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Converter targets for high power spallation neutron sources

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The last decade has seen the commissioning and operation of two spallation neutron source facilities, SNS and J-SNS, where the mercury neutron converter targets receive pulsed proton beams in the MW range. The European Spallation Source planning first neutrons for 2019 has been exploring a range of targets and is converging towards the choice of a baseline target and a back-up solution. This paper presents the target selection process, describing requirements for an ESS target and outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the various neutron converter targets considered.

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