

	NUCLEAR SAFETY DIRECTORATE - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM		
	RESEARCH		G/RES/005
	GUIDANCE: REACTOR NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH TECHNICAL EXCHANGES		ISSUE 001
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1. Purpose of Guidance

- 1.1 This note is to provide guidance primarily to NII assessors on technical exchanges on research between NII and licensee(s). The primary contacts may be bilateral or trilateral between the nominated technical contact (or representative) of each licensee and the NII counterpart. However there are additional fora for technical exchanges. The reactor licensees have produced NSR GN 3 on Technical Exchanges. This GN adds guidance from NII's perspective.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the technical exchanges are described in the reactor licensees GN 3 (which quotes the objectives given by NII in a paper to NuSAC SCR).

3. Style of Technical Exchanges

- 3.1 The objectives may be achieved by email, telephone conversations, telephone or video-conferences or at meetings. NII encourages at least some of the exchanges to be by meetings (and as a minimum one per year). NII would expect arrangements to be conducted in the following style.

- Interaction between licensee and regulator technical representatives that possess recognised experience and expertise and are currently engaged in regular licensee/regulator dialogue pertinent to nuclear safety aspects of their technical area.
- Discussion sufficiently removed from the regulatory arena that encourages an open exchange and provides all parties with the opportunity to exert appropriate influence on: research strategy; research programmes; and the direction of research projects.
- Open and balanced debate of a strategic nature that encourages the licensee to anticipate future safety and technical issues that may benefit from longer term research activities.
- Where appropriate, cross-licensee discussion of nuclear safety issues that may benefit from co-funded research.

- Appropriate arrangements for monitoring projects and disseminating results so as to maximise the quality, value and benefit of research.
- Facilitate transparency of the licensee and HSE research programmes and thus promote common knowledge and understanding.

4. Protocol

- 4.1 Representation: NII and Licensees' technical experts (other experts by invitation), according to the technical area. It is likely that technical fora will be multilateral licensees/NII or bilateral NII/licensee, depending on the degree of common interest and collaboration between the reactor licensees. Where appropriate, NII would encourage the inclusion of other licensees (e.g. UKAEA for decommissioning).
- 4.2 Frequency: Minimum of once a year
- 4.3 Chairperson: As agreed between NII and the Licensees.
- 4.4 The meetings should be directed toward assisting in the process of managing the research programmes and will involve:-
- the exchange of information,
 - information gathering,
 - testing of understanding
 - identification of issues for research strategy meetings
 - progress with projects.
- 4.6 If following a technical exchange there are outstanding disagreements then it is anticipated that these will be progressed through correspondence or at research coordination meetings.
- 4.7 The NII rep can expect commitments and actions to be recorded. The form of the record has been agreed as in licensee NSR GN 3 on technical exchanges. Where appropriate, NII can encourage full minutes. The NII should put the record on file.

5. Fora

- 5.1 The simplest exchange is bilateral between the NII and licensee technical reps. However it has been agreed to use wider fora. The licensee has proposed adapting existing fora where appropriate ones exist. Their suitability may be judged by whether they meet the stated objectives, allow discussion of the range of topics specified and do not endorse aspects of the licensees' safety case (that is, they are separate from regulation). Appropriate terms of reference may be agreed if appropriate. It may be desirable to take advantage of the presence of staff at existing meetings which are not in themselves

suitable for technical exchanges by holding the original meeting and the technical exchange meeting consecutively.

5.2 NII attendance should not be taken as endorsement of any research findings or interpretations and NII reserves the right to query the licensees' use of research results in future safety submissions. If the forum has a role of endorsing methods, NII's primary role may be to observe or where appropriate, to contribute.

6. Scope of Technical Exchanges

6.1 This may include some or all of the following:

- developing a research strategy at a technical level
- discussion of NII's Nuclear Research Index
- discussion of licensees' Nuclear Research Schedule
 - (see G/RES/004 on NRS assessment)
- discussion of HSE levy programme
- identifying prospective contractors
- examining and reviewing progress on projects
- evaluating completed research
- discussing closure of NRI issues
- evaluating ideas from outside NII or Licensees
- discussing licensee collaboration
- identifying Essential Research Capability matters
- discussing regulator access to independent capability
- identifying scope and need for international collaboration

7. Monitoring

7.1 The licensees' Nuclear Research Schedules should address the arrangements for technical exchanges. These arrangements will be assessed by NII as part of the review of the NRS.

7.2 The licensees should monitor and record the technical exchanges for the purpose of reporting annually to NuSAC SCR, as agreed at the April 2004 NuSAC SCR meeting.

8. Project meetings

8.1 In those cases where NII expresses a special interest in a project, NII may participate by agreement in meetings on the technical specification, tender list and project progress.

9. Abbreviations

NRI Nuclear Research Index
NRS Nuclear Research Schedule
NuSAC SCR Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee Sub-Committee on
 Research
UKAEA UK Atomic Energy Authority

10. Associated documents

10.1 [Licensee NSR GN 3 Technical exchanges](#)

10.2 G/RES/004 NSD assessment of reactor licensee nuclear research schedules