## IAEA INTERNATIONAL CENTRES BASED ON RESEARCH REACTORS (ICERR): A NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST MEMBER STATES EMBARKING IN NUCLEAR PROGRAMMES

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The new IAEA initiative on International CEntres based on Research Reactors (ICERR) is intended to help Member States gain timely access to relevant infrastructure based on RR facilities to achieve the nuclear R&D and capacity building objectives relevant to their identified national priorities. ICERRs will be highly experienced organizations/institutions which operate RRs and ancillary facilities according to international standards and that can demonstrate sound experience in hosting nuclear R&D projects and capacity building activities that involve significant international/regional participation. According to the concept being developed, these facilities, upon request and assessment, will be recognized by the IAEA as ICERRs. Through the ICERR initiative, the IAEA aims to improve accessibility and enhance utilization of existing RR facilities while offering an additional contribution, different but complementary to other IAEA activities, in support of Member States in need of developing relevant nuclear capabilities.