IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# Technical Meeting on Unconventional Resources and the Mining of Polymetallic Mineral Deposits

**IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria**

**23 – 26 February 2027**

**Ref. No.: EVT2603752**

# Information Sheet

## Introduction

As global demand for secure, low-carbon energy continues to grow, ensuring a sustainable supply of uranium has become an increasingly important strategic and technical challenge. Commitments announced at recent international climate conferences to significantly expand nuclear power capacity by mid-century have renewed attention on all components of the nuclear fuel cycle, including the long-term availability of uranium resources. At the same time, rising exploration and development costs, evolving market conditions, and increasing competition for mineral resources are encouraging the uranium sector to look beyond conventional deposit types and consider new sources of supply. Both existing and innovative approaches are necessary to discover and mine such identified and undiscovered resources.

The potential of extracting uranium from black shales, phosphates and other unconventional sources, including seawater are being actively investigated. In addition, challenges and opportunities associated with existing and future uranium production from a range of polymetallic mineral systems are being examined and optimized. These broad range of deposit types demonstrate the growing potential for integrating uranium recovery into mature industrial processes like fertiliser production, as well as diverse mineral production streams where uranium could be recovered as a co- or by-product. In the future sub-economic, low-grade, uranium resources from these diverse sources, may become economically viable to invest in and mine.

Uranium extraction in these settings can also have implications for regulatory and environmental issues such as the management of products, mine tailings and site remediation.

# Objectives

This event is intended to provide an overview of the uranium resource potential from what are typically considered unconventional sources such as black shales/schists, phosphates, and others and conventional polymetallic mineral deposits. This will include a review of established and new technologies to recover uranium from unconventional resources, and uranium as a co- or by-product from conventional polymetallic mineral deposits.

# Target Audience

This event is not a training workshop. The target audience is technical and experienced scientists, including uranium exploration and mining geologists and managers, mineral resource assessment scientists, geospatial data analysts and modellers, mineral processing and mining engineers and other specialists that have significant experience in uranium resources and mining. Meeting participants are expected to engage and make salient contributions to group discussions, as well as (optionally) submit abstracts for oral presentations. Note that not all submitted abstracts may be accepted and will be reviewed to select presentations that are particularly relevant to the stated objectives of the event.

# Working Language(s)

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

# Expected Outputs

The IAEA aims to collect and share relevant professional overviews and case studies. A meeting report will be prepared to summarise the main findings of this Technical Meeting. The meeting report and presentations (where authorized) will be shared with participants and posted on the IAEA Connect UPC-Net website.

# Structure

The Technical Meeting will comprise a series of interactive sessions designed to present, share, and discuss considerations relevant to unconventional uranium resources and the mining of polymetallic mineral deposits. Participants will offer technical overviews related to their exploration, mining and processing activities. They can also exchange experiences, good practices, and lessons learned on the subject which are relevant to other parts of the uranium production cycle.

# Topics

The following topics are proposed:

- Uranium geology, exploration, mining and processing of deposits
- Classification, resources and extraction of unconventional deposits (black shales, phosphates, seawater and others)
- Classification, resources and extraction of polymetallic deposits
- Exploration methods and extraction techniques
- Case studies and activities
- Technical and economic feasibility studies
- Administrative and legal aspects
- Regulatory and environmental issues

# 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 **7 January 2027**, 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 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), Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) 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 **7 January 2027**.

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.

# Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Participants who wish to give presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than two pages (including figures and tables). It should be sent electronically to Joe Hiess, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **7 January 2027**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **21 January 2027**.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **7 January 2027**.

# 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, together with the submission of the application, by **7 January 2027**.

# 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:

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.

# Additional Requirements

Participants should be actively engaged in at least one activity related to the exploration, processing and mining of uranium and have a technical background and education commensurate with these activities.

# IAEA Contacts

### Scientific Secretary:

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### Administrative Secretary:

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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/EVT2603752