

WELCOME ADDRESS

Lucila Izquierdo

General Secretary of External and Institutional Relations

CIEMAT

Avda. Complutense 22, 28040 Madrid, Spain

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Michel Hugon, Phillipe Savelli, dear participants,

It is my pleasure, as Secretary of External and Institutional Relations of CIEMAT and in the name of its Director General, to welcome all of you to CIEMAT for the 6th OECD/NEA Information Exchange Meeting on Actinide and Fission Product Partitioning and Transmutation.

We are glad that Madrid joins the list of cities that have hosted this series of meetings that started in Mito and have got consecutive success at Argonne, Cadarache and Mol.

We would like to thank the organisers both NEA/OCDE and the European Commission for their invitation for the joint hosting of the meeting by CIEMAT and ENRESA (the Spanish body for radioactive waste management).

CIEMAT is the Spanish Public Organism for Research and Technological Development supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology responsible of finding solutions to improve the use of resources and energy generation systems, to develop alternative energy sources and to solve the problems of the Spanish companies regarding energy and its effects on the environment.

CIEMAT is largely involved in the research on future and present nuclear energy sources through the programmes of Nuclear Fusion and Nuclear Fission, whose activities include many projects related to the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

At CIEMAT we find in Partitioning and Transmutation (P&T) one very interesting element for the Nuclear Waste management. Ideally, it will allow to achieve large reduction on the inventories of long-lived radioactive wastes contained in the nuclear waste, in particular the actinides, reducing the concerns about our use of nuclear energy for future generations. Not to forget the positive effect on the public acceptance of nuclear waste management programmes and the potential capability to produce huge amounts of electricity.

After the participation of CIEMAT in the FEAT and TARC experiments at CERN related to the Energy Amplifier project, already in 1994, the Nuclear Fission Department has initiated a wide P&T research programme in 1997.

This programme includes six main lines: the advanced hydro-metallurgic reprocessing techniques to separate all the Transuranium elements and some long-lived fission fragments from the spent fuel of the present nuclear power plants; the pyro-metallurgic technologies for new ADS fuel recycling; the corrosion of materials in molten lead alloys; the behaviour of materials in extreme irradiation and temperature conditions as expected for the spallation target windows in ADS systems; the computer simulation of transmutation devices and strategies; and the participation on basic experimental research for transmutation and ADS.

All this work is strongly integrated in the international research on P&T, including the participation on 6 contracts of the present 5th Framework Programme of the European Union, and on the activities on OCDE/NEA, IAEA and the European ADS Technical Working Group. In addition, we have established bilateral collaboration agreements directly with CEA and with the ITU through ENRESA. Further contracts with CRIEPI and contacts with several USA laboratories open our activities in the field outside Europe.

Inside Spain, all this research is performed in close collaboration with ENRESA and several Universities distributed over the Spanish geography.

I wish that the efforts of all of you present here, the laboratories and institutions from where you are coming, and the international organisations represented in the room, will make soon the P&T dream promises a reality. In this sense the opportunities of information exchanges provided by OECD/NEA and other forums, and the continuation and increase of the support from the national and international funding agencies, as well as the progressive involvement of industry, are key elements for the success. I am sure that, with your collaboration, this meeting will represent an important step forward in this direction.

I hope that beside the intense work schedule of the meeting you can find some time to enjoy Madrid and the surrounding cities.

I want finally thank all the speakers and poster authors for sharing their work and results with all of us, and for their collaboration in the organisation of the meeting, and to all of you for coming, and I hope, for your active participation on the meeting.

Thank you and welcome to CIEMAT.