

Technical Meeting on the Safety of Research Reactors Under Project and Supply Agreements and Review of their Safety Performance Indicators

IAEA Headquarters Vienna, Austria

6-10 October 2025

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Although the ultimate responsibility for the safety of research reactors under project and supply agreements (PSAs) rests with the operating organizations of the contracting Member States, the IAEA also has certain obligations regarding the safety of these reactors. These obligations include monitoring the safety of these reactors, evaluating the effective application of IAEA safety standards by conducting assessments and missions, and providing technical assistance to enhance their safety. The IAEA General Conference in its resolutions GC (47)/RES/7, GC (48)/RES/10, GC (50)/RES/9, GC (51)/RES/11 requested that the IAEA continuously monitor and improve the safety of research reactors, particularly those subject to PSAs.

Since 2005, the IAEA has organized a series of Technical Meetings about every two years on the safety of research reactors under PSAs in line with its obligations and the General Conference resolutions. The 2009 Technical Meeting discussed and defined a set of actions within the frame of a follow-up system to monitor and enhance the safety of research reactors under PSAs, including the use of safety performance indicators (SPIs). The meeting recommended that the annual SPIs and operational highlights reports should be discussed in the regular meetings on the safety of research reactors under PSAs.

The 2011 Technical Meeting concluded that an annual SPI report, using a form similar to the one used in preparation for the 2011 Technical Meeting, would inform the reactor operators, regulators and the IAEA, and the practice should be continued to satisfy the Member States' obligation to report to the IAEA as specified in the PSAs. Subsequent meetings encouraged Member States with reactors under PSAs to complete and provide their SPI forms yearly, in order to facilitate analysis of trends and help with advance preparation for the meeting for both Member States and the IAEA. It was recommended that those Member States who are unable to attend be encouraged to submit SPI forms for consideration at the meeting.

In the context above mentioned the IAEA, is organizing the biennial Technical Meeting on the Safety of Research Reactors Under Project and Supply Agreements and Review of their Safety Performance Indicators in Vienna, Austria, during the period 6-10 October 2025.

Objective

The objective of the event is to provide the participating Member States with a forum for the exchange of information on the safety status of research reactors under IAEA project and supply agreements, to review the safety performance indicators for 2023 and 2024, and to identify areas for improvement of the operational safety of these facilities.

Target Audience

Participation in the meeting is subject to designation by governmental or national organizations operating research reactors under PSAs. To ensure maximum effectiveness in the exchange of information, participants should be persons effectively responsible for the present and future operation of these reactors.

Working language

English.

Topics

A. The basis for discussion in the meeting will be SPI reports submitted by the participants from Member States for their research reactors under PSAs for the years 2023 and 2024, along with their operational highlight reports, in the format and content established in the previous IAEA Technical Meetings on this subject. A report form will be distributed to the Member States with research reactors under PSAs in due course.

In addition to presentations from the IAEA, the meeting will include presentations by the participants on the safety status of their research reactors, followed by discussions that address the topics raised by the above mentioned SPIs and operational highlight reports, as well as the following topics:

• IAEA assessment of the results of the SPIs and the follow-up reports submitted for the research reactors under PSAs;

- Analysis of SPI trends, and actions taken by the research reactor facilities to enhance
 operational safety performance based on the identified trends and progress made in
 resolving issues raised by the SPIs and associated safety assessments;
- Experience in application of IAEA safety standards for research reactors;
- Enhancing safety management of research reactors.
- B. The discussions in the working groups will be focused on practical issues for enhancing the monitoring and safety of the research reactors under PSAs, including the SPIs and the follow-up system, and on defining actions to be taken by the operating organizations and the regulatory bodies and the associated needs for IAEA assistance.

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 31 July 2025, 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) 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 31 July 2025.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the <u>InTouch+ Help</u> page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to <u>InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org</u>.

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.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by 31 July 2025.

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

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