

Nuclear Energy Agency Data Bank

JEFF Stakeholders Workshop : Scoping Paper December, 2018

The NEA Data Bank is calling for a workshop of the *Stakeholders of the JEFF Nuclear Data Library*, to be held on **June 6-7, 2019**.

Introduction and context

The JEFF Nuclear Data Library Project, active since 1982 has delivered, at the end of 2017, its latest JEFF-3.3 nuclear data library release. Following this release, and to formally continue its activities, the JEFF Co-ordination Group has requested an extension of its mandate to the Management Board of the Data Bank (MBDAV) for the preparation of the next release of the library, JEFF-4, foreseen around 2024.

The development of JEFF libraries is carried out under the governance of the JEFF Co-ordination group, which organizes, with the help of the Data Bank secretariat, technical meetings on a regular basis (twice a year) to review ongoing or foreseen nuclear data developments aimed at future inclusion in the JEFF library series.

Outside of these technical meetings, the Data Bank wishes to engage officially, and at a higher strategy or decision-making level, with those institutional stakeholders that represent the end-users of nuclear data in different nuclear sectors. It is under this context that the MBDAV has endorsed the organization of a JEFF Stakeholders meeting with the timely objective *“to re-strengthen the link of JEFF to the end-users of nuclear data, in particular within the industry or safety authorities, and to better engage with them from the start of the development of the JEFF-4 release”*.

Scope of the Workshop

The workshop is a Data Bank initiative aiming to function as a forum to:

- Review and state the industrial needs and motivation that exists today to drive the development of new nuclear data libraries;
- Launch discussions to explore potential new partnerships within JEFF and the NEA Data Bank that may facilitate the above expectations to be met;

- Communicate, at the highest level and for the benefit of a broad range of stakeholders, on the nuclear data activities that are co-ordinated by the NEA Data Bank in order to sustain the safe and effective use of nuclear technologies (mission of the NEA);

It is not the scope of this meeting to do an exhaustive review of technical issues in nuclear data, but to reflect on the higher, longer term strategy of the nuclear data production/evaluation/validation process as motivated by present or foreseen industrial or regulatory needs. This forum should therefore serve to revisit the representativeness, within the JEFF project, of the interests of the current end-users, including the safety bodies, the industry and the research organisations, in particular as new strategies are taken and priorities are set or revised for the next decades, together with “new” application cases arising as strong drivers for development and validation (decommissioning applications, final disposal, etc.) of new or revised nuclear data.

If industry needs are seen, historically, as a major driver for new nuclear data developments, the cycle time with which industry effectively uses new nuclear data libraries must be considered. The cycle time of the technology is nowadays long (decades), compared to the cycle time of nuclear data releases or of NEA co-ordinated collaborations (3-5 years). This opens questions on the coming development of the next generation of nuclear data libraries, especially JEFF-4, in terms of expectations, engagement of industry, and targeted priorities. This forum will also be used to inform forthcoming discussions among the NEA Data Bank community on how the Data Bank’s Nuclear Data Services can best help to service these expectations/needs.

Desired outcome of the Workshop

- A workshop “position” statement on the expectations and engagements from the stakeholders to be circulated to the Management Board of the Data Bank and up to the NEA steering committee for further discussion and possible dissemination among key national institutional partners.
- A review of potential opportunities or new initiatives that may arise from this initiative, in particular those aspects that may benefit from stronger international collaboration where the NEA Data Bank could take the lead as an international unifying centre.

Programme

It is proposed to have a 1.5-day workshop, with three sessions plus a final panel or round table discussion. The following discussions are to be encouraged :

- View from final customers : added value of Nuclear Data improvements to industry : examples of past experience, (e.g. from JEFF-2.2. to JEFF-3.1.1, other examples from other libraries adopted by industry), future expectations (JEFF-4);
- Technical developments in the making – new paradigms in modern nuclear data production : demonstrate why these are needed, will these be used by industry ?
- International aspects of nuclear data libraries – What is the strategy of other major national libraries to engage with industry ?
- Potential collaborations with partners : what must be kept separate (for strategical, financial or healthy scientific independence reasons) and what can be consolidated and shared. A special point of interest here will be the Quality Assurance processes that *could* be further developed at the Data Bank, if enough support (& resources) are secured. JEFF, as an international collaboration , could provide the framework to develop these.

Contact

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