



News release

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A new collaboration between JRC-IRMM and CEA on Nuclear Science and Technology

A collaboration agreement was signed today at the Joint Research Centre's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM) between the European Atomic Energy Community, represented by JRC-IRMM, and the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA). The agreement significantly advances cooperative research in domains of common interest: high level nuclear waste minimization and management, safety of advanced reactor concepts and fuel cycles and issues in basic nuclear science.

The agreement, signed for five years, specifically addresses the measurement of nuclear data to:

- Improve of the quality of neutron data in the interest of applications by improvement of physics models through dedicated experiments and theoretical developments,
- Assess the viability and performance of various proposals, which are being investigated with the aim to reduce the volume of high level nuclear waste in the final repository,
- Support to studies of the viability and performance of advanced reactor concepts, which are being developed to increase the safety and sustainability of nuclear fission energy.

Through joint efforts of the CEA and the JRC, new approaches can be identified and developed in the areas of neutron measurements and evaluations for nuclear waste transmutation, safety of reactor concepts and issues in nuclear science, thus working to the mutual benefit of both organisations in the achievement of their objectives.

The signatories, Alejandro Herrero, Director of IRMM, Gabriele Fioni, Deputy Director of the Direction des Sciences de la Matière (DSM, CEA/Saclay), Thierry Massard, scientific Director of the Direction des Applications Militaires (DAM, CEA/Bruyères-le-Châtel) and Jean-Baptiste Thomas, Director de la Simulation et des Outils Expérimentaux of the Direction de l'Énergie Nucléaire (DEN, CEA/Saclay) acknowledged the importance and timeliness of a collaboration between their institutes in the domain of nuclear data for science and technology.

About JRC-IRMM

The Joint Research Centre is a Directorate-General of the European Commission providing independent scientific and technical support to European policy-making. Its Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements promotes a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies. The prime objective of the JRC-IRMM is to build confidence in the comparability of measurements by the production and dissemination of internationally accepted quality assurance tools, including reference materials, validated methods, reference measurements, inter-laboratory comparisons, and training. This includes research in the field of neutron measurements and evaluations for nuclear waste

transmutation, safety of new reactor concepts and issues in nuclear science. The institute is well recognised for precision measurements of neutron-induced reactions at its two neutron laboratories, the high resolution neutron time-of-flight facility GELINA (Geel Electron LINear Accelerator) and the van de Graaff accelerator laboratory.

About CEA

CEA is a leading organisation in science and technology that counts amongst its core missions research and developments in all areas of nuclear energy. It is both an important partner of the nuclear measurements performed at the IRMM and an important intermediary that facilitates the use of IRMM nuclear measurements by end users in Europe. In the past, CEA collaborated with IRMM in the context of the 1991 French Parliament Act on issues in nuclear waste management and the current interest in a renewed collaboration is centered around studies related to the sustainability of nuclear energy.

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