



Workshop on Stakeholder Strategies for SMR Deployment: Engaging for the Future

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

16–18 June 2026

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Information Sheet

Introduction

The global interest in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) is growing rapidly due to their potential to provide flexible, low-carbon energy solutions that complement existing energy systems, and wider non-electric and industrial applications. With features such as expected lower construction costs and flexible grid integration, SMRs are often perceived as more attractive to a variety of contexts, including developing economies and remote areas.

SMRs are an option to fulfil the need for flexible power generation for a wider range of users and applications. SMRs, deployable either as single or multi-module plant, offer the possibility to combine nuclear with alternative energy sources, including renewables.

While IAEA Milestones Approach remains applicable to SMRs, their deployment may introduce new stakeholder groups and engagement dynamics that differ from those associated with large nuclear power plants. These differences may include local socioeconomic impact, evolving approaches to waste management, a shift away from public-dominated industry to a commerce and market-driven industry, and others.

To explore opportunities and identify potential challenges related to stakeholder engagement for SMR deployment – and to propose ways to address them – the IAEA is organizing the *Workshop on Stakeholder Strategies for SMR Deployment: Engaging for the Future*, from 16 to 18 June 2026.

Objectives

The aim of this workshop is to enhance understanding of the stakeholder engagement considerations specific to SMR deployment. In particular, the workshop will:

- Understand the role of stakeholder engagement in derisking the deployment of SMRs
- Assess emerging stakeholder engagement needs specific to SMR deployment in both newcomer and nuclear operating countries
- Identify potential challenges affecting stakeholder engagement and support for SMRs
- Explore opportunities to enhance stakeholder engagement in early stages of SMR programmes
- Share international experience, lessons learned, and good practice
- Develop practical recommendations for stakeholder engagement for SMR programmes and projects across all phases of their life cycle

Target Audience

The event will gather representatives from government, regulatory bodies, civil society, nuclear host communities, industry, investors, philanthropies, academia and stakeholder engagement practitioners.

Working Language

The working language of the workshop will be English with no interpretation provided. All communications, abstracts and papers must be submitted in this language.

Expected Outputs

The workshop is expected to enhance understanding of the importance of stakeholder engagement for derisking SMR deployment. Expected output of this meeting is a summary with practical recommendations for stakeholder engagement for SMR programmes and projects.

Topics

The event will be conducted in an interactive format combining panels, case studies, guided discussions, and question and answer sessions. The prospective themes for contributions and discussions will include but are not limited to the following topics:

1. The ways in which SMR characteristics may influence stakeholder expectations, concerns and engagement needs in newcomer and nuclear power operating countries
2. Stakeholder expectations concerning single or multiunit SMR installations, as well as for wider SMR applications (e.g. district heating, desalination, maritime applications)
3. Engagement approaches for SMR host communities, including during pre-siting
4. Messaging and engagement strategies and plans, including on safety, security, waste and spent nuclear fuel management, as well as on regulatory and licensing issues
5. Engagement across a diverse and evolving stakeholder landscape, including institutional stakeholders, investors and financiers, consumers and end-users, ports and communities along transport routes
6. Potential needs for adaptations of the existing public participation frameworks to SMR programmes and projects
7. Engagement approaches to meet increasing nuclear workforce demand, including the supply chain and adjacent industries.

Anyone wishing to present at the workshop must submit an abstract in electronic format at the time of their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>).

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 or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **27 March 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **27 March 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

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. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary

purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. 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.

Venue

The event will be held in 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:

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.

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

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

www.iaea.org/events/EVT2505118