

Working Group Hot Laboratories and Remote Handling

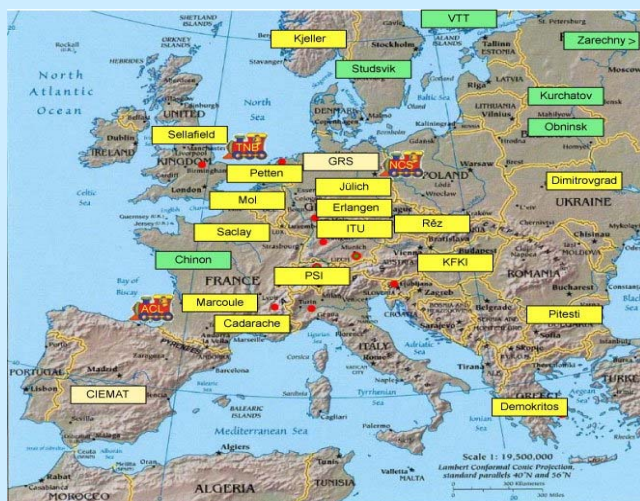
The landscape

The 'Hot laboratories and remote handling' Working Group was set up in 1963 to encourage and stimulate collaboration between European nuclear facilities in order to reach and preserve the high quality of their key competencies. More recently, the Working Group expanded its objectives to serve as a global contact forum for all kinds of nuclear services.

2004 -2005 FP6 - Coordination Action: HOTLAB

Objectives :

- Exchange **information** on existing hot labs.
- What are the **needs** at present, in the **future**?
- Improve **transportation of nuclear materials**.



Achievements

➤ FP6 HOTLAB databases :

- Description of 25 European facilities and their available techniques.

- Transportation casks.

➤ Present & future needs for hot labs:

- An emphasis on fuel cycle + life extension of components.

- A high level of utilization of some techniques (OM, SEM, TEM, EPMA, XRD).

- A limited capacity to absorb an increase in demand.

Near Term evolution = mainly continuation due to a stability in the fleet of power plants. New programs cannot be simply added to old ones due to hot cell load.

Long Term evolution = depends on new reactor scenarios. Necessity of Task Sharing between labs.

➤ Common needs on transport casks and operations:

- A radiation control protection procedure for transport packages.

- Recommendations to ensure leak-tightness during transport of unsealed sources.

Activities of the Working Group beyond the FP6 project

➤ Annual Conference: 'HOTLAB' (with technical visits)

- Jülich, Germany, September 19-21, 2006.
 - Bucharest, Romania, September 20-21, 2007.
 - Kendal, England, September 21-23, 2008.
- => Since 2007, open outside Europe: USA, Canada, Japan, Korea, South Africa, Australia, ...

➤ Bilateral contacts:

- Exchange of personnel (e.g. Romania / France)
- Exchange of equipment spare parts (e.g. EPMA / PSI)

➤ An improved Hotlab website:

www.sckcen.be/hotlab

- **Events:** Proceedings are available on-line (back to conferences held in 1963!)
- **Job offers:** e.g. PhD proposals in one of our hot labs.

➤ Merging the FP6 HOTLAB databases with IAEA/Nfcis/PIE database: <http://www-nfcis.iaea.org>

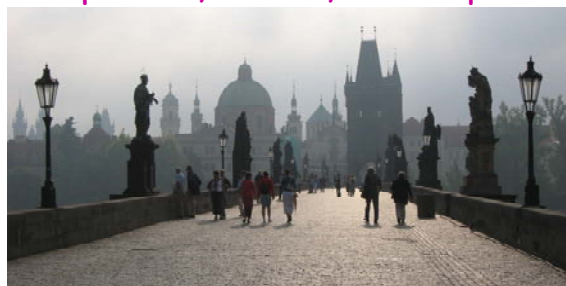


HOTLAB 2008 Kendal

69 participants - 16 countries



HOTLAB 2009, hosted by NRI Řež Sept. 2009, PRAGUE, Czech Republic



With technical visit to Řež