



# **Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Network on Innovation to Support Operating Nuclear Power Plants**

**IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria**  
and virtual participation via Microsoft Teams

**21–24 April 2026**

**Ref. No.: EVT2403324**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

Nuclear power remains a cornerstone of global energy systems, delivering reliable low-carbon electricity that supports climate objectives and energy security. Today, more than 415 operating reactors provide roughly 10% of the world's electricity and underpin grid stability.

Since the ISOP Network was launched, the drivers for innovation have shifted. The focus has moved beyond economic survival to meeting rapidly growing electricity demand driven by data centers and digital infrastructure, while maintaining the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. This is reshaping strategies across the sector: permanently shut down reactors are being restarted, suspended new-build projects are resuming, and Member States are exploring accelerated deployment pathways.

Innovation is now essential to enable performance improvement, life extension and rapid capacity addition. These goals require technical, process and organizational innovations to ensure timely and repeatable implementation. ISOP, established on the IAEA CONNECT platform in 2019, provides a global collaborative framework to share proven approaches, identify emerging opportunities and accelerate adoption of innovations that strengthen the sustainability and resilience of nuclear power.

With the future of the Global Forum for Nuclear Innovation (GFNI) uncertain, ISOP is positioned to play an even more critical role by fostering international cooperation and delivering practical solutions to meet

the evolving needs of the nuclear industry. Decisions taken by the Steering Committee will shape ISOP's priorities for 2026–2029, guide IAEA support to Member States, and determine how the Network accelerates innovation that directly contributes to plant performance, life extension and capacity addition.

#### ISOP achievements since 2023

- Network growth and engagement
  - Four active working groups: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Drones, Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced Instrumentation and Controls.
  - 750 experts engaging via LinkedIn, 325 via IAEA CONNECT, 250 actively contributing through Microsoft Teams.
  - All three engagement platforms have grown from zero since 2023.
  - Awards programme and Use Case library.
- Collaboration and outputs
  - Expanded use-case library and cross-organization knowledge sharing.
  - Joint activities with partners and alignment with relevant international conferences and forums.
  - Increased participation from operating organizations, regulators, TSOs and academia.
- Adoption and impact
  - Early deployment examples across AI-enabled analytics, robotics for inspection, additive manufacturing for qualified components, and modernized I&C strategies.
  - Improved pathways for repeatable adoption, including templates, guidance and peer reviews.

## Objectives

The purpose of the event is to consider the activities of the International Network on Innovation to Support Operating Nuclear Power Plants since the Steering Committee kick-off meeting in April 2023; to review the network's mission, vision and strategy; and to develop actionable recommendations for the IAEA's consideration.

Specifically, participants will:

- Be invited to share innovation highlights since 2023 via brief presentations.
- Working group specific reports will be shared via brief presentations.
- Confirm their interest to serve on the ISOP Steering Committee for another term.
- Review the Network's mission, vision and strategy in light of the changing demand profile and Member State needs.
- Assess progress since April 2023 and agree measurable priorities for 2026–2029.
- Endorse an implementation plan that accelerates innovation adoption across the operating fleet, new builds and long-term operation.
- Confirm ISOP's approach to partnerships given GFNI's uncertain future.
- Endorse the Platform Integration Proof-of-Concept (POC) to streamline member experience across LinkedIn, IAEA CONNECT and Microsoft Teams.
- Endorse the Innovation Awards programme and Use Case library.

## Target Audience

The event targets active members of the ISOP network, primarily those active in steering committee activities, but also active members of at least one ISOP working group. This group comprises diverse representatives of operating organizations, regulatory bodies, research organizations, academia, policy makers, academia, standards organizations and others supporting the operating fleet of nuclear power plants.

## Working Language(s)

English.

## Expected Outputs

Participants will develop a report assessing:

- the work of the Network in general and steering committee in particular, since April 2023 and future plans for 2026-2029
  - innovation awards programme
  - use case library
  - partnerships and partnership events; lessons learned and future plans where appropriate
    - Global Forum for Nuclear Innovation (GFNI-2019, -2022 and -2024) | EPRI, OECD/NEA, UK/NNL
    - International Conference on Disruptive, Innovative and Emerging Technologies (DIET-4, -5 and -6) | Canadian Nuclear Society
    - RegLab (2024, 2025) | OECD/NEA and Canadian Nuclear Society
    - International Conference on NPP Plant Lifetime Management (PLiM-6, 2026) | IAEA
    - Nuclear Innovation Conference (NIC 2024) | NRG Petten
  - pan-Agency cooperation
- support of working groups [*insights of working group needs and perspectives from working group representatives participating in the discussion*]
  - topics to be considered for new working groups
  - inter-working group engagement
  - steering committee—working group interaction (vertical)
- member engagement and engagement platforms
  - MS Teams
  - Connect
  - LinkedIn

The report will conclude with endorsements of specific activities and plans and/or summary observations and linked recommendations to strengthen or otherwise improve the network.

## Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **6 March 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
  - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
  - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
  - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
  - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
  - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org));
  - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
  - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
  - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
  - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **6 March 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency’s Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA’s scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA’s mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

## Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **6 March 2026**.

## Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

[www.iaea.org/events](http://www.iaea.org/events).

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

## Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

## Additional Requirements

Nominated participants will be required to demonstrate some engagement with the ISOP Network since the April 2023 Steering Committee meeting. Observers without ISOP Network engagement experience will be considered, provided they participate virtually or in person, but at their own cost.

## IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

## Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

[www.iaea.org/events/EVT2403324](http://www.iaea.org/events/EVT2403324)