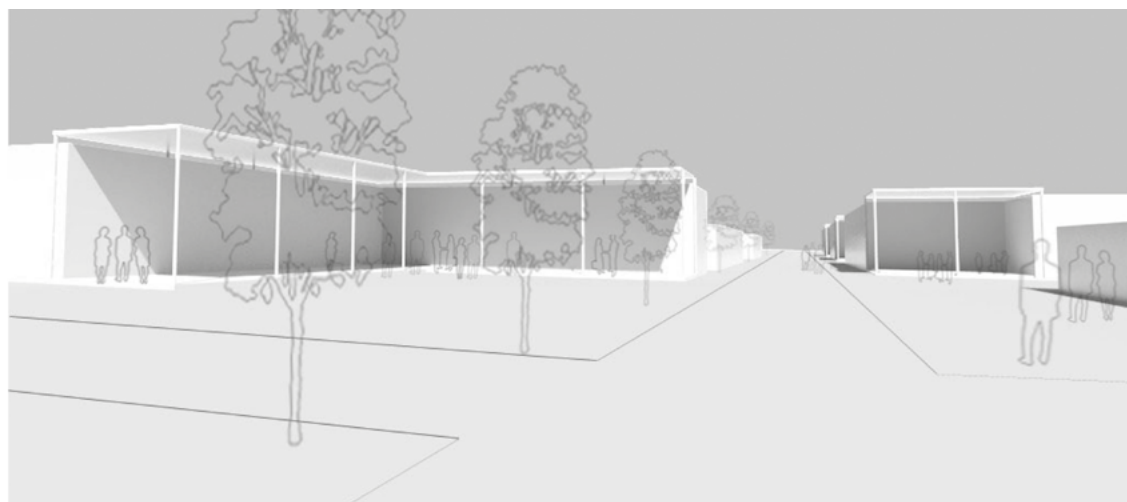


ReNuAL: RENOVATION OF THE NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS LABORATORIES



View from entrance to north-west. Initial image of projected new space for the NA laboratories.
(Image: URS Corporation/IAEA-ReNual Project)

The IAEA Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications (NA) operates eight laboratories in Seibersdorf, near Vienna. Each of these laboratories performs unique functions that include supporting research and training for improving animal production and health, ensuring the effective and safe use of radiotherapy equipment, reinforcing food safety and developing hardier and higher-yielding food crops. They also contribute to protecting the global environment, enhancing countries' capabilities in using nuclear instrumentation and analytical techniques, eliminating insect pests and managing soil and water sustainably. These are essential contributions to the IAEA's mission of supporting the peaceful use of nuclear technologies to help meet global development challenges.

While the importance of their work has grown over the years, the structure and facilities of the NA laboratories have not kept up with this growth. No comprehensive renovation or significant upgrading of equipment has taken place at the laboratories since their establishment in 1962. As a result, the laboratory buildings are generally in average to below average condition; space is critically limited and much of the equipment needs replacing or modernizing. The laboratories are no longer fully fit-for-purpose and are struggling to respond to Member States' requests.

With this in mind, the IAEA Director General, Yukiya Amano, in his speech to the IAEA General Conference in September 2013,

announced the official launch of a project for the renovation of the NA laboratories, known as ReNuAL. The vision for the project is to achieve fit-for-purpose laboratories that will be well equipped to share the benefits of nuclear sciences and applications with Member States in response to key socio-economic challenges contributing to a peaceful, healthy and prosperous world.

The ReNuAL project formally commenced on 1 January 2014, with a target budget of €31 million, financed by the IAEA Regular Budget and by extrabudgetary funding from Member States. A comprehensive needs assessment process was undertaken to determine the laboratories' most pressing building and space requirements as well as the urgently needed upgrade of the NA laboratories. The project plan includes new building construction, the refurbishment of existing buildings, the acquisition of new equipment to replace ageing or obsolete hardware and infrastructure upgrades. These improvements to the effectiveness as well as the efficiency of laboratory services and operations will enable the laboratories to address emerging issues and/or changes in technology.

The ReNuAL project completion date is set for December 2017.

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