



ENTRAP and its potential interaction with European networks

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ABSTRACT

ENTRAP comprises a pan-European cooperation of leading scientific institutions and regulatory bodies in the field of nuclear-waste characterization and its quality assurance for the safe disposal of radioactive waste. Here, the scope of this cooperation is presented and explained and links or interfaces for a potential collaboration with partners fulfilling tasks of IDG-TP are pursued.

KEYWORDS: nuclear-waste characterization, destructive and non-destructive testing of radioactive waste forms, quality assurance of nuclear waste, safe disposal of radioactive waste.

Introduction

In the early 1980s, quality assurance (QA) policies were introduced in the field of nuclear-waste management. The European Commission (EC) through its 'Plan of Action' recognized the importance of a sound QA approach in the field

of nuclear-waste management, and in 1982 a working group was created to review the status of implementation of production standards and QA of radioactive waste in Europe. A global QA program requires a thorough inventory characterization and as a final step of quality control, the verification by quality inspectors operating independently of the waste conditioner of the predictable product properties of the radioactive waste package relevant to final disposal. To be successful, this QA-based approach requires application by responsible

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TABLE 1. Current member institutions of ENTRAP.

No.	Institution/Country	Main web page
1	Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH, NES (Austria)	www.nes.at
2	Nuclear Research Centre, SCK•CEN Mol (Belgium)	www.sckcen.be
3	NRI Rez, Nuclear Research Institute Rez, plc. Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle Chemistry 250 68 Rez, Czech Republic	http://www.ujv.cz/en/
4	Joint Research Centre, JRC, Ispra (European Commission)	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/about/jrc-site/ispra
5	VTT Chemical Technology, Espoo (Finland)	www.vtt.fi
6	Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, CEA Cadarache (France)	www.cadarache.cea.fr
7	Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz, BfS (Germany)	www.bfs.de
8	Forschungszentrum Jülich, FZJ (Germany)	www.fz-juelich.de/iek/iek-6
9	TU München, ZTWB Radiochemie München RCM (Germany)	www.rcm.tum.de
10	ENEA FSN FISS, Casaccia (Italy)	http://www.enea.it/it/Ricerca_sviluppo/nucleare/fissione-nucleare
11	NRG Arnhem, NL (Netherlands)	www.nrg-nl.com
12	Inst. f. Chemistry & Nuclear Technology, ICNT Warsaw (Poland, new member)	www.ichtj.waw.pl
13	ENRESA, Madrid (Spain)	www.enresa.es
14	CIEMAT, Madrid (Spain)	www.ciemat.es

operators within an effective regulatory regime implemented by national authorities.

In 1989 an *ad hoc* group of European experts convened under the EC Plan of Action for Radioactive Waste to advise on how to define and implement this final quality control. More precisely, the objective was to “examine the needs, incentives, scopes and ways of implementation of a European network of national QA/QC facilities for radioactive waste products”. The conclusion was that national regulators, licensing authorities and laboratories performing quality checks would benefit from European collaboration. In October 1992, following an initiative by the EC, the ‘European Network of Testing facilities for the quality checking of Radioactive Waste Packages’ (ENTRAP) was founded to promote European collaboration in this field.

Since ENTRAP began, the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) has specified the key elements for the management of radioactive waste in the IAEA membership countries in its publication Safety Standard III-s-1: *Establishing a National System for Radioactive Waste Management*. Included in this standard is general guidance about the responsibilities of IAEA Member States. The IAEA also provides guidance on the subject of quality assurance for radioactive waste packages. General guidance is provided in the ‘Technical Reports Series’ No 376: *Quality*

Assurance for Radioactive Waste Packages (IAEA, 1995). More detailed information is provided in IAEA-TECDOC-680: *Quality Assurance Requirements and Methods for High Level Waste Package Acceptability* (IAEA, 1992) and IAEA-TECDOC-864: *Requirements and Methods for Low and Intermediate Level Waste Package Accountability* (IAEA, 1996). The latter document includes guidance on methods to demonstrate compliance with waste-acceptance criteria and independent verification. Further information is given in other IAEA Technical Reports (IAEA, 1997, 2007).

This short paper describes the objectives, organization and achievements of ENTRAP and lists potential future interactions with other European waste-management forums.

Organisation, objectives and attributes of ENTRAP

ENTRAP was formally established under the terms of a cooperation agreement between the ENTRAP members. It is a non-profit, financially independent organization (Van Iseghem *et al.*, 1997; Newstead, 1999). Each member pays an annual fee (currently €1000) to cover administrative costs, publication of reports, etc. Current ENTRAP members are listed in Table 1.

Other laboratories, e.g. operated by waste producers or research bodies or in non-EU Member States, carrying out waste-quality checking are also eligible to apply as Associate Members.

Decisions on policy issues, the program of activities, publications and applications for membership are made by a Steering Committee (SC) composed of delegated representatives of the full member organizations of the ENTRAP network. Representatives of EC Member State national regulatory authorities are also invited to attend SC meetings, which are held on an annual basis. The Chairman and a vice Chairman of the SC are elected on a bi-annual basis from amongst its members. Initially the EC provided the secretariat to the network; this is no longer the case, however.

The technical work of the network is undertaken by Working Groups (WGs), each operating under a convener appointed by the SC. There are currently four WGs: WG A – non-destructive methods; WG B – destructive methods; WG C – QA and QC procedures; and WG D – intermediate- and high-level waste (ILW/HLW). Membership of WGs consists of representatives from both full and associate member organizations. The associate member organisations usually represent the regulators which send observers to the Steering Committee but which have no voting rights. Their support and cooperation in the working groups is welcome, appreciated and unrestricted, however. ENTRAP has performed a number of joint activities related to the verification of conformity of conditioned radioactive waste with regulatory specifications and criteria. Its objectives are to promote and facilitate collaboration in the development, application and standardization of quality

checking for waste packages. ENTRAP is therefore engaged in: identification of research and development (R&D) requirements; joint evaluation of test methods and proficiency testing; co-ordination of national and international standardization of test methods; exchange of information, results and experience; promotion of cooperation, training and young scientist interchange (bi- and multilateral); and promotion of the availability of testing and analytical services. The main strengths of ENTRAP are as follows: its members are laboratories of excellence in the European Union (EU); different analyses and scaling factors (detection limits, uncertainties) are employed; different modelling techniques are employed; and different characterization methodologies (waste types, forms, packages) are used. An overview of the fields of impact of the ENTRAP network is shown in Fig. 1.

Achievements of ENTRAP

ENTRAP has been involved in: a discussion forum, including technical visits; various R&D proposals which have been developed, and which have resulted in EU-funded projects; many bi- or multilateral co-operations; many radioactive-waste management schemes which have commenced for mutual benefit; large-volume controls (significant topics for destructive assay (DA) and non-destructive assay (NDA)); and significant scientific output (<http://www.en-trap.eu/Reports.html>, 2014).

ENTRAP has established valuable links with standards organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the American Society for Testing and Materials

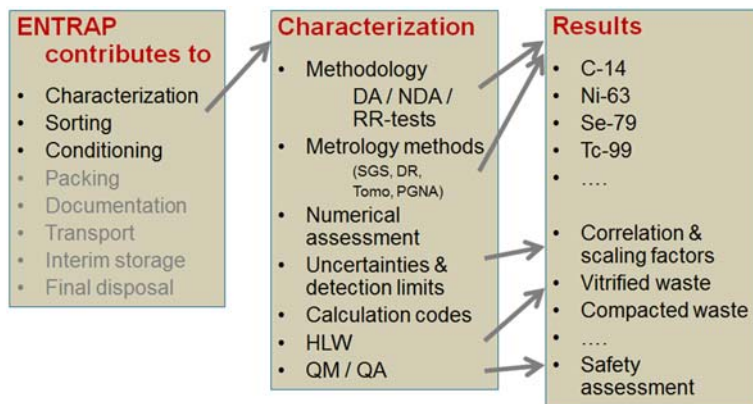


FIG. 1. Impact of the ENTRAP network members' activities.

TABLE 2. R&D initiated by ENTRAP and EC-sponsored achievements for: (a) non-destructive assay; and (b) destructive assay.

(a) Non-destructive assay	(b) Destructive assay
Improvement of passive and active neutron assay techniques for the characterization of radioactive waste packages (EUR 19121)	Evaluation and standardization of fast analytical techniques for destructive radwaste control. 1994–1998.
Optimization of gamma assay techniques for the standard quality checking of radioactive waste packages and samples (EUR 19127)	Qualification of Radiochemical Routines for the Decontamination of Alpha-emitting Nuclides in Conditioned Radioactive Waste. 1994–1998 (EUR 9111).
Round robin test for non-destructive assays of 220 litres of radioactive waste packages (EUR 19779)	Development and automation of chemical analytical procedures for determination of non-gamma emitting radionuclides in radioactive waste (DACAPO). 1998–2002.
Quality control of nuclear waste packages with a Compton suppression and Ge-telescope detection system	Inter-laboratory radiochemical analysis comparison on a primary waste flux (INTERLAB). 1998–2002 (EUR 20616).
Project on NDA of Large Waste Containers	

(ASTM), both of which are active in the development of standards relevant to the quality checking of radioactive waste packages and with laboratories in eastern European countries.

Moreover, ENTRAP has produced recognizable output for quality management/quality assurance

(QM/QA), e.g. for the implementation of regulatory checking or the harmonization of procedures for LLW and ILW (Van Velzen *et al.*, 2000). A discussion of the promotion of quality standards has led to the accreditation and quality certification of a number of ENTRAP member laboratories.

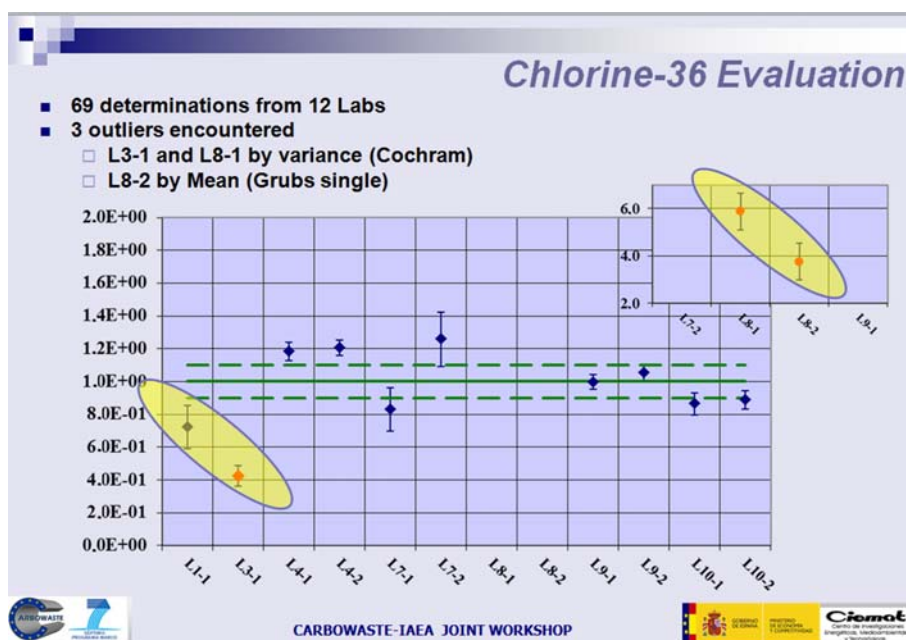


FIG. 2. Round Robin Test (RRT) results of the analytical assessment of Cl-36 for twelve participating laboratories (Piña *et al.*, 2013)

Particular emphasis has been given to destructive and non-destructive assay of radioactive waste compounds and the assessment of the methodology and harmonization of the experimental metrology and uncertainties (see Table 2).

Significant discussions of large-volume control have included the *Characterization Methodology for Complex Geometry* at ENRESA (ENRESA, 2013) and implementation of the experimental CINPHONIE platform for large-volume nuclear-waste characterization at Cadarache (Estre and Pettier, 2013).

The methodological standardization of analytical techniques has reached a state-of-the-art level which will be maintained. Thus, round robin tests (RRTs) have been performed on radioactive ion-exchange resin samples; the results are currently compiled and will be published shortly. An example of the involvement of ENTRAP member laboratories has been the RRTs on the destructive analysis of irradiated graphite within the Carbowaste EU-project (www.carbowaste.eu) which has resulted in the creation of a 'cook-book' for the analysis of volatile but safety-relevant nuclei, e.g. Cl-36. The RTT results for Cl-36 are shown in Fig. 2

Future ENTRAP projects will consider: free release, (T)NORM, ILW/HLW; harmonization of tests and characterization (ENTRAP has a liaison 'A' membership with ISO); identification of specific legacy and problem waste issues; liaison with other networks within the EU (IGD-TP, NUGENIA, SNETP, etc); training and young-scientist exchange among ENTRAP members.

The young-scientist exchange and training program is a recent activity of ENTRAP and targets the development of knowledge and talents in the ENTRAP member laboratories.

Conclusions

This paper gives a brief outline of ENTRAP activities and achievements to date. ENTRAP consists of a functional network of cooperating laboratories of excellence within the EU and regards its activities as complementary to those of radioactive-waste disposal (i.e. IGD-TP) and waste-production facilities and the networks (i.e. SNETP). ENTRAP recognizes that the topic of disposal of spent nuclear fuel needs to be addressed jointly and like the NUGENIA network, ENTRAP can provide links between the fields of nuclear-

waste characterization and radioactive-waste management, experimental assessment facilities, as well as quality-control techniques and standards.

ENTRAP is currently an independent organization and its members (through the SC) wish to continue the network in its current form. It does, however, wish to strengthen its cooperation and liaison with other European networks such as SNETP, IGD-TP and others. Possible areas of future collaboration include: elaboration of methodologies to verify waste-acceptance criteria for different kinds of radioactive-waste packages, e.g. LLW, MLW, HLW; assessment and verification of spent-fuel inventories and their characteristic properties for direct disposal of spent-fuel assemblies; and provision of concise data for waste types, waste properties and inventories for repository-design optimization.

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