploma or Degree	Years attended from to	

2. Recent employment record (starting with your present post):

Name and place of employer/ organization	Title of your position	Type of work	Years attended from to	

3. Description of work performed over the last three years:

4. Institute's/Member State's programme in field of event:

Date: _____ Signature of applicant: _____

Date: _____ Name, signature and stamp of Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy
Authority
