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Main Control Room: Upgrade Measures in Preparation for FAIR Phase 0

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The existing GSI Main Control Room (MCR) is used for the accelerator complex operation since 20 years. In this time no major updates to its equipment and layout have been done. As its design, size and functionality cannot meet the requirements for running the upcoming FAIR accelerator facility, the planning for a modern fully digital control room is presently ongoing. The construction of a new building is planned for around 2020. However, the research program for FAIR Phase 0 is to be carried out at GSI next year. The main challenge of Phase 0 is operation of all machines, except UNILAC, with a new control system. The old console design is not suitable for that. In order to be prepared for the digitization and the move to the FAIR-MCR, it was decided to modify the existing control room and make it ready to test the console prototypes for the future FAIR-MCR in operation already next year. The upgrade project, the progress and the challenges of dismantling the analogue technology without limiting the functionality for the operation are presented here.

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