

STRENGTHENING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH REACTORS

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Research reactors support a diverse range of societal needs—from the production of medical and industrial isotopes to scientific research, neutron beam applications, education and training, and the development of advanced nuclear technologies. While not a prerequisite for nuclear power, the infrastructure built to support research reactors—covering regulation, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning—can significantly strengthen a country's preparedness for nuclear energy. The requirements for research reactors are similar to those of power programmes, differing mainly in scale, and certain capabilities can directly or indirectly support the development and implementation of nuclear energy systems.

This side event will highlight experiences from Member States where research reactors contribute to scientific advancement and create an enabling environment for nuclear energy development. With a focus on stakeholder involvement and national capacity-building, the event will explore how these facilities foster innovation, public awareness, and confidence. Join us to discover how research reactors are shaping the future of nuclear technology through progress, partnerships, and public trust.