

# Current challenges with digital technologies in nuclear power plant I&C systems

Janos Eiler

Obninsk, 27 June 2019



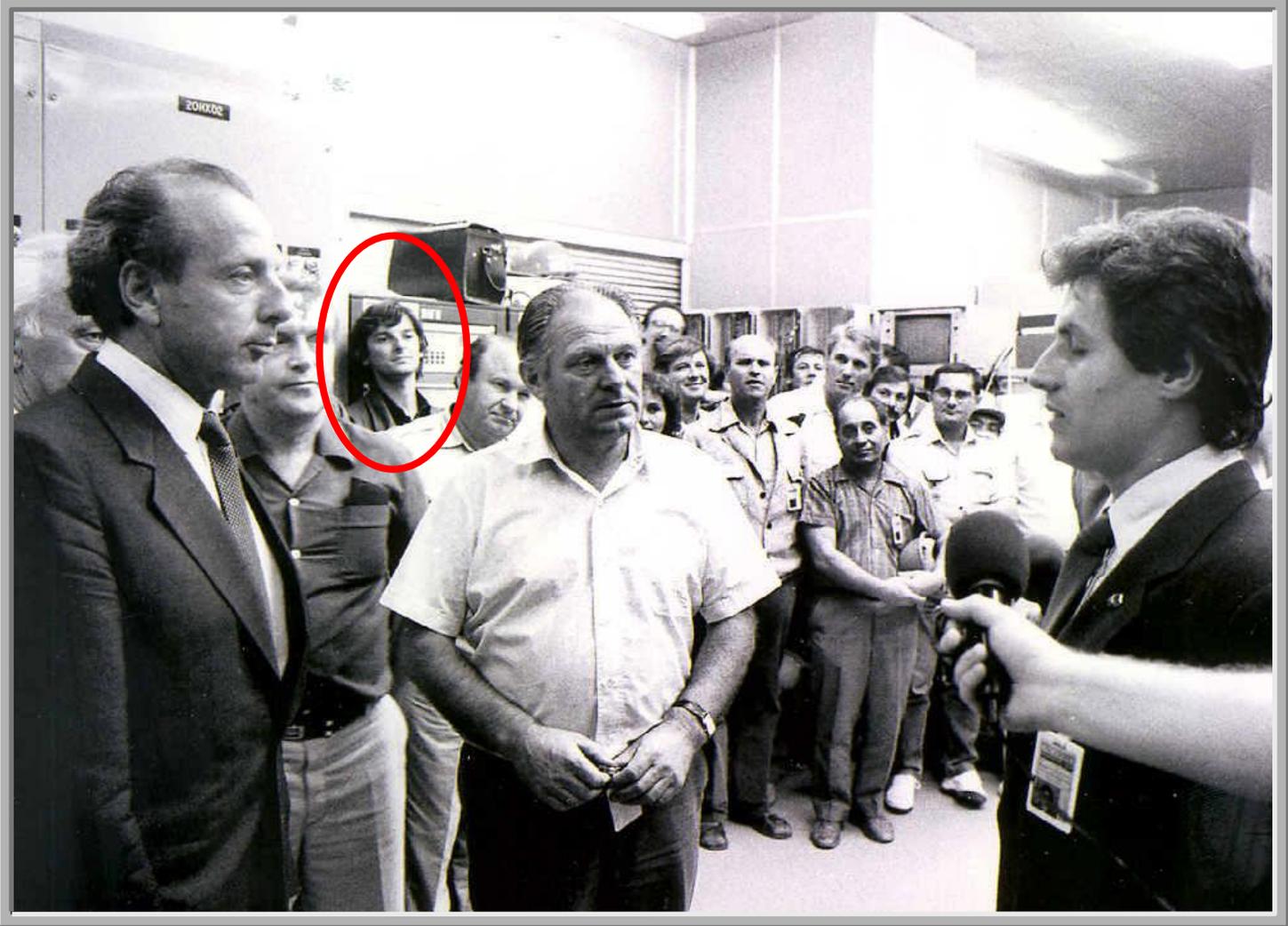
**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

# The Paks Nuclear Power Plant in Hungary



# The start-up of Paks Unit 1 in 1982



IAEA

# Outline

- Introduction to the IAEA and a global nuclear power outlook
- Most significant issues and challenges in the nuclear instrumentation and control area today
- Related IAEA activities

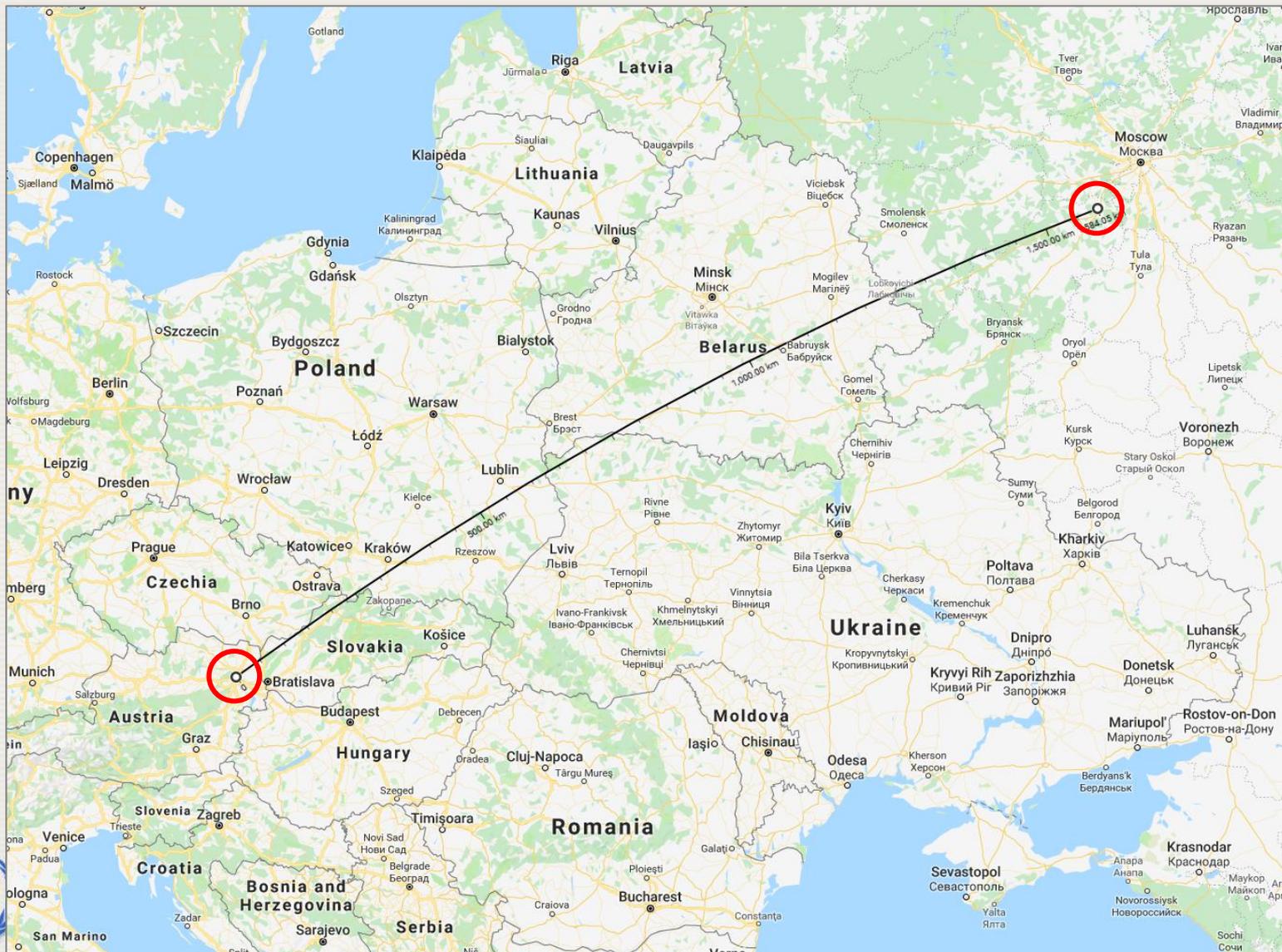
# **The IAEA in a nutshell and a global nuclear power outlook**



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

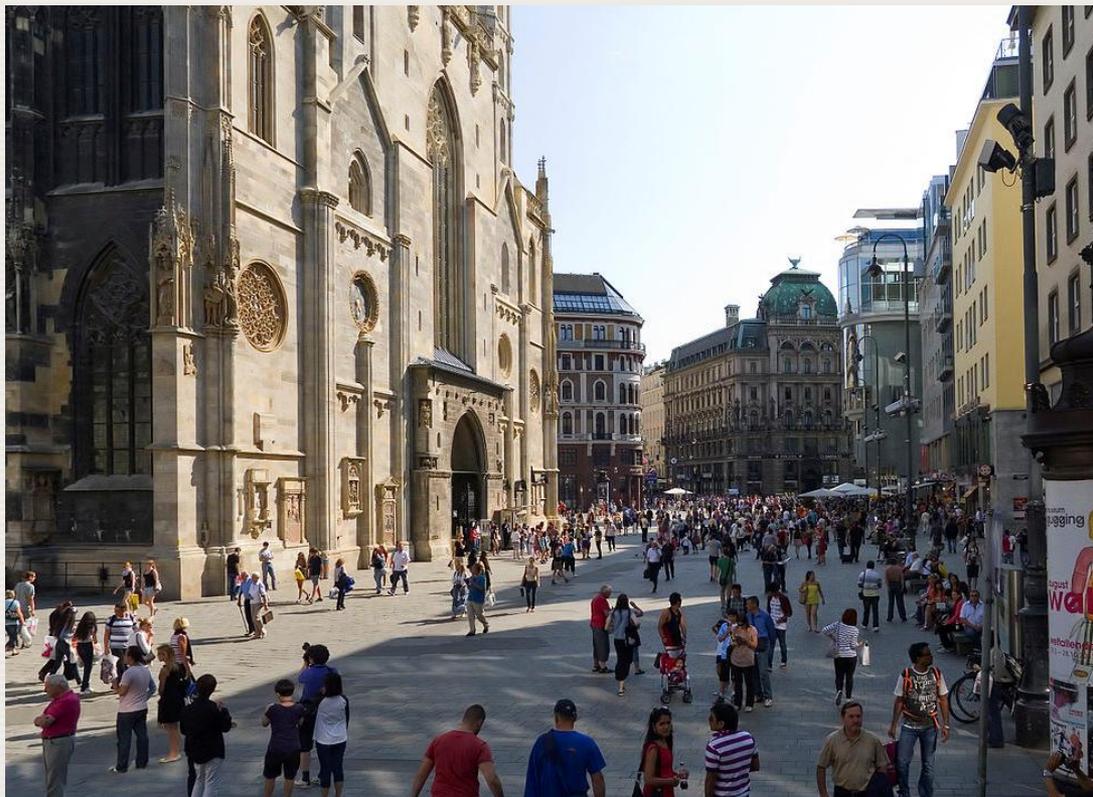
# Vienna – Obninsk



# Vienna City Hall



# Downtown Vienna



# St-Petersburg in Jun 2015



# IAEA workshop in St-Petersburg in Jun 2015

# IAEA workshop in St-Petersburg in Jun 2015



# IAEA workshop in St-Petersburg in Jun 2015

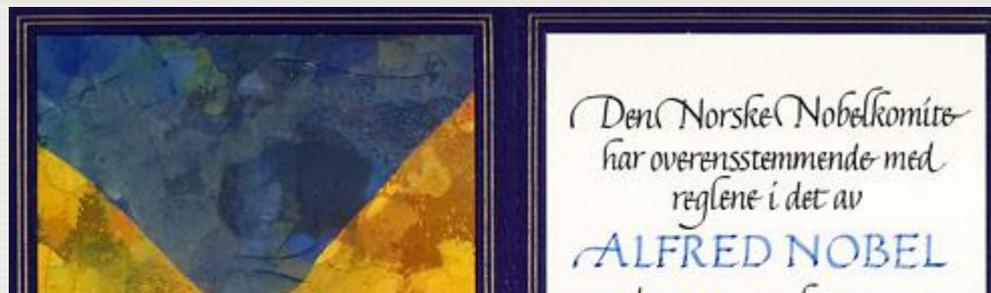


# IAEA workshop in St-Petersburg in Jun 2015



# IAEA at a glance

- Founded in 1957
- 171 member states
- New member in 2019
  - Saint Lucia
- ~2500 staff
- Nobel Peace Prize



XINHUA/AFP



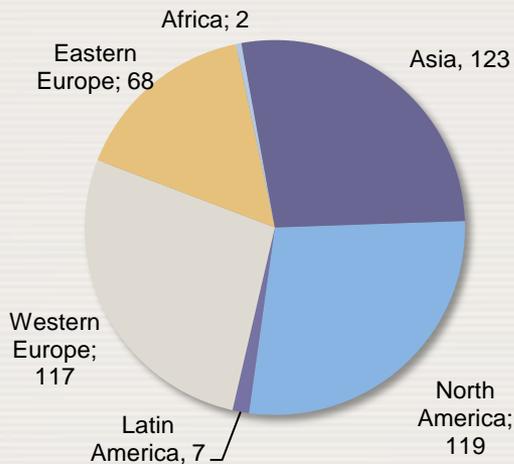
# Global nuclear power status

452 reactors in operation (~400 GWe)

173 reactors in permanent shutdown

54 reactors under construction

Geographical distribution



As of May 2019

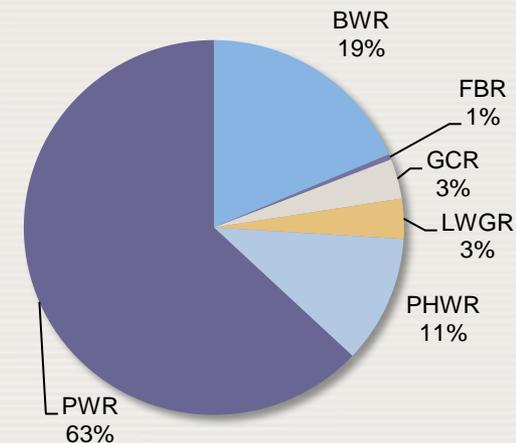
## In 2012:

437 reactors in operation (371.7 GWe)

143 reactor in permanent shutdown

67 reactors under construction

Reactor capacity by type

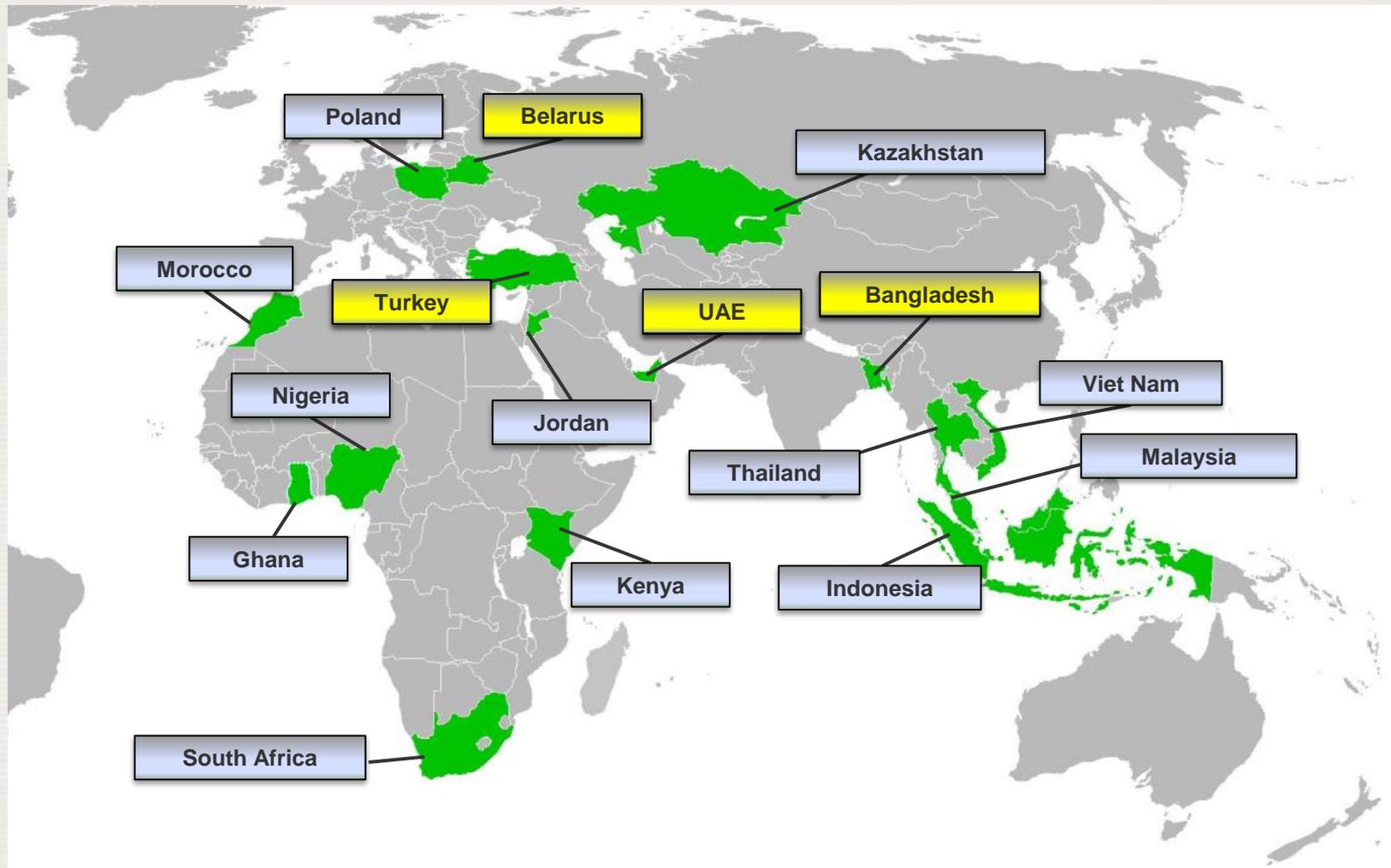


## Latest connections to the grid (2 in 2019):

- ❖ SANMEN-1 and 2, 1000 MW PWR, China
- ❖ TAISHAN-1, 1660 MW PWR, China
- ❖ SHIN-KORI-4, 1340 MW, PWR, Korea, Rep. of
- ❖ NOVOVORONEZH 2-2, 1114 MW PWR, Russia

Website: <http://www.iaea.org/pris/>

# Who are the newcomers?



# Newcomers with first NPP under construction

UAE, Barakah, July 2012



Belarus, Belarussian, Nov 2013



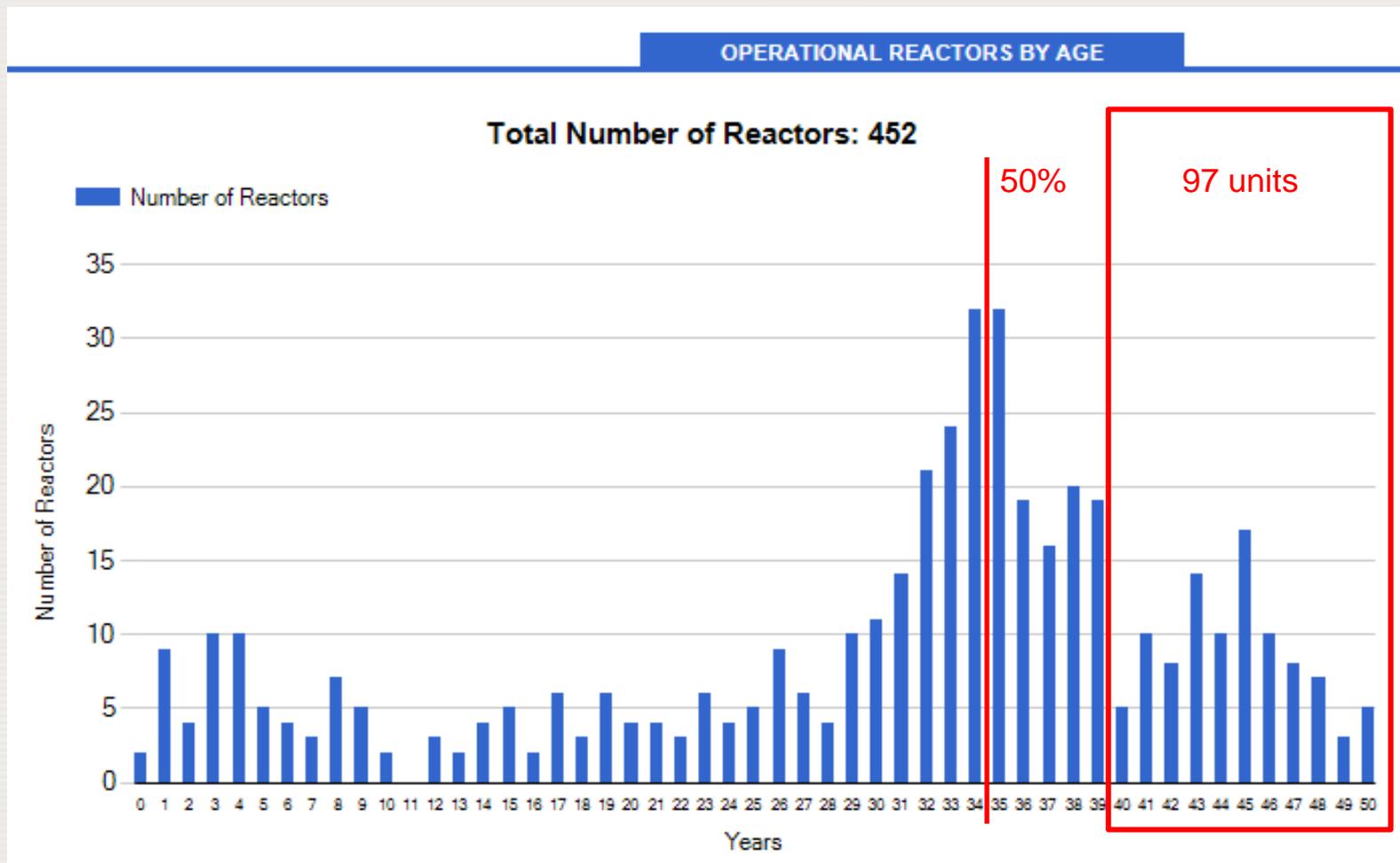
Bangladesh, Rooppur, Nov 2017



Turkey, Akkuyu, Apr 2018



# Age of operating reactors



# Current challenges



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

# Technical working group (TWG) photo, 2019

- I&C program for 2019 - 2023



# Alternative TWG group photo from 2019



# Russian speaker at the TWG meeting in 2019

- Mr. Aleksey Chernyaev of RASU



# Current challenges in the nuclear I&C field

- **Safety, security and licensing**-driven issues
  - Enhancement of safety through improved systems and processes
  - Implementation of all necessary post-Fukushima improvements
  - Harmonization of standards, licensing practices, and safety classification schemes
  - Issues with software dependability (common cause failure)
  - Digital communications, independence, computer security
- **Economic** driven issues
  - Improvement of plant efficiency, increase of plant and personnel productivity for cost-effective operation -> competitiveness
  - Long term operation -> ageing management
  - Rapid evolution of digital technologies -> obsolescence management

# Current challenges in the nuclear I&C field (2)

- Issues related to **new technologies**
  - Use of wireless technologies
  - Use of new information and communications technologies
  - Use of new Human Factors Engineering technologies
  - New reactor designs such as small modular reactors (SMRs)

# Publications

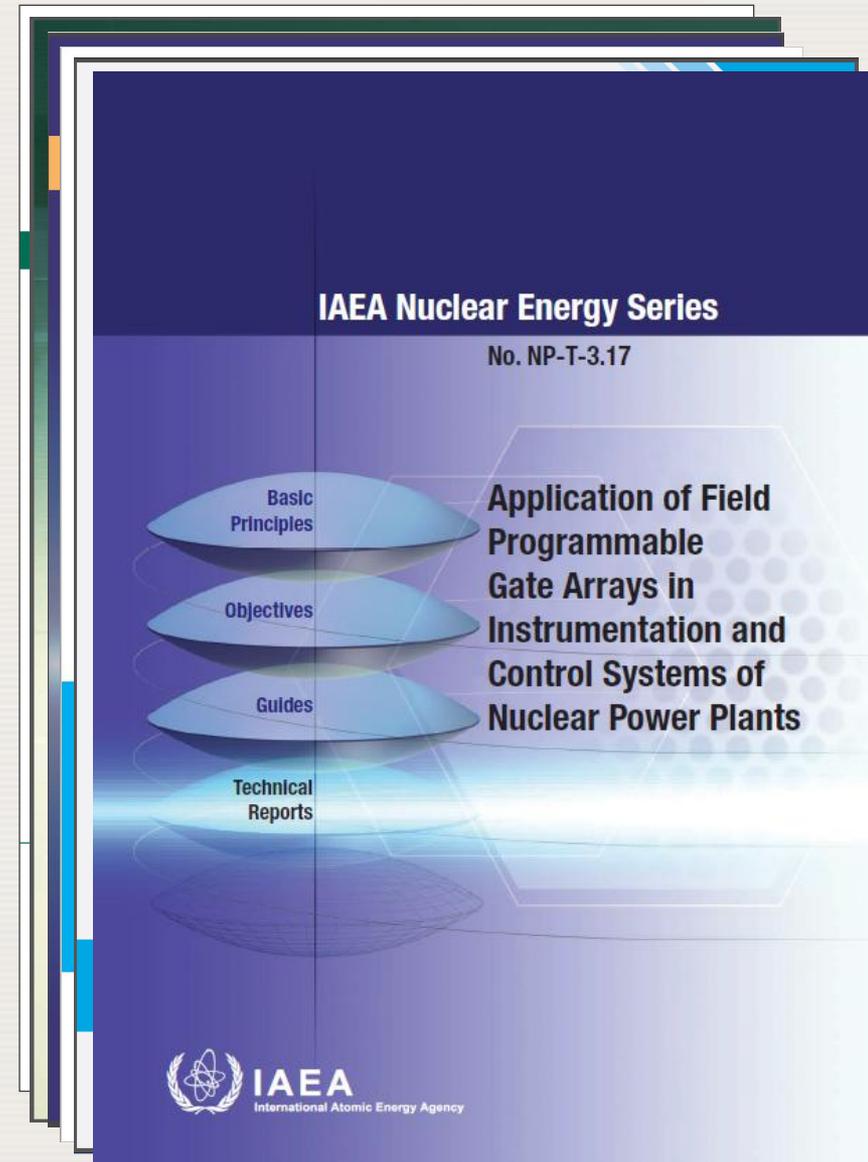


**IAEA**

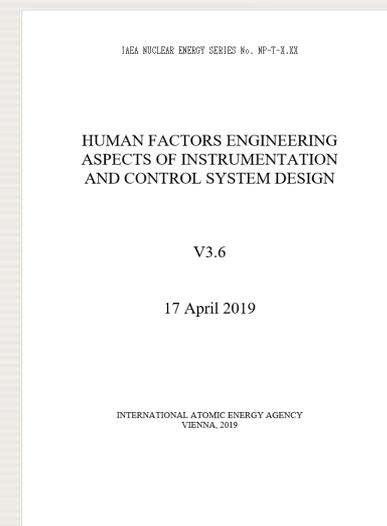
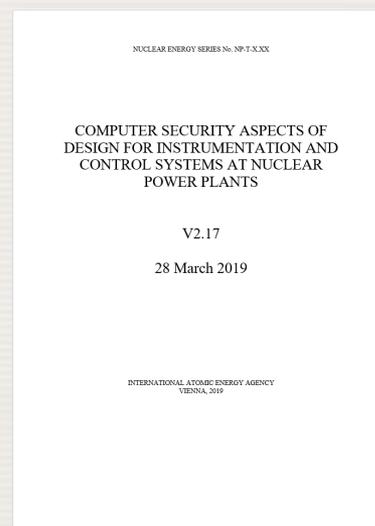
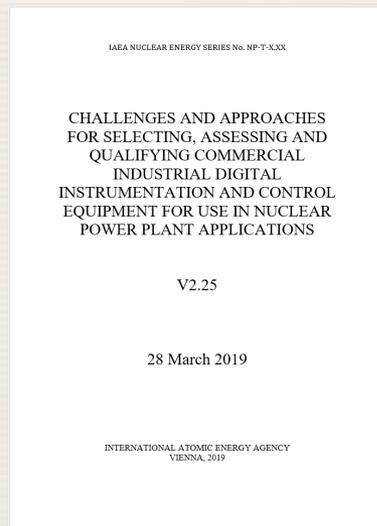
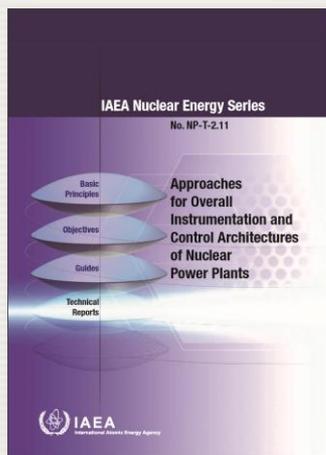
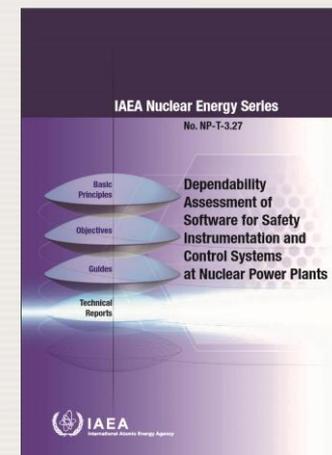
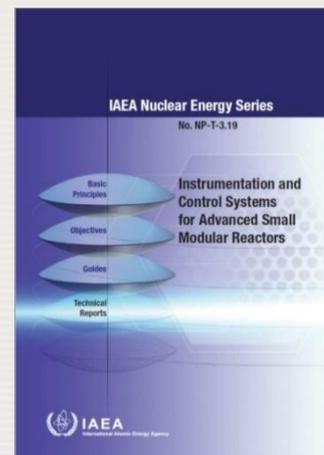
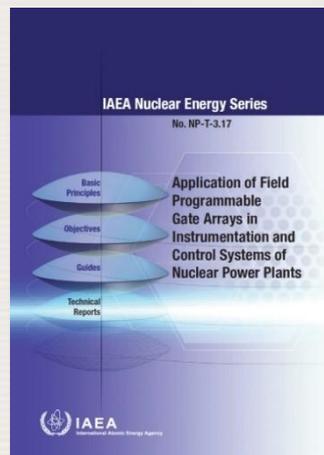
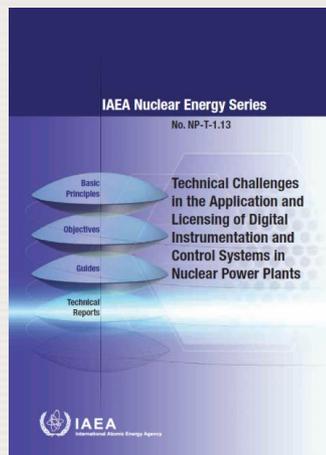
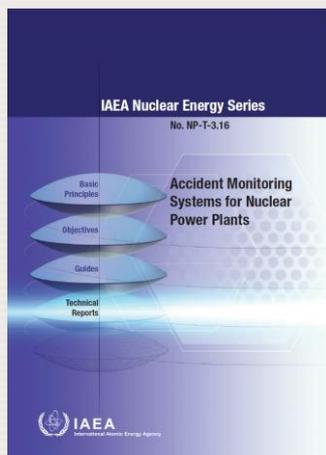
International Atomic Energy Agency

# Publications

- Nuclear Safety Guides
- Safety Reports Series
- Nuclear Security Series
- Technical Reports Series
- TECDOCs
- Nuclear Energy Series

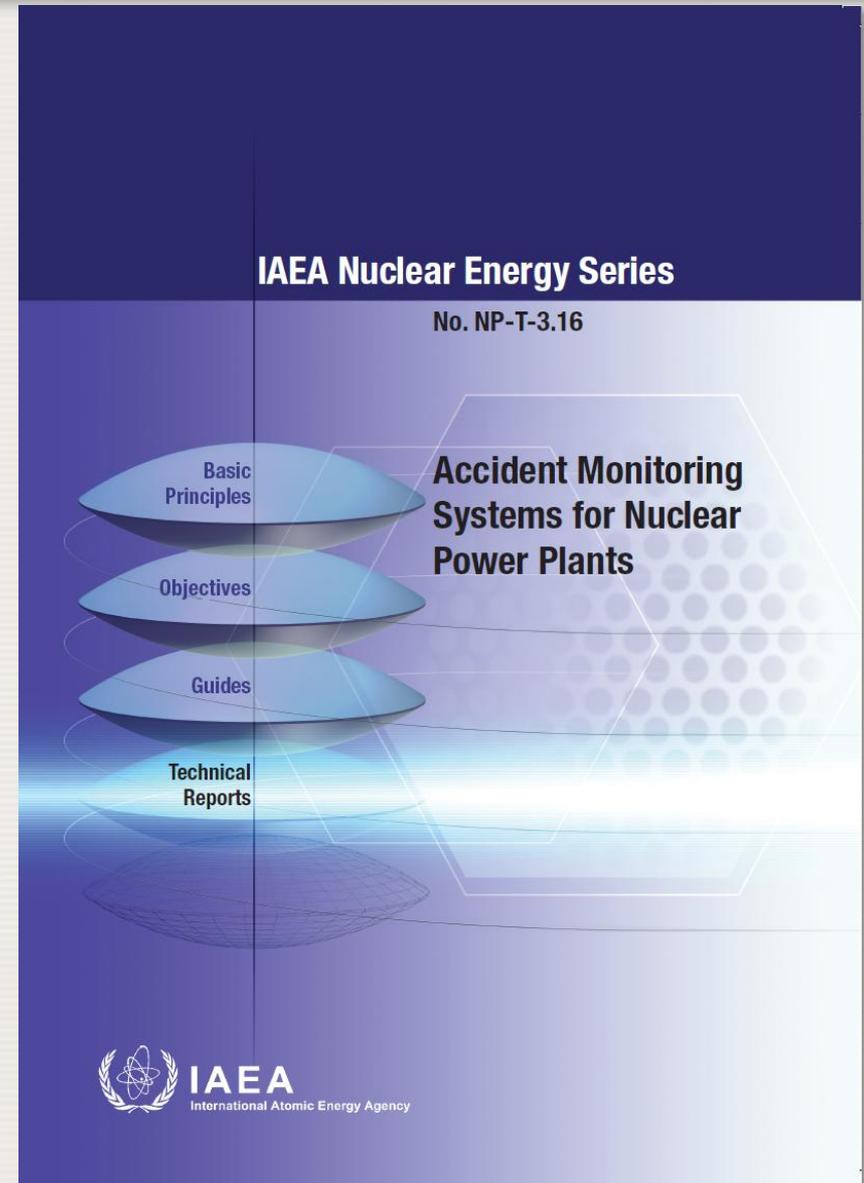


# Recent Nuclear Energy Series publications



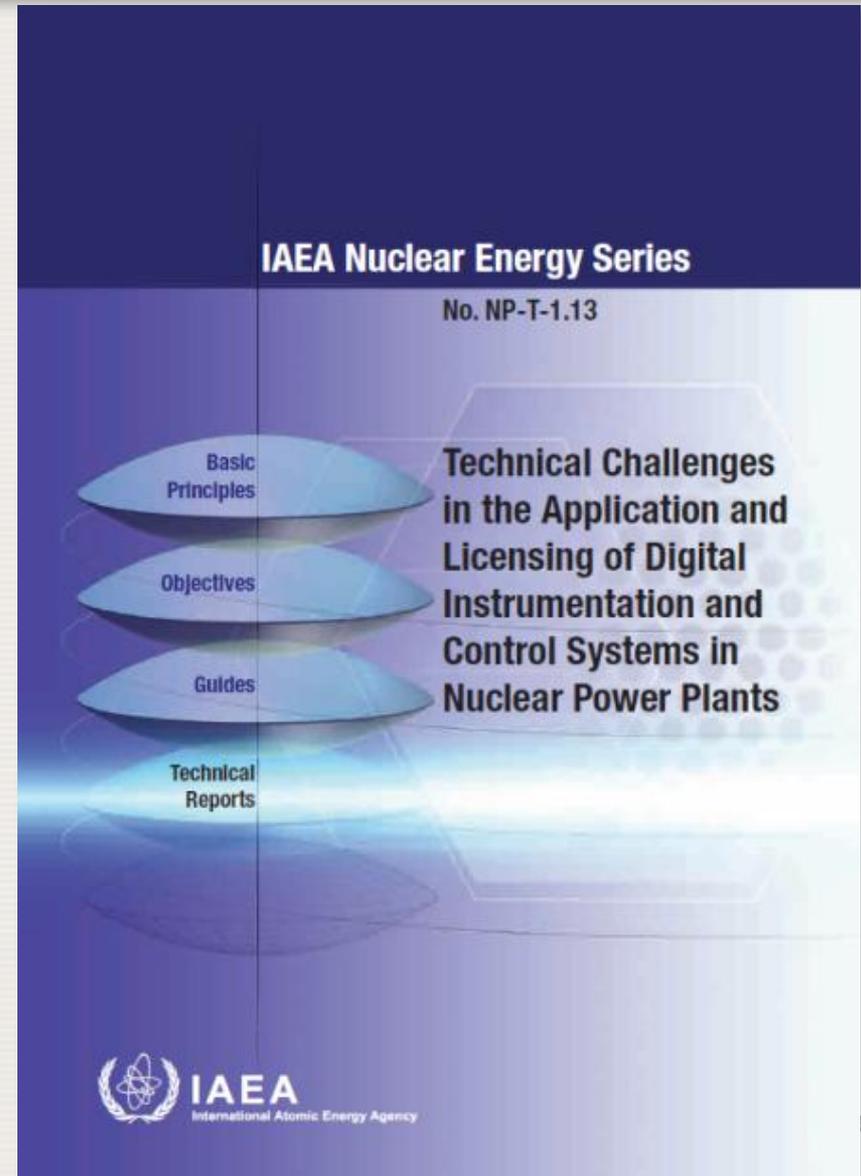
# Accident monitoring systems for nuclear power plants

- Introduction
- **Accident management** for nuclear power plants
- Selection of plant **parameters** for accident **monitoring**
- Establishing **criteria** for designated accident monitoring instrumentation
- **Design and implementation** considerations for accident monitoring instrumentation
- **Technology** needs for accident monitoring
- Summary and conclusions



# Technical challenges in the application and licensing of digital I&C systems

- Products **accepted** by regulators **in one country** are frequently difficult to obtain acceptance by **another regulator**
- **Harmonization** efforts are underway but progress is very slow
- IAEA publication addresses **17 important issues** encountered in digital I&C system design, licensing and implementation

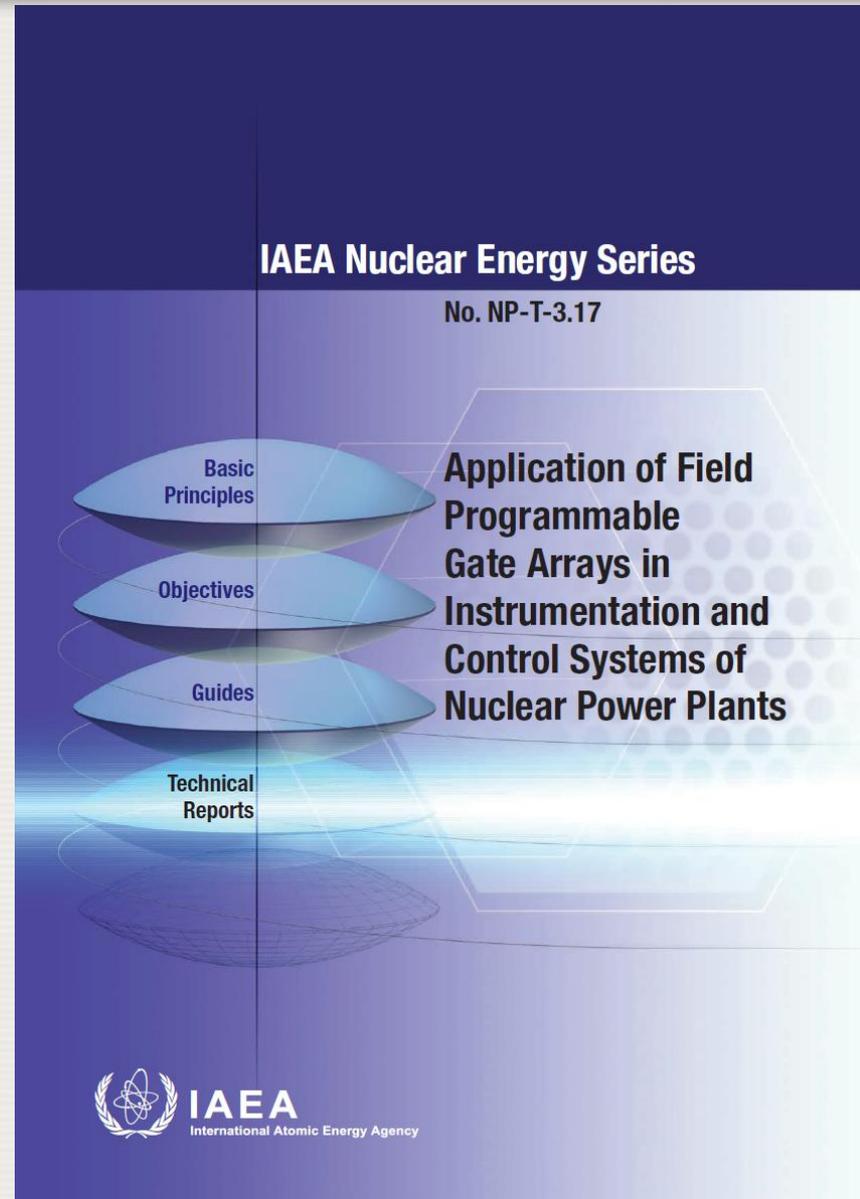


# The 17 challenges identified in NP-T-1.13

- Issue No. 1: Self-diagnostics within a digital instrumentation and control platform . . . . .
- Issue No. 2: Independent verification and validation . . . . .
- Issue No. 3: Management of the functional requirements specification . . . . .
- Issue No. 4: Development of and adherence to configuration management . . . . .
- Issue No. 5: Common cause failure, diversity and defence in depth. . . . .
- Issue No. 6: Use of smart devices . . . . .
- Issue No. 7: Safety classification schemes . . . . .
- Issue No. 8: Computer security . . . . .
- Issue No. 9: Harmonization of standards. . . . .
- Issue No. 10: Taking credit for on-line monitoring . . . . .
- Issue No. 11: Environmental qualification of safety system platforms. . . . .
- Issue No. 12: Impact of hardware description language programmable devices . . . . .
- Issue No. 13: Digital communications . . . . .
- Issue No. 14: Safety classification and function of a soft controller. . . . .
- Issue No. 15: Formal methods of software development . . . . .
- Issue No. 16: Use of wireless technology . . . . .
- Issue No. 17: Reliability (taking credit for digital systems in probabilistic risk assessment).

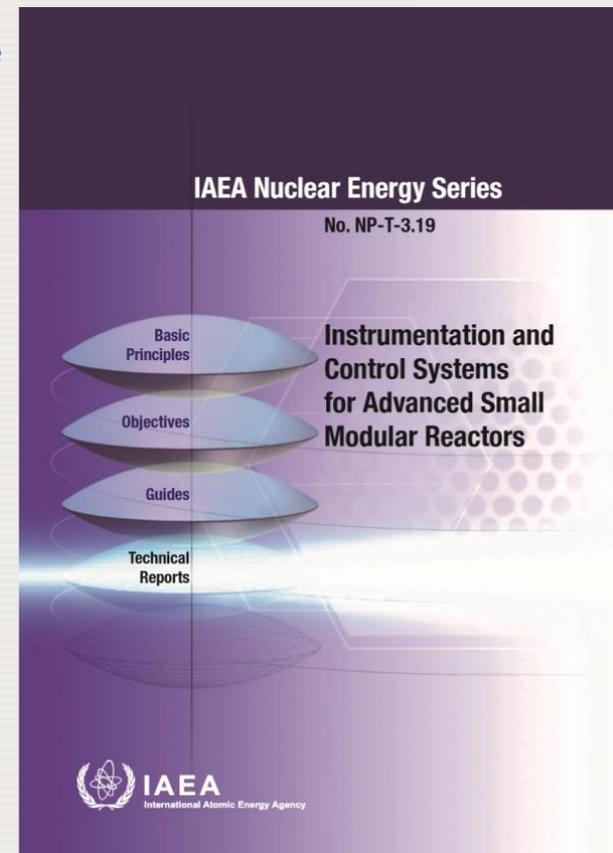
# Application of PGAs in I&C systems of NPPs

- Introduction to FPGA technology
- Methods and tools for development and verification
- Licensing
- Replacement systems and new NPP designs



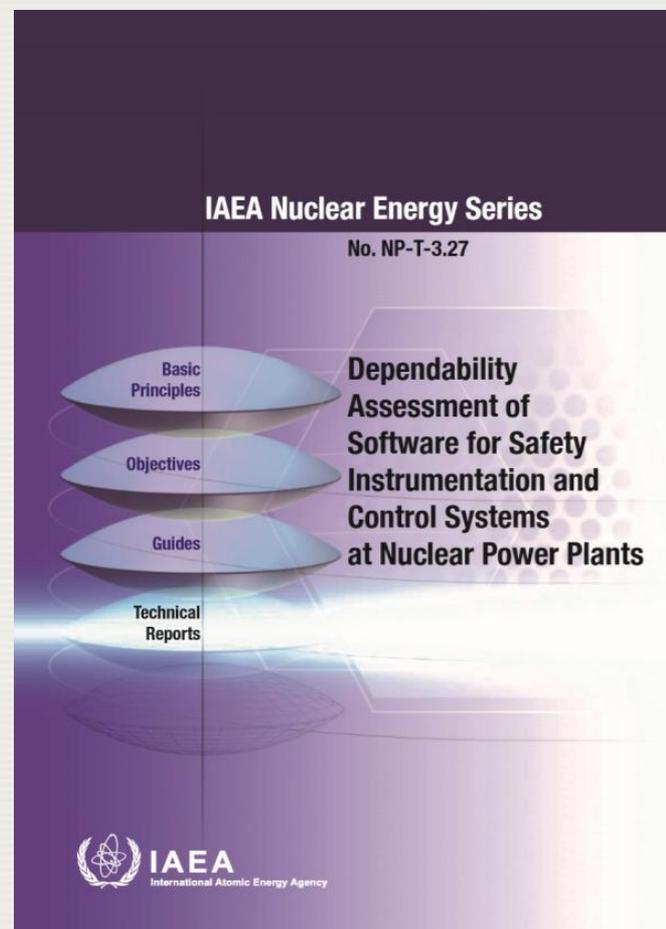
# I&C systems for SMRs

- General SMR objectives and characteristics affecting I&C
  - **Measurement** characteristics specific to advanced SMRs
  - **Operational** characteristics specific to advanced SMRs
  - **Maintainability** characteristics specific to advanced SMRs
  - **Economic** considerations affecting I&C usage
  - **Regulatory** considerations
- Distinctive I&C features and issues
  - Approach to **design**
  - I&C **architecture**, technology and equipment
  - **Fabrication** and site **integration** issues
  - Concepts important for **operation** of SMRs
  - **Maintenance**



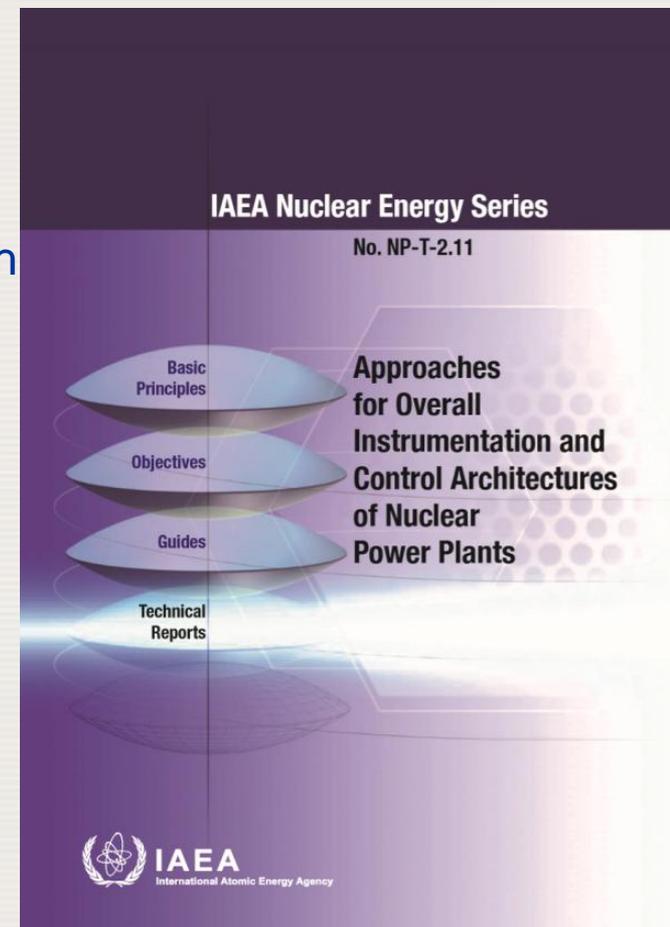
# Issues with software dependability

- The **evaluation** and dependability **assessment** of software important to safety is an essential and difficult aspect of digital systems **safety justification**
- The concern is with detecting and removing **residual design errors**
- These errors might be a **risk** of common-cause failure (CCF) that could defeat redundancy or defence-in-depth
- To provide adequate confidence, extensive **work is under way** worldwide
- A new IAEA publication covers relevant aspects of software **evaluation** and **dependability** assessment



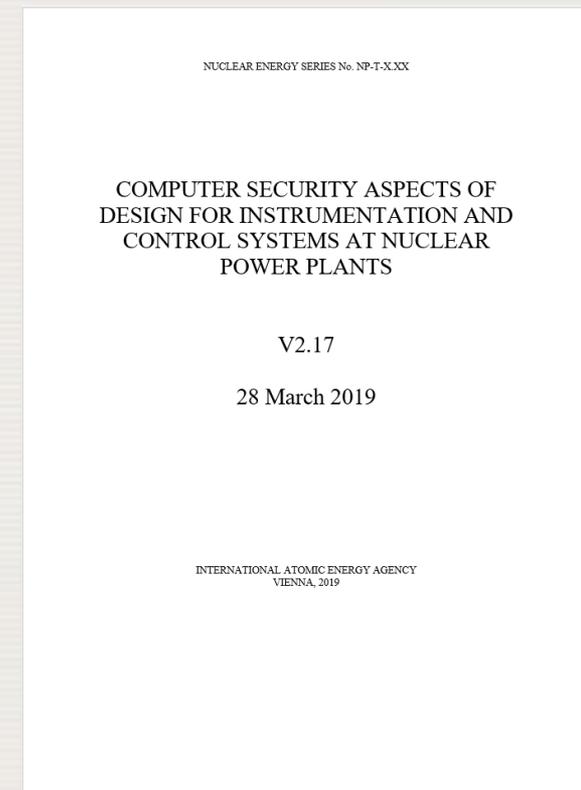
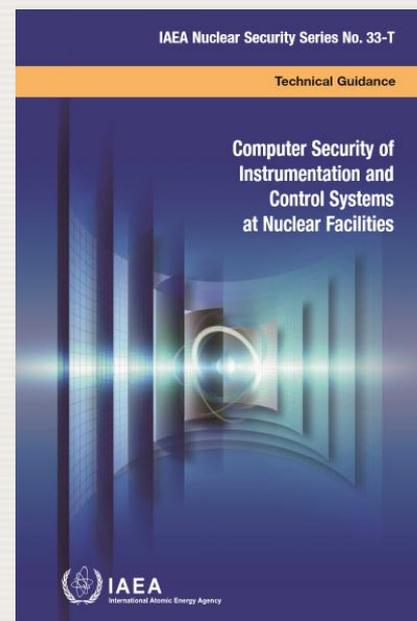
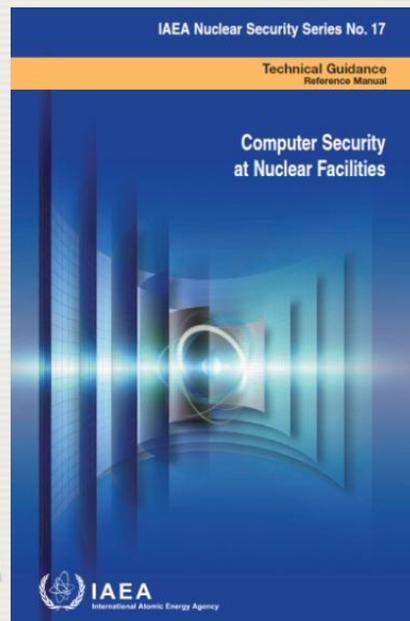
# I&C architectural approaches

- **Description** of overall I&C architectures
- Main overall I&C architecture **principles**
- **Development** of the overall I&C architecture
- Specific **technical considerations** for the design of overall I&C architectures
  - Defence in depth
  - Independence among levels of defence in depth
  - Functional specification for I&C and safety classification of I&C systems
  - Computer security
  - I&C failure postulates
  - Dynamic aspects of overall I&C architectures
  - Features supporting testing and diagnostics
  - Architecture design to facilitate future upgrades and modernization



# Computer security (in printing)

- IAEA guidance aims to overlay security considerations on top of the systems' safety function to meet **safety and security** objectives at the **same time**
  - Key concepts for computer security for NPP I&C systems
  - Risk informed approach to computer security
  - Computer security in the I&C system life cycle



# Human factors engineering vs. I&C design (in final review)

- **Endpoint** vision and planning
- I&C system **design basis**
- HFE **analyses** output supporting I&C design
- HSI **design** process and specification
- HFE in the **procurement** of equipment
- Verification, validation, implementation and operation

IAEA NUCLEAR ENERGY SERIES No. NP-T-X.XX

HUMAN FACTORS ENGINEERING  
ASPECTS OF INSTRUMENTATION  
AND CONTROL SYSTEM DESIGN

V3.6

17 April 2019

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
VIENNA, 2019

# Use of commercial smart devices (in printing)

- **Challenges** associated with commercial industrial digital I&C equipment
- **Strategy** for the justification of commercial industrial I&C equipment
- Justification **process**
- **Maintenance** of justification
- **Regulatory** aspects



IAEA NUCLEAR ENERGY SERIES No. NP-T-X.XX

CHALLENGES AND APPROACHES  
FOR SELECTING, ASSESSING AND  
QUALIFYING COMMERCIAL  
INDUSTRIAL DIGITAL  
INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL  
EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN NUCLEAR  
POWER PLANT APPLICATIONS

V2.25

28 March 2019

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
VIENNA, 2019

# Definition of “smart devices” in IEC 62671

- Key features:
  - **Programmable** electronic device
    - Including, for example, a microprocessor or an FPGA
  - **Limited** functionality
  - Typically **commercial off the shelf**
- IEC 62671

- a) The device is a pre-existing digital device that contains pre-developed software or programmed logic (e.g. an HPD) and is a candidate for use in an application important to safety.
- b) The primary function performed is well-defined and applicable to only one type of application within an I&C system, such as measuring a temperature or pressure, positioning a valve, or controlling speed of a mechanical device, or performing an alarm function.
- c) The primary function performed is conceptually simple and limited in scope (although the manner of accomplishing this internally may be complex).
- d) The device is not designed so that it is re-programmable after manufacturing nor can the device functions be altered in a general way so that it performs a conceptually different function: only pre-defined parameters can be configured by users.
- e) If the primary device function can be tuned or configured, then this capability is restricted to parameters related to the process (such as process range), performance (speed or timing), signal interface adjustment (such as selection of voltage or current range), or gains (such as adjustment of proportional band).

# Key features and challenges for smart devices

- **Increased functionality** compared to non-smart devices
  - E.g. signal processing, communications, diagnostics
- Additional **complexity** of the component, **multifunction**, primary and support functions
- Development to **non-nuclear standards**
  - May need reverse engineering in certain instances
- Potential new **failure modes** and hazards
  - Additional risk of common cause failures
- Frequent **design changes** by manufacturers may cause previous testing to be **invalidated**
  - Unsure of how to evaluate software revision or sub-component changes on previous test data

# Key features and challenges for smart devices (cont'd)

- **Cyber** security
  - New vulnerabilities
  - How to address the potential presence of a virus or malicious code
- **Counterfeit**, fraudulent and suspect items
  - Digital sub-components are highly vulnerable to counterfeiting
- Engagement with **manufacturer**
  - Access to documentation, processes, source code can be problematic
  - Identification of **embedded digital devices** with undeclared content

# Commercial grade dedication

- An **acceptance** process of the **suitability** and **correctness** of commercial industrial I&C equipment for their intended nuclear applications, which should confirm that:
  - They meet the **functional requirements**,
  - Are **free from systematic faults** and
  - No anticipated **external effects** can result in an unsafe operation of their principal functions

# Justification process

- Step 1: Definition of requirements and prerequisites
- Step 2: Selection of candidate devices
- Step 3: Manufacturer information and support
- Step 4: Planning
- Step 5: Assessment
  - Quality assurance, development and manufacturing processes
  - Functional, performance and dependability assessment
  - Vulnerabilities and failure modes assessment
  - **Environmental and seismic qualification**
  - Independent complementary assessment
- Step 6: Identification of lifetime issues
- Step 7: Justification documentation package

# Undeclared digital content

- What is undeclared digital content (UDC)?
  - When a basic component that is being dedicated is **believed** to contain **analog** devices only **contains a digital** device
- Why is the identification of UDC important during the qualification and dedication process?
  - Commercial manufacturers are **constantly updating** their products to include digital content to reduce **cost**, improve **reliability** and increase their **competitive** advantage
  - The commercial manufacturer **may not declare** the change in their literature or marketing materials and may not require a **part number change**, especially when the **form, fit and function** is the same as seen through the commercial viewpoint
  - UDC may introduce **failure modes** that should be **evaluated** during the qualification and dedication process. For example,

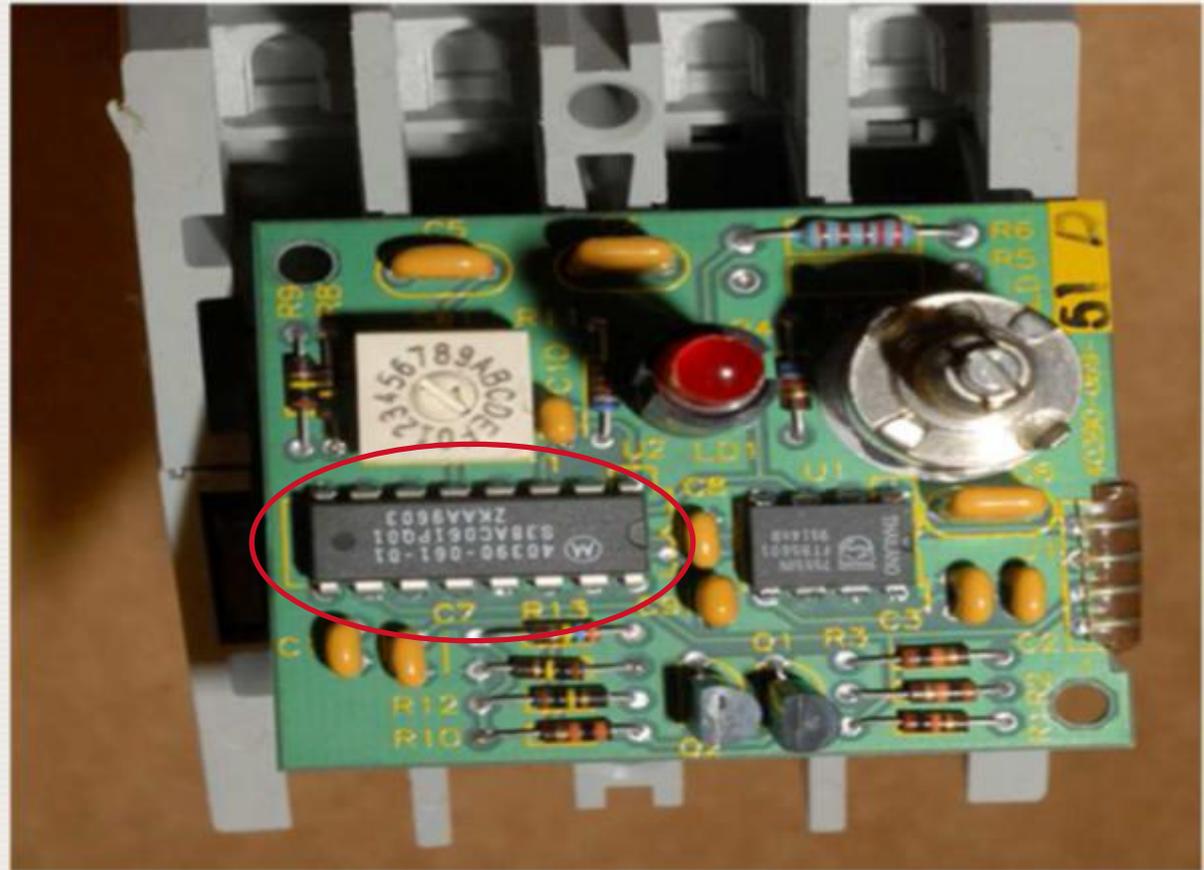


IAEA

- EMI/RFI
- Software change control

# Industry example

- The commercial manufacturer (Allen Bradley) originally designed the 700 series **timing relay** with a digital logic board that had a custom integrated circuit



# Industry example (cont'd)

- As technology improved, the custom IC was replaced with a **CPLD board** which contained a “**programmable**” integrated circuit chip. This chip is programmed at the **factory** prior to installation in the relay



## Industry example (cont'd)

- The change in the relay was **not discovered** since it was not visible during dedication
- The new CPLD chip was **susceptible to EMI** and **failed** in the plant
- If a component with UDC causes a failure in the plant, the **cost** is extremely high
- It is cheaper by **orders of magnitude** to do the evaluation **up front** then to deal with a problem after installation
- Requires EMI/RFI testing and FMEA evaluation/test program to complete dedication

# How to detect if a component may contain UDC

- By carefully reviewing product **literature** for **key words** or **standards** reference
  - Any device with any of the following **key words** in the description, datasheet, manual or catalog literature:
    - Programmable
    - Configurable
    - Timer
    - Controller
    - Solid state
    - Wireless
    - SMART
    - External connection (i.e.; USB, Ethernet port)
- All items identified as high risk may need a **destructive** test sample that is **torn down** to inspect for UDC

# Conclusion for the application of COTS

- Use of COTS digital devices is important in maintaining and operating our plants in a safe and reliable manner
- Digital content may change over time within a product due to availability and technology development
- Components that have been previously qualified and dedicated may contain undeclared digital content
  - Clearly identify the application for which a smart device is needed
  - Assess whether a non-smart device option is possible
  - Consider the justification of the device in the context of the overall I&C architecture
    - Identify failure modes associated with the device
    - Assess whether there are common cause constraints in the selection of the device

# Coordinated Research Projects



**IAEA**

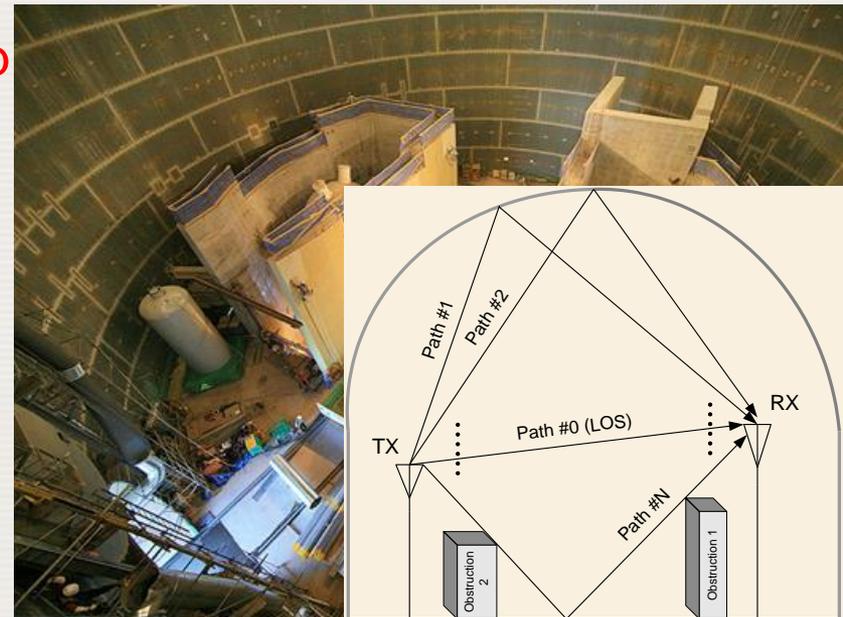
International Atomic Energy Agency

# Coordinated Research Projects

- CRPs in general
  - The Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) bring together **research institutes** in Member States to collaborate on research topics of **common interest**
  - Research is supported when it addresses areas where **coordination by the IAEA** would provide significant added value or represents a unique contribution
  - Results of research activities supported by the Agency are **disseminated to all Member States**
- CRP contract or agreement
- Chief Scientific Investigators (CSIs)
- Research Coordination Meetings (3 to 4 years)
- CRP Report and Benchmarking

# Application of wireless technologies in NPP I&C systems

- The technology is finding its way in a wider scope of applications in the nuclear power industry
  - Saving **cable** costs and installation time
  - Increased **flexibility of information gathering** through temporary sensor deployment
- IAEA coordinated research project conducted during 2015 to 2018
  - The overall objective was to **develop and demonstrate** techniques of advanced wireless communication in I&C systems of NPPs that can be used for transferring process and diagnostic information in a **nuclear specific environment**



# Research coordination meeting at RASU



# Research coordination meeting at RASU



# CRP report on wireless technologies (in printing)

- Codes, standards and regulatory guides
- Wireless **technologies** for nuclear applications
  - Components of a wireless sensor
  - RF communication considerations
  - Energy source considerations
  - Nuclear specific considerations
- Practice, experience and lessons learned
- Potential applications
- **Emerging** technologies and challenges
  - Wireless communication through existing **apertures** in walls and doors
  - Electromagnetic **propagation estimation** using ray tracing methods
  - Electromagnetic **non-line of sight** propagation
  - **Optimum polarization** wireless communication
  - Wireless **power** transfer
- 10 annexes on specific details of the research

IAEA NUCLEAR ENERGY SERIES No. D-NP-T-3.1y.zz

(DRAFT V3.18)

APPLICATION OF WIRELESS  
TECHNOLOGIES IN NUCLEAR  
POWER PLANT INSTRUMENTATION  
AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

5 February 2019

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
VIENNA, 2019

# Publications from the Nuclear Safety and Security Department

## Safety:

- Safety Guides
  - SSG-39 **Design of I&C systems** for nuclear power plants (2016)
  - SSG-51 **Human Factors Engineering** for nuclear power plants (exp. 2019)
  - DS514 **Equipment qualification** for nuclear installations (exp. 2020)
- TECDOCs
  - Assessment of **Equipment Capability** to Perform Reliably Under **Severe Accident** Conditions (2017)
  - Criteria for **Diverse actuation Systems** for Nuclear Power Plants (2018)

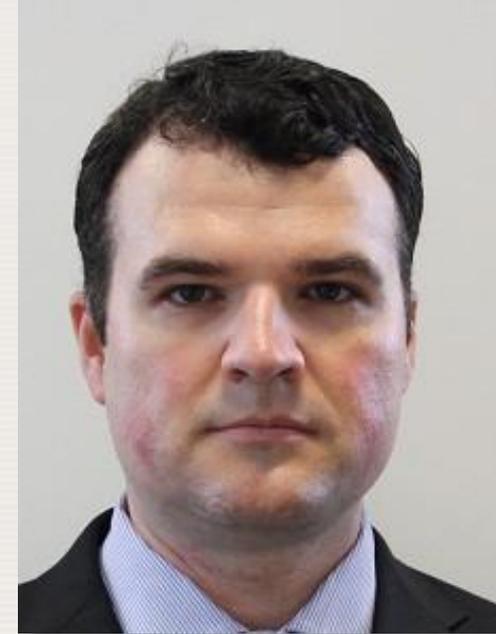


**Alex Duchac**

# Publications from the Nuclear Safety and Security Department

## Security:

- NSS 33-T: Computer security **for I&C systems** at nuclear facilities (2018)
- NST045: Computer security **for nuclear security** (exp. 2019)
- NST047: Computer security **techniques for nuclear facilities** (exp. 2019)



**Mike Rowland**

# Links to access IAEA publications on I&C

- For Nuclear Energy I&C webpage
  - <https://www.iaea.org/topics/operation-and-maintenance/instrumentation-and-control-systems-for-nuclear-power-plants>
- For Nuclear Energy I&C publications
  - <https://www.iaea.org/topics/operation-and-maintenance/instrumentation-and-control-systems-for-nuclear-power-plants/iaea-publications>
- For all Nuclear Energy Series publications
  - <https://www.iaea.org/publications/search/type/nuclear-energy-series>
- IAEA publications in general
  - <https://www.iaea.org/publications>

# Review Missions



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

# IERICS missions

- IERICS: Independent Engineering Review of Instrumentation and Control Systems
  - To **review** the design, prototype, testing, operation, maintenance, and modernization of I&C systems
  - Conducted by a team of **international experts** from complementary technical areas
  - Based on appropriate **IAEA documents**, such as Safety Guides and Nuclear Energy Series Reports
  - Findings include a list of **recommendations**, **suggestions** and identified **good practices**
- IERICS mission website: <https://www.iaea.org/services/review-missions/independent-engineering-review-of-ic-systems-ierics>
- A forthcoming mission is considered by **Iran**

# IERICS missions completed to date

- Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co., RoK, 2010
- Research and Production Corporation Radiy, Ukraine, 2010
- Joint Stock Company VNIIAES, Russia, 2012
- Joint Stock Company SRPA “Impulse”, Ukraine, 2013
- China Techenergy Co. Ltd., China, 2016
- China Nuclear Control System Engineering Co. Ltd., China, 2016



# IERICS mission at VNIIAES in 2012

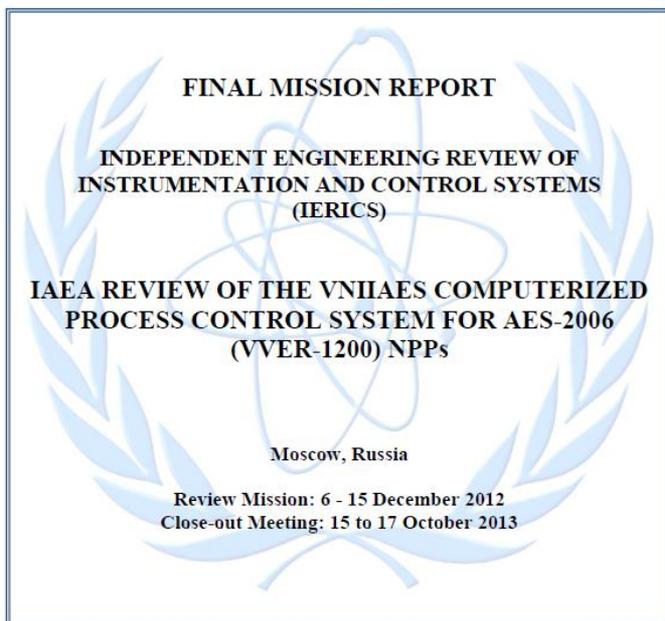


# VNIIAES IERICS mission final report



IERICS-RUS-2013  
Final version  
Original: English  
Distribution: Restricted

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY



INDEPENDENT ENGINEERING REVIEW OF  
INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS  
(IERICS)

IAEA REVIEW OF THE VNIIAES COMPUTERIZED PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM  
FOR AES-2006 (VVER-1200) NPPs

IAEA DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY  
DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER

IERICS Mission of the VNIIAES Computerized  
Process Control System for AES-2006 (VVER-1200) NPPs

IERICS-RUS-2013  
MR. VI

## FINAL MISSION REPORT

### INDEPENDENT ENGINEERING REVIEW OF INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (IERICS)

#### IAEA REVIEW OF THE VNIIAES COMPUTERIZED PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR AES-2006 (VVER-1200) NPPs



REPORT TO  
Joint Stock Company "VNIIAES"

Review Mission: 6 to 15 December 2012  
Close-out Meeting: 15 to 17 October 2013  
Moscow, Russia

# Possible cooperation between IAEA and WANO



## WANO involvement to the digital I&C issues solutions: new tasks announced at BGM-2017



- Importance of digital I&C challenges was highlighted several times at BGM-2017 in Republic of Korea
- All new NPP Units and Units under modernization are mainly based on digital I&C
- This enhancement of the level of NPP automation brings new challenges for NPP operational safety performance
- Reliability of digital I&C has direct influence on reliability, effectiveness and safety of the NPP operation
- Assessment of digital I&C from the point of view of their influence on reliable and safe operation of NPP could be a new and very significant task of WANO performance (in possible cooperation with IAEA)



Slide: courtesy of V. Sivokon



# Major events planned for 2019

- 27th Meeting of the **Technical Working Group** on Nuclear Power Plant Instrumentation and Control, 15-17 May 2019, Vienna, Austria
  - Technical meeting on “Critical **Challenges with Digital** Instrumentation and Control Systems at Nuclear Power Plants”, 8-11 October 2019, Budapest, Hungary
  - Eastern European **Regional I&C Workshop**, 19-22 November 2019, Bucharest, Romania
  - Technical Meeting on “Management of **Direct Current Power Systems** and Application of Digital Devices in Safety Electrical Power Systems”, 2-6 December 2019, Vienna, Austria
- 
- 12th International Workshop on the **Application of FPGAs** in NPPs, 14-16 October 2019, Budapest, Hungary
  - World Nuclear Association’s Technical Workshop on **Current Status and Difficulties** of I&C **Modernization**, 29-31 October 2019,



IAEA

Erlangen, Germany

**Thank you for your attention!**



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

# Nuclear Energy Series published 2008-2018

1. Approaches for overall I&C architectures of nuclear power plants
2. Dependability assessment of software for safety I&C systems at NPPs
3. Instrumentation and control systems for advanced SMRs
4. Application of Field Programmable Gate Arrays
5. Technical Challenges in the Application and Licensing of Digital Instrumentation and Control
6. Accident Monitoring Systems for Nuclear Power Plants
7. Advanced Surveillance, Diagnostic and Prognostic Techniques in Monitoring SSCs
8. Electric Grid Reliability and Interface with NPPs
9. Assessing and Managing Cable Ageing in NPPs
10. Core Knowledge of Instrumentation and Control Systems
11. Integration of Analog and Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems in Hybrid Control Rooms
12. Protecting Against Common Cause Failures
13. Implementing Digital I&C Systems in the Modernization of Nuclear Power Plants
14. The Role of I&C Systems in Power Upgrading Projects
15. On-line Monitoring for Improving Performance of Nuclear Power Plants; Part 2: Process and Component Condition Monitoring and Diagnostics
16. On-line Monitoring for Improving Performance of Nuclear Power Plants; Part 1: Instrument Channel Monitoring

# Latest IAEA Technical Documents (TECDOC) 1998-2016

- Preparing and Conducting **Review Missions** of Instrumentation and Control Systems in Nuclear Power Plants
- Management of **life cycle and ageing** at nuclear power plants: Improved I&C maintenance
- **Managing modernization** of nuclear power plant I&C systems
- Solutions for Cost Effective **Assessment of Software Based I&C Systems** in Nuclear Power Plants
- **Harmonization** of the **Licensing Process** for Digital I&C Systems in Nuclear Power Plants
- **Information Integration** in Control Rooms and Technical Offices in Nuclear Power Plants
- Assessment and **management of ageing** of major nuclear power plant components important to safety: In-containment instrumentation and control **cables**
- **Management of Ageing** of I&C Equipment in NPPs
- Specification of **Requirements for Upgrades** Using Digital Instrument and Control Systems
- **Modernization** of Instrumentation and Control in NPPs

# IAEA Technical Report Series (TRS) 1984-2000

- **Quality Assurance for Software** Important Safety
- **Modern Instrumentation and Control** for Nuclear Power Plants: A Guidebook
- **Verification and Validation of Software** Related to Nuclear Power Plant Instrumentation and Control
- Development and Implementation of **Computerized Operator Support Systems** in Nuclear Installations
- **Software Important to Safety** in Nuclear Power Plants
- Nuclear Power Plant **Instrumentation and Control: A Guidebook**