

Organisational announcement

NKS would like to warmly welcome SKB (Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co.) as a new co-financing organisation.

NKS-R Call for Proposals 2018

15 proposals for NKS-R activities were received before the deadline on October 16th. Of these, 5 were applications for continued activities.

The numbers of proposals submitted under the NKS-R areas of interest are as follows:

Area of Interest	No. of Proposals	Total budget for proposals under area of interest
Risk Analysis & Probabilistic Methods	4	2300 kDKK
Decommissioning incl. Waste	3	1590 kDKK
Organisational Issues & Safety Culture	3	1575 kDKK
Thermal Hydraulics	2	1272 kDKK
Severe Accidents	2	1159 kDKK
Plant Life Extension and Management	1	500 kDKK

The total amount requested was **8396 kDKK** from an expected budget of **3000 kDKK**.

NKS-B Call for Proposals 2018

17 proposals for NKS-B activities were received before the deadline on October 16th. Of these, 4 were applications for continuation of ongoing activities.

The numbers of proposals submitted under the NKS-B areas of interest are as follows:

Area of Interest	No. of Proposals	Total budget for proposals under area of interest
Emergency Preparedness	6	2705 kDKK
Measurement Technology and Strategy	4	1690 kDKK
Radioecological Assessments	6	2970 kDKK
Waste and Discharges	1	550 kDKK

The total amount requested was **7905 kDKK** from an expected budget of **3000 kDKK**.

Recent Seminars

NKS-B GAMMASPEC

Seminar for users of gamma spectrometry

19-20 September 2017, DTU Risø Campus, Roskilde, Denmark

The workshop had 41 participants from 25 organisations including industry, authorities and universities.

The activity was relevant to gamma spectrometry practitioners in the Nordic countries covering intercomparison exercises as well as a seminar. The scope of the seminar was broad allowing a range of topics in gamma spectrometry to be addressed from basic to advanced aspects in order to serve users with different backgrounds and needs in the field. Three experts gave talks on selected topics and challenges in gamma spectrometry. 11 other presentations were given, including 2 from equipment companies. The intercomparison exercises included laboratory measurements of physical samples as well as analyses of exercise spectra with associated information. The event was found by the users to be an excellent forum for networking.

The GammaWiki web site developed during previous NKS activities on gamma spectrometry is used as a platform for further information. (https://www.gr.is/wiki/GammaWiki/index.php/GammaSpec_2017).

The activity leader was Sven Nielsen (spni@dtu.dk).

NKS-B NORDIC ICP

Development and exploration of inductively coupled plasma spectrometry

25-27 September 2017, DTU Risø Campus, Roskilde, Denmark

The seminar consisted of two parts:

25th and 26th September: Invited lectures and presentations from participants. Prof. Frank Vanhaecke (Ghent University, Belgium) gave the opening lecture and five highly reputed experts gave invited talks.

27th September: Lab practice at Risø Campus.

There were 55 participants from Nordic and other countries.

The seminar aimed to strengthen the education of MSc/PhD students and young scientists and to increase competence of staff involved to explore the application of ICP techniques for different purposes in nuclear and radiochemistry fields.

- 1) To provide the participants with an overview of state-of-the-art fundamental aspects and instrumental developments of ICP techniques, and the applications of these techniques in interdisciplinary contexts.
- 2) To provide an opportunity for the participants to get hands-on experience of ICP instrument operation, maintenance, data acquisition and software instruction by participating in practical training in the laboratory.
- 3) To provide a forum for knowledge and experience exchange in various aspects related to ICP techniques and stimulate international collaborations.

Many examples were given of the possibilities for radioanalysis laboratories to benefit from using ICP techniques.

NKS-R NORDEC

Workshop on challenges and opportunities for improving Nordic nuclear decommissioning

20-21 November 2017, IFE, Halden, Norway

The overall goal of the NorDec project is to identify challenges and solutions for Nordic decommissioning and to enhance knowledge transfer among stakeholders in Nordic countries.

IFE, the coordinator of the NorDec project hosted a workshop in Halden, Norway on the 20th and 21st of November. 18 people from 8 Nordic organisations participated. Results from the project, based on interviews and questionnaires with Nordic decommissioning organisations, were presented as a starting point for discussions on the workshop. The most frequently reported decommissioning challenges were: 1) Developing and maintaining competence and motivation; 2) Regulatory oversight and decision making; and 3) Safe and effective waste characterization and clearance. Workshop participants discussed around identified challenges and possible solutions enabling organisations to build up suitable competence for overcoming these issues.

Some noteworthy examples from the discussions:

In the coming years there will be an increased need for decommissioning competence. The resulting business potential will probably result in an influx of decommissioning actors on the market. However the challenge may be to ensure that the competence is of the right quality and provides value for money.

Mobility of staff between research, regulators and licensees, as well as sites, may provide an efficient way to generate a pool of highly skilled professionals with a long term career opportunity.

On the topic of regulation, participants discussed about how to apply a general regulatory framework to a specific decommissioning context. The solution is not to change the framework requirements, but rather have an efficient interaction of the regulator and the utilities in application of the framework for practical tasks.

The participants found this opportunity for coming together and share experiences in a Nordic arena very useful, both during the technical program and the informal dinner.

New Publications

The following NKS-R reports are available free of charge: Download by clicking the appropriate link.

NKS-397	Oct. 2017	Patrick van Hees, Jonathan Vallée, Simo Hostikka, Topi Sikanen, Dan Lauridsen, Sebastian Ingermasson: Determination of Fire Barriers reliability for fire risk assessment of Nuclear Power Plants (FIREBAN) – Report Year 1	FIREBAN	View document
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The following NKS-B reports are available free of charge: Download by clicking the appropriate link.

NKS-398	Oct. 2017	Sven P. Nielsen, Anna Rand, Trygve Bjerk, Henrik Ramebäck, Roy Pöllänen, Gísli Jónsson: GammaSpec 2017 Proceedings	GAMMASPEC	View document
NKS-399	Dec. 2017	H. Toivonen, M. Granström, G. Ågren, G. Jónsson, B. Møller, P. Roos, H. Ramebäck: Activity estimation of shielded or hidden radionuclides in emergency conditions	RADSHIELD	View document

NKS-400	Dec. 2017	M. Dowdall, J.E. Dyve, H. Klein, T. Peltonen, C. Israelson, M. Eriksson, G. Jónsson: Early Phase Source Term Estimation From Gamma Spectra (EPHSOGAM)	EPHSOGAM	View document
NKS-401	Dec. 2017	Roy Pöllänen, Sinikka Virtanen, Meerit Kämäräinen, Maria Kaipainen, Xiaolin Hou, Per Roos, Mats Eriksson, Sara Ehrs, Anna Nalbandyan, Bredo Møller, Sofia Jonsson, Petra Lagerkvist, Annika Tovedal: Comparison of the analytical methods used to determine natural and artificial radionuclides from environmental samples by gamma, alpha and beta spectrometry	CAMNAR	View document

NKS Young Scientist Travel Assistance

Updated information that NKS offers travel assistance for young scientists wishing to attend NKS-R and NKS-B events as well as related non-NKS events even outside the Nordic countries - under certain conditions. More information on the conditions and how to apply for travel assistance can be seen on the NKS web site [here \(http://www.nks.org/en/nksr/travel_assistance/travel_assistance.htm\)](http://www.nks.org/en/nksr/travel_assistance/travel_assistance.htm) for NKS-R related events, and [here \(http://www.nks.org/en/nksb/travel_assistance/travel_assistance.htm\)](http://www.nks.org/en/nksb/travel_assistance/travel_assistance.htm) for NKS-B related events.