



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management: Solutions for a Sustainable Future

IAEA Headquarters

Vienna, Austria

1–5 November 2021

Organized by the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

In cooperation with the

Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

World Nuclear Association (WNA)

European Commission (EC)

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Introduction

The purpose of the event is to share experiences in the management of radioactive waste, with the aim of increasing the visibility of progress, good practice and effective solutions.

Considerable progress continues to be made worldwide in the management of radioactive waste. Effective solutions are either available or are in an advanced stage of development for the full range of radioactive waste management activities. Even more progress can be foreseen in the near- and medium-term futures.

The sustainable application of nuclear technologies for the benefit of humanity, in cancer therapy, generating low-carbon electricity, improving crop yields and many other applications is fully connected with the responsible management of wastes arising. Users of nuclear technologies acknowledge and embrace this responsibility and continue to make good progress. Continuing this responsible trend is important to society and is supportive of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sharing this progress, exchanging ideas on lessons learned and identifying key areas of progress for the future are essential components which enable operators, regulators and senior government officials to further strengthen their programmes.

The techniques for the safe management of the various types of waste arising from the different applications are generally well established and extensive experience has been obtained in most areas. Nevertheless, radioactive waste remains an important item on the agenda of many Member States particularly those that need to increase their capabilities and capacities to manage waste safely, effectively and securely. This is also the case because of perceptions and misunderstandings concerning radioactive waste. Therefore, the subject continues to be highly topical.

In line with the IAEA's continuous efforts to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic technology to peace health and prosperity, throughout the world and to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information, the IAEA is organising an International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management. The main objective of the Conference is to foster information exchange on current progress and solutions in the area of radioactive waste management. It is only through the effective, safe and secure implementation of radioactive waste management solutions that Member States can continue to benefit from nuclear technologies and nuclear energy production and, therefore, progress towards achieving a sustainable future.

B. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The Conference aims to foster information exchange on current progress and solutions in the area of radioactive waste management.

The Conference will highlight the effectiveness of radioactive waste management techniques and technologies as currently applied and will contribute to promoting the adoption of good practices and well-integrated approaches for the future. Only with successfully implemented radioactive waste management solutions can nuclear energy and related technologies contribute to a sustainable future for all of us.

C. List of Topics

The IAEA welcomes high-quality, well structured, abstracts and papers in all fields of radioactive waste management, including from the nuclear power generation, research and education, as well as industrial, agricultural and medical fields:

1. Radioactive Waste Management – National Programmatic Perspectives

Submitted abstracts and papers should address current practices and perspectives in managing radioactive waste at a national programmatic level, including national waste management strategies,

policies, and regulatory frameworks. Methods and approaches implemented to achieve significant milestones can be highlighted, including major achievements in managing specific waste streams.

2. *Radioactive Waste Management –Implementation of Waste Management Strategies*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on progress towards achieving specific programme objectives for typical waste streams (operational and decommissioning wastes from Nuclear Power Plants, institutional wastes including research reactors, and Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources (DSRSs)). Strategies, methods and approaches that have been implemented or demonstrated, ready for implementation, can be highlighted.

3. *Solutions for Specific Wastes*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on solutions for radioactive waste streams that have specific or challenging properties or characteristics, or that derive from less common or unique facilities, activities or legacies. For example, such waste streams might include high activity DSRS or neutron sources, graphite from reactor cores, waste also having hazardous properties (e.g., organic liquids and solids), waste from prototype and high temperature reactors, depleted uranium, wastes from sites that have been remediated, or sites with ongoing challenges, etc.

4. *Role of the Safety Case Development in Supporting Radioactive Waste Management*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on the underpinning science, technology and engineering programmes needed and developed to facilitate the licensing of radioactive waste management operations. Attention will be given to R&D programmes and their relationship to safety case development, optimization of designs, building on previous R&D programmes and upscaling R&D results to implementation readiness.

5. *Socio-Economic Aspects of Radioactive Waste Management Programmes*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on the non-technical aspects of radioactive waste management by highlighting experiences gained at a programmatic level and their successful application. Papers are expected to focus on examples of strategies and practices that have been implemented to enhance public awareness and communication with stakeholders, risk perception and understanding as well as socio-economic strategies for best addressing these.

6. *Integrated Waste Management*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on the concept of Integrated Waste Management, highlighting its advantages towards sustainable waste management. Attention will be given to innovative approaches and technologies waste minimization by design in all fields of nuclear technology. To this end advances in regulation and programme strategies aimed at early consideration of waste minimization will also be considered.

7. *Multinational Cooperation in Radioactive Waste Management*

Submitted papers and abstracts should focus on international perspectives in the management of radioactive waste streams through disposal. Attention will be given to trans-national solutions for different waste streams, activities by other international organizations, and advances or needs in multi-lateral agreements and arrangements. Presentations on standardization of approaches in characterization, processing, storage and disposal as further enablers of effective multinational action are welcomed.

D. Target Audience

The Conference is aimed at senior government officials, high-level staff from waste management organizations, regulators, waste producers and other stakeholders, as well as technical and scientific experts working in all areas of radioactive waste management. The conference is also intended to attract industry and civil society representatives, including non-governmental organisations and academic institutions. The IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of women, young professionals and individuals from developing countries.

E. Structure

The conference will consist of an opening session with a panel discussion, topical sessions with keynote addresses and oral contributions, e-poster sessions, side-events and exhibitions. The conference will conclude with a panel session addressing key points from the week's discussions for consideration by the IAEA Secretariat and Member States.

Each session will begin with a keynote address to frame the intended message, followed by presentations from relevant and knowledgeable experts, and ending with a round table or panel discussion. Depending on the number of abstracts received, poster sessions will also be organized to support each session.

The closing session will be structured as a plenary to highlight the main conclusions of the conference. It will be led by the Conference Chair with closing remarks from the IAEA scientific secretary.

F. Contributed Papers and Posters

All participants who wish to give presentations (orally or in the form of posters) at the conference must submit an abstract on one of the topics listed under Section C. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work and should not have been published elsewhere.

F.1. Submission of Abstracts

Persons wishing to present a paper at the conference — either orally or in the form of a poster — must submit an abstract not exceeding 400 words in **electronic format** directly to the IAEA. Instructions on how to upload the abstract to the conference's web browser-based file submission system (IAEA-INDICO) are available on the IAEA conference web page (see Section P).

The abstracts must be submitted through this system. No other form of submission will be accepted. Specifications for the layout will be available on INDICO.

The abstract should give enough information on the contents of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Authors should state to which of the topics outlined in Section C their contribution relates. The accepted abstracts will be reproduced electronically in the Book of Abstracts which will be available to all participants on the Conference app.

In addition, authors must electronically submit the following two forms to their appropriate governmental authority (see Section G) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **5 March 2021**:

- Participation Form (Form A)
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)

IMPORTANT: The Programme Committee will consider uploaded abstracts only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section G).

F.2. Acceptance of Abstracts

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude abstracts that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and/or that do not apply to one of the topics in Section C above.

This conference has plenary technical sessions, so no parallel technical sessions will be organized. For this reason, the number of contributions that can be accepted for oral presentation is limited. Authors who prefer to present their papers as posters are requested to indicate this preference on Form A and in INDICO, at the time of submitting their abstract.

Authors will be notified by **30 April 2021** as to whether their submission has been accepted for presentation at the conference, either orally or as a poster.

F.3. Submission of Full Papers

Authors of accepted abstracts will be requested to submit a full paper in Word format, from four to a maximum of ten pages in length. A compilation of full papers (in electronic form) will be made available to participants at registration.

Full papers must also be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system in Word format. Submitting the paper in the indicated electronic format is mandatory. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the contributed papers and for the preparation of posters will be made available on the conference web page.

The IAEA reserves the right to exclude papers that do not comply with its quality standards and/or that do not apply to one of the topics outlined in Section C above and/or that do not meet the expectations based on the information in the abstract.

The deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as Word files is 30 June 2021. The IAEA will not accept papers submitted after the designated deadline.

The IAEA will dispatch notifications of its review of the full papers by 30 August 2021. The deadline for revised papers to be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO files submission system is 30 September 2021.

IMPORTANT: The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed papers. Authors are encouraged to submit papers as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept papers submitted through email.

F.4 Proceedings

The proceedings containing summaries of the plenary and technical sessions as well as full papers presented at the conference will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the conference. Copies of the proceedings will be available free online in pdf format or can be ordered, at a special discounted price, during or after the conference.

G. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend. The list of invited organizations is available on the event web page.

Participants can register for this event either online through the InTouch+ platform or by submitting the relevant forms to their competent national authority.

Registration through InTouch+: available as of November 2020.

1. Access the InTouch+ web page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Participants with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in with their username and password;

- Participants without an existing NUCLEUS account can navigate to the upper right corner and click on “Register”.
2. Once signed in, participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
- Complete or update their personal details under ‘Basic Profile’ (if no financial support is requested) or under ‘Complete Profile’ (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event (EVT#) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information;
 - Submit their application.

The application will then be transmitted automatically to the required authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority).

If approved by the relevant authority, the application will be sent automatically to the IAEA.

NOTE: Should participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadline.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

In the event that the online application through InTouch+ is not possible, participants are requested to follow the below procedure.

Registration by submitting the relevant forms to the competent authority:

Participants can download the relevant form(s) from the event web page and submit them through their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org):

- Participation Form (Form A): no deadline if only Form A is submitted
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B): participants submitting a paper through IAEA-INDICO must send the completed and signed Form B together with Form A to their competent national authority for onward transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org) by **5 March 2021**.
- Grant Application Form (Form C): participants requesting financial support from the IAEA must complete Form C and send it together with Form A (and Form B, if applicable) to the competent national authority for onward transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org) by **5 March 2021**. Form C must be stamped and signed by the competent national authority.

Participants who are members of the organizations invited to attend should send their form(s) to their organization for onward transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org).

H. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant

per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the conference.

If Governments wish to apply for a grant on behalf of one of their participants, the Participation Form (Form A) and the Grant Application Form (Form C), stamped and signed by the Government, must reach the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org) by **5 March 2021**.

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually **covers only part of the cost of attendance**.

I. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be made available on the conference web page (see Section P) before the start of the conference. The final programme and all accepted abstracts will be available upon on-site registration at the conference.

J. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

K. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on <https://www.iaea.org/events>. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

L. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as 3 months but not later than four weeks before their travel. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information on <https://www.iaea.org/events>.

M. Key Deadlines and Dates

Deadline for submission of abstracts through IAEA-INDICO	5 March 2021
Deadline for submission of Paper Submission Form (Form B) (together with Form A) through the competent national authority or through InTouch+	5 March 2021
Deadline for submission of Grant Application Form C (together with Form A) through the competent national authority or through InTouch+	5 March 2021
Notification of acceptance of abstracts for oral or poster presentation	30 April 2021
Submission of full papers through IAEA-INDICO	30 June 2021
Notification of review of full papers	30 August 2021
Deadline for revised papers	30 September 2021
Registration only with Form A (no paper submission, no grant request)	no deadline

N. Exhibits

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email to RWM2021@iaea.org before **30 April 2021**.

O. Conference Secretariat

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

P. Conference Web Page

Please visit the IAEA conference web page regularly for new information regarding this conference:

<https://www.iaea.org/events/international-conference-on-radioactive-waste-management-2021>