



ReNuAL: Delivering Labs Fit for the Future

New Lab Building Designs to Support Climate Action

With the recently concluded COP26 amplifying calls for climate action, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi has cited timely construction of a new Nuclear Applications (NA) laboratories building as an urgent priority. The new lab building will provide a modern new home for three laboratories that play a key role in the Agency's climate response.

The Agency's Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Plant Breeding and Genetics Laboratory, and Nuclear Science and Instrumentation Laboratory support Member States with services, training and research to address a range of developmental challenges. But they are especially important to the IAEA's work helping build resilience and manage environmental resources in response to a changing climate. New greenhouses will be connected to the building to support research advancing climate-smart agriculture and food security.

The new building is designed to ensure efficient workflow and access. The new greenhouses will be situated to optimize sunlight and be easily accessible to staff of all the three laboratories whose work depends on them.



Architect's rendering of the future lab building and greenhouses

Construction Contract Now Out for Bids; Project Eyes Q2 '22 Launch

Preparations are well advanced toward beginning construction in the first half of next year on the final phase of the initiative to modernize the IAEA's Nuclear Applications laboratories (NA) in Seibersdorf, known as ReNuAL2. The Secretariat finalized tender documentation and put a construction contract out for bid in mid-November.

The main element of this phase will be construction of a new building (provisionally called the "FML2") to house three laboratories not already modernized under ReNuAL. ReNuAL2 will also complete the refurbishment of the Dosimetry Laboratory and replace the laboratories' ageing greenhouses.

The project team hopes to sign a contract early next year and begin construction (subject to availability of remaining needed funding – please see funding "Urgently Needed" on p2).



ReNuAL: A Legacy of Success

ReNuAL2 is the final phase of the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) initiative, launched in 2014 to modernize the eight NA laboratories in Seibersdorf. With strong extrabudgetary support from 45 Member States and others, ReNuAL has built modern new facilities for five of the eight laboratories, including two new laboratory buildings and a medical linear accelerator facility (see photos above), as well as site infrastructure upgrades. These new facilities have substantially improved capacities to help Member States address existing and emerging challenges in food and agriculture, human health, and climate and environmental management.



Director General Grossi with the ReNuAL2 Donor Display unveiled during the 20 September side event

Member State Plaques Begin to Fill New Donor Display

Eight more Member States announced contributions to ReNuAL2 and were recognized with country plaques on a new display unveiled during the 65th General Conference. Director General Grossi expressed thanks and presented plaques to the new donors during a well-attended 20 September ReNuAL2 side event. Additional recent ReNuAL2 contributors will be recognized at a side event on the margins of the upcoming 25 November Board of Governors meeting.

The September event highlighted both the generosity of contributors and the importance of quickly completing the modernization. DG Grossi showed coffee and banana plants developed through mutation breeding, highlighting work the labs are doing to promote climate resilience, overcome plant diseases, strengthen livelihoods, and contribute to human welfare around the world. The DG also showed a flask of CO₂ produced as reference material to help laboratories around the world analyse and trace the sources of greenhouse gases.

The new donor display will include the plaques of all current and future ReNuAL2 contributors and currently can be viewed on the ground floor corridor of the Vienna International Centre. It will be relocated to Seibersdorf and permanently installed in the lobby of the new laboratory building upon its completion.

If interested in visiting the Seibersdorf NA laboratories, please contact us at NA-Labs@iaea.org.

€6.8 Million Still Urgently Needed

Member States have generously contributed over €10.2 Million to ReNuAL2 to date, leaving an outstanding requirement of €6.8 Million to ensure a timely launch of construction on the new FML2 laboratory building. Funding to complete refurbishment of the Dosimetry Laboratory has already been mobilized.

Director General Grossi urged in his September Board statement and ReNuAL2 side event remarks that Member States consider early contributions to help keep construction planning on schedule.



New donor representatives join DG Grossi for a group photo at the 20 September ReNuAL2 Side Event

Friends Group Gains New Co-chair

Ambassador Götz Schmidt-Bremme of Germany arrived in Vienna ahead of September's 65th General Conference and quickly took up the mantle of Friends of ReNuAL group leadership alongside his Co-chair, Ambassador Rapulane Molekane of South Africa. Under the strong leadership of Germany and South Africa the Friends group has helped mobilize more than €50 Million in extrabudgetary contributions for laboratory modernization since the 2014 launch of ReNuAL.



Former German Ambassador, HE Gerhard Kuntzle, is honoured with a "Best Friend of ReNuAL" brick during a 22 June Friends of ReNuAL meeting