

Webinar on Nuclear Security and Small Modular Reactors

Webinar Series on Nuclear Security - Looking Beyond ICONS 2024

Organized by the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security

Tuesday, 19 August 2025

Time: 12:00 – 13:00, Vienna (Austria) time

Duration: 1 hour

Information Sheet

Introduction

In May 2024, the IAEA convened the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS 2024). It was the fourth quadrennial ministerial conference on nuclear security convened by the Agency, following conferences held in July 2013, December 2016 and February 2020.

The conference attracted over 2000 registered participants, including 49 ministers, deputy ministers and other high ranking officials, underscoring the importance of ICONS as the largest and foremost global forum for nuclear security practitioners. The conference also demonstrated widespread recognition among members of the international community that nuclear security is a topic that requires continued attention, discussion and international dialogue. Conference panellists and participants consistently emphasized the need for the Agency to continue organizing periodic international workshops, and meetings and forums, such as ICONS, in order to share best practices and foster continued and meaningful international cooperation.

Building on the discussions held at ICONS 2024, the IAEA launched a webinar series titled "Nuclear Security – Looking Beyond ICONS 2024". Individual webinars will be planned on a variety of topics related to the core themes of ICONS 2024: policy, law and regulations for nuclear security; technology and infrastructure for nuclear security prevention, detection and response; capacity building for nuclear security; and cross-cutting nuclear security topics.

Previous webinars on 'Looking Back and Looking Forward, Shaping Nuclear Security through ICONS' and 'Computer security: what's next for this cross-cutting area of nuclear security' were organized in June and July 2025, respectively.

The third webinar is on "Nuclear security and small modular reactors". Many States are considering the deployment of new nuclear technologies for energy generation and other industrial applications, with extensive interest in small modular reactors (SMRs), which are advanced nuclear reactors with a power capacity up to 300 MW(e) per unit. This webinar will take a broad look at nuclear security challenges related to developing and deploying SMRs.

Objectives

The objectives of the webinar are:

- To engage the international nuclear security community in an open discussion about key issues related to nuclear security and SMRs that were identified at ICONS 2024 as well as relevant challenges.
- To provide a platform for information exchange and strengthening international cooperation for nuclear security.

Target Audience

The webinar series is intended for officials and nuclear security professionals involved in the establishment, strengthening and sustainability of national nuclear security regimes. The participation of women, early career professionals, students and representatives from developing countries is especially encouraged.

Working Language

English

Registration

To register for the webinar, please use this link no later than 18 August 2025: Webinar Registration.

After the registration and acceptance of your participation, you will receive an e-mail containing information on how to access the webinar by following a hyperlink to join the WebEx meeting or by calling in by phone.

You can test your ability to connect to a WebEx meeting at the following link: https://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html#. Please contact your IT department if the test fails.

For additional help regarding registration, please contact the ICONS team: ICONS2024@iaea.org.

Webinar Programme

The webinar will be a moderated conversation format with a period for questions from the audience.

Panelists:

Mr Simon Adu, Head, Nuclear Security Department, Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Ghana

Ms Paula Karhu, Principal Advisor, Nuclear Security, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Finland

Ms Heather Looney, Head, Nuclear Security of Materials and Facilities Section, Division of Nuclear Security, IAEA

Mr John Taylor, Principal Inspector (Nuclear Security), New Reactors Directorate, Office for Nuclear Regulation, United Kingdom

Moderator:

Ms Sara Mroz, Scientific Secretary ICONS 2024, Division of Nuclear Security, IAEA