

News release

European Commission's Joint Research Centre receives first triple ISO certification in international quality management, safety and environmental protection standards

Today, 14 March, 2008 in Geel, Belgium the European Commission's Joint Research Centre *Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements* (IRMM) was awarded a triple integrated International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certification (ISO 9001/ISO 14001/OHSAS 18001¹). Performed by TÜV NORD CERT (Germany), the inspections leading to the certifications highlight the excellence of IRMM's overall management system in meeting stringent international standards. The JRC is the first Directorate-General of the European Commission to achieve this challenge.

Dr. Alejandro Herrero, Director of JRC-IRMM congratulated all staff: *"We at the JRC-IRMM are proud to consistently raise the bar in our performance. As a reference centre on science and technology for the European Union, this award is another milestone in our development where we must continuously strive to build public confidence in the work we do"*.

Representing the European Commission's Directorate-General Personnel and Administration, Ms. Emer Daly added: *"IRMM's success is a success for the entire Commission. Like running the three-minute mile, we hope that once one individual finally achieves it, many more are soon to follow"*.

As for many organisations, certification is a milestone in continuously improving the overall quality at JRC-IRMM. Certification according to these three ISO standards demonstrates that a management system is compliant with international quality, safety and environmental protection standards. Transparency and efficient management greatly benefit the Institute's research and development activities geared towards highest quality measurement standards.

IRMM holds further *International Organisation for Standardisation* accreditations for its testing laboratory facilities, proficiency test provision and reference material production. These serve especially those partners and customers who need to fulfil the requirements of their own quality systems.

¹ ISO 9001 Quality management systems
ISO 14001 Environmental management systems
OHSAS 18001 Occupational health and safety management systems

The *Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements* is one of seven Joint Research Centre Institutes around Europe. Its role is to support EU policy-making by providing independent expertise in areas ranging from life sciences, food, health and environment; to agriculture, industrial competitiveness and nuclear safety and security.

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IRMM: <http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

JRC and its other institutes: <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Copies of the ISO certificates:

http://www.irmm.jrc.be/html/about_IRMM/ISO_certification.htm