

DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVED COUPLING EXPERIMENTS ON ZERO-POWER FACILITIES

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EuCard², Status of ADS Research and Technology
Development, CERN, 7-9 Feb. 2017

- ***Needs and interest for coupling experiments on ZPR***
- ***Brief review of worldwide initiatives***
- ***The very first tests (1994-1998) : FEAT, MUSE 1 & 2***
- ***MUSE-3***
- ***The MUSE-4 /GUINEVERE/FREYA suite***
- ***The YALINA-B experiment***
- ***Activities in KURRI/KUCA***
- ***Others programs***
- ***Conclusions***

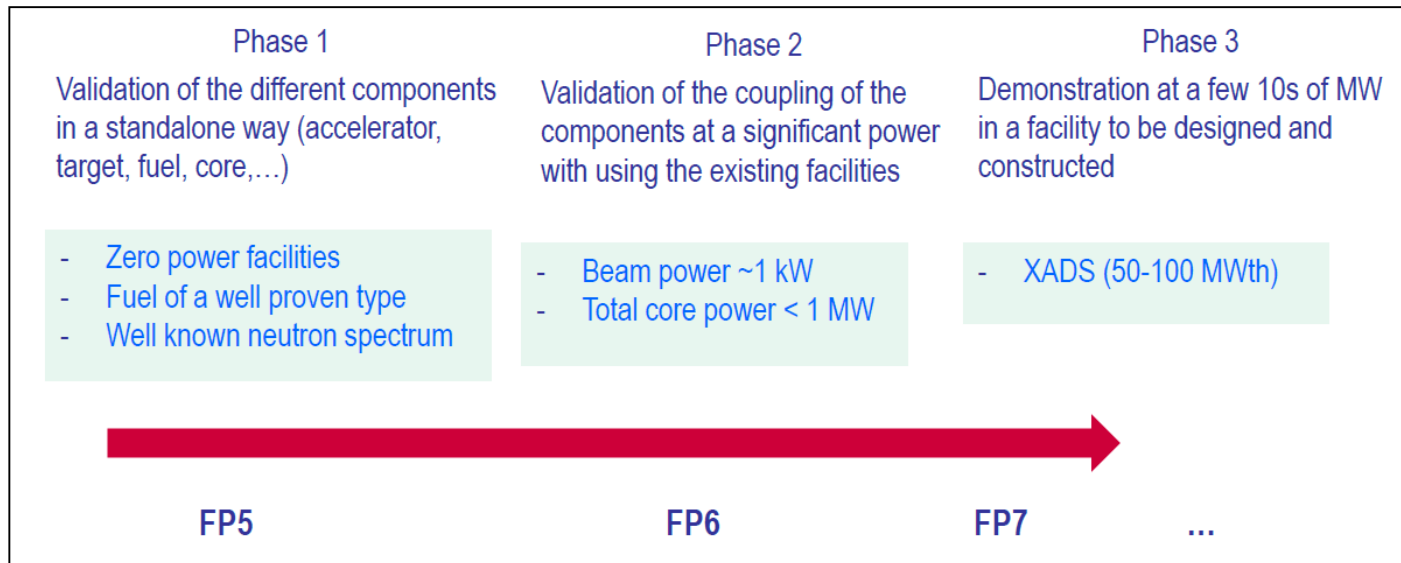
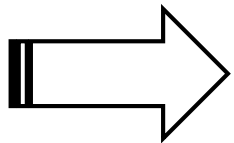
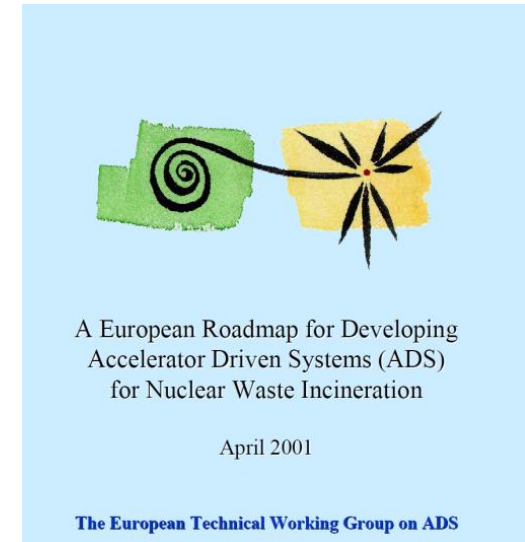
Out of scope: experiments involving accelerators and heavy metal blankets (U, Pb, W, ...) (with the exception of FEAT)

And sorry for the oversights if any !

Background

- **ADSs present many challenges**
 - *accelerator,*
 - *spallation module,*
 - *subcritical core, fuel and fuel cycle,*
 - *operation, safety, licensing*

- **Roadmap for developing ADSs in EU**



Interest of zero power facilities

■ **Flexibility**

- many cores arrangements possible
- moving from one configuration to another needs some days/weeks

■ **Very low power**

- absence of thermal effects
- no consumption of fuel
- no major radioprotection issues
- no build-up of fission products
- no pressurized fluid circuits

■ **Limited maintenance and operating costs**

→ parametric studies

→ well mastered experimental conditions

→ easy to instrument (the fissile zones too)

→ wide range of measurements

→ appropriate for validation of both nuclear data and calculation methods

→ also relevant for evaluation of new experimental techniques and analysis methods

Main physics concerns of ADSs that can be addressed on ZPRs

■ **Proton beam/Spallation target device**

- *properties of radiation fields around the target depending on the beam energy, the materials of the target (Pb, Pb-Bi, W, Ta, U), its geometry, ...*

■ **Coupling of external neutron source with the subcritical core**

- *spatial and energy distribution of neutrons into the core,*
- *time evolution of neutron population depending on the position*
- *source importance as a function of neutron energies, source position, ...*

■ **Safe operating of the system**

- *reactivity calibration at core loading and beginning of cycle*
- *monitoring of the reactivity during operation*

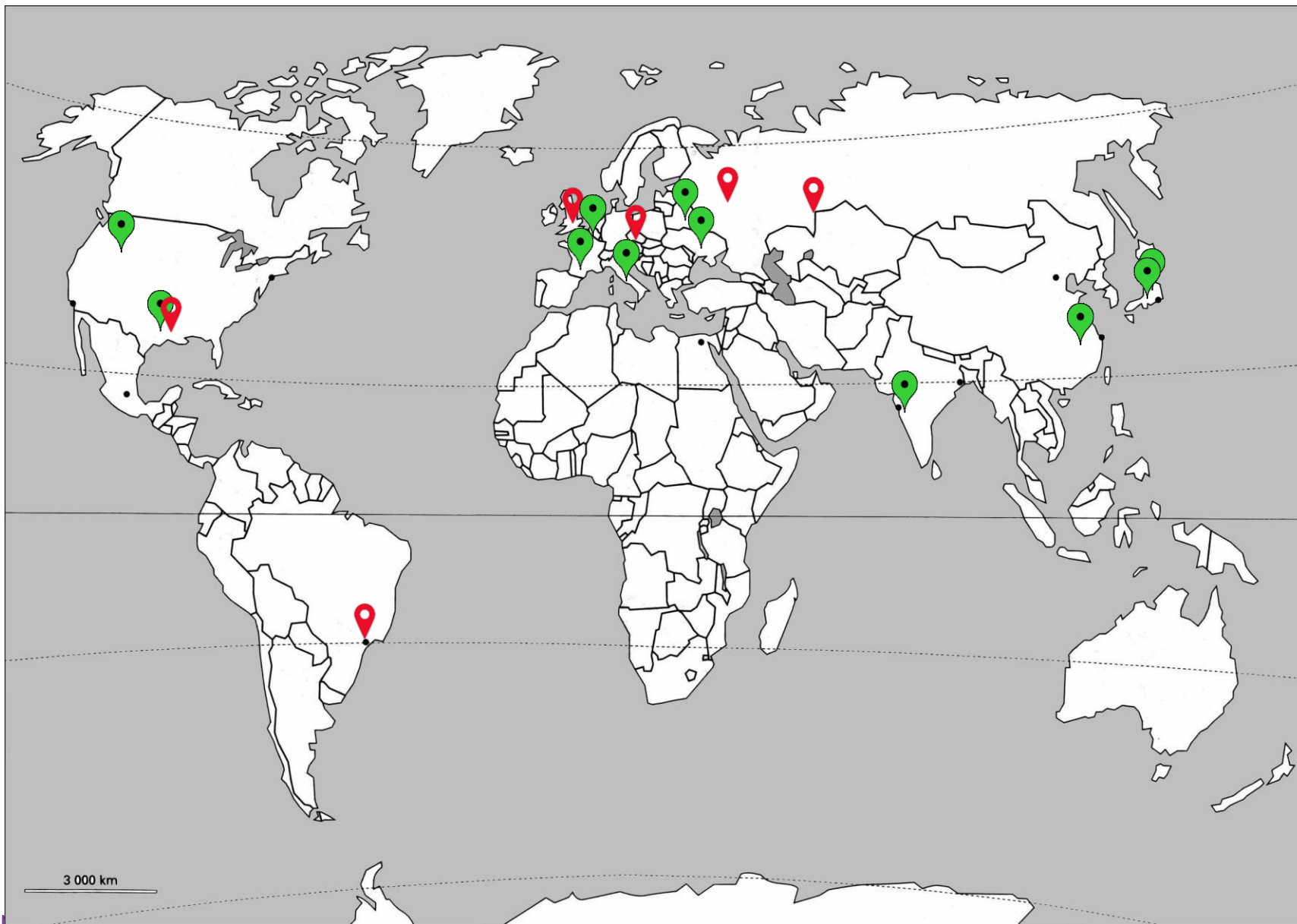
■ **Improvement of nuclear data (neutron cross sections > 20 MeV)**

- *reaction rate distribution*

■ **Evaluation/validation of calculation methods**

- *benchmarking on codes and ND libraries*

BRIEF REVIEW OF INITIATIVES WORLD-WIDE



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Opportunity Study

- Czech: **LA-0 project**
- Russia: **ADS facility at Institute of Nuclear Research**
- U.K.: **Reconversion of CONSORT reactor**

Project outline

- Brazil: **Proposal of a National Program on ADS R&D including coupling experiments at IPEN-MB-01 reactor**

Large project stopped prematurely

- Italy: **TRADE plus project**
- Russia: **SAD project**
- USA: **RACE project**

Very first test

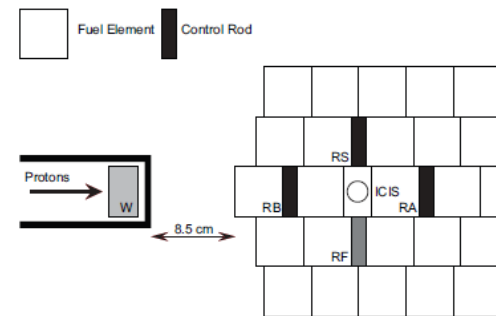
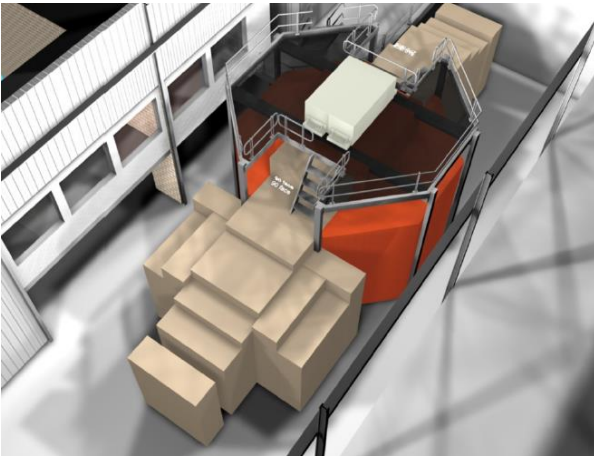
- Switzerland (FEAT), France (MUSE-1/2)

Low power experiment achieved

- Belarus (**YALINA-B**), Belgium (**GUINEVERE/FREYA**), Brazil (**IPEN-MB 01**), China (**VENUS-1**), France (**MUSE-3/4**), India (**Purnima-BRAHMMA**), Italy (**RACE-T experiments**), Japan (**experiments at KURRI/KUCA & FCA**), USA (**RACE-LP**)

■ Opportunity study / Project outline

- **Czech Republic:** *Proposal for a molten fluoride salt experimental loop in the LR-0 research reactor and further coupling with protons and a W target (LA-0 project, mid 1990s)*
- **Russia:** *Proposal of an ADS stand of ~5 MWth using INR linear proton accelerator (300-600 MeV, some 100 μ A), W or Pb-bi targets, LEU, (early 2010s)*
- **United Kingdom:** *Reconversion of CONSORT reactor (100 kW) in an experimental subcritical facility (early 2010s)*



Schematic drawing of the subcritical driven core

CONSORT reactor

■ Opportunity study / Project outline

- **Brazil:**

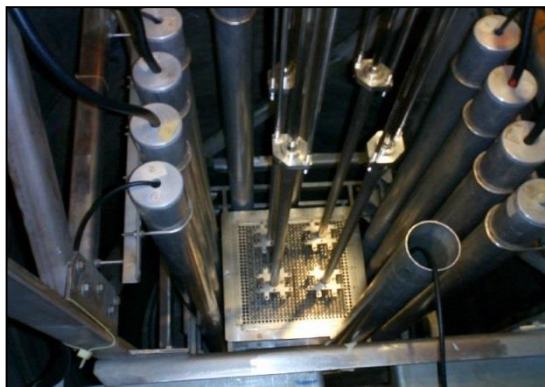
Sketch of a National ADS R&D Program (early 2000s)

Idea of coupling IPEN-MB 01 critical assembly with

1- a D-D/D-T neutron generator developed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory)

2- a cyclotron (IPEN CV-28) delivering 24 MeV protons impinging a Be target

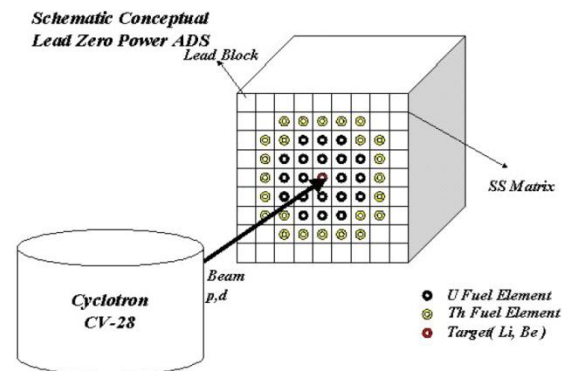
Conceptual design of a lead subcritical core using U/Th fuel



View of IPEN-MB-01 core



View of IPEN CV-28



■ *Large project stopped prematurely*

Italy / TRADE plus

Russia / SAD

USA / RACE-HP

Intermediate power coupling experiments

Necessary for gaining experience with the operating of ADSs

Core powers in the range 20 – 100 kW for all

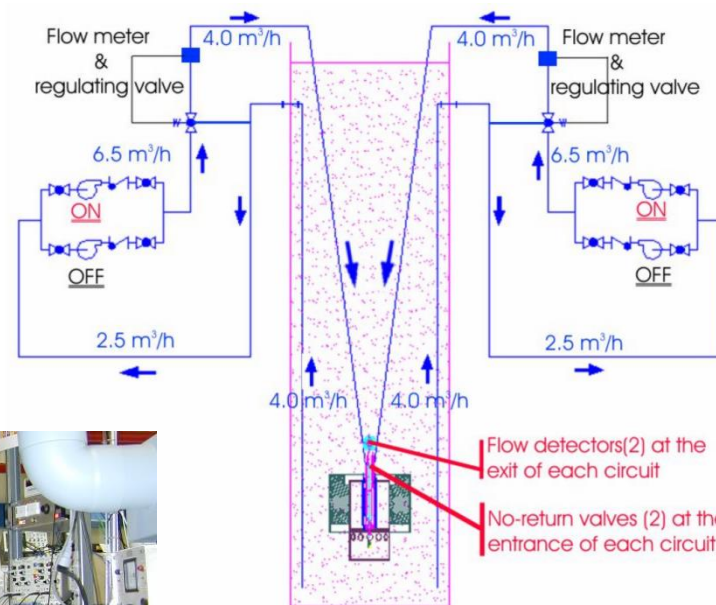
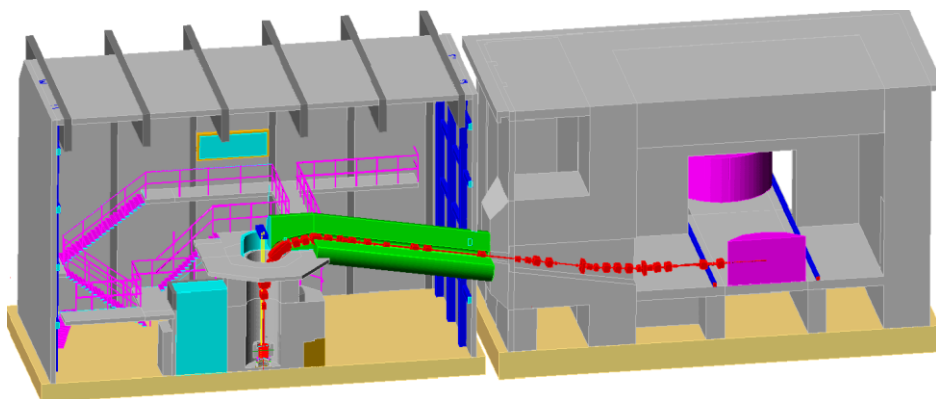
k_{eff} ranging from 0,95 to 0,99

Abandoned by lack of funding

Project stopped prematurely

- Italy / TRADE plus project (2001 - 2005 / FP6 IP-Eurotrans)

- 150 MeV protons (cyclotron) (0.1 mA beam current)
- Ta target
- EXISTING thermal core (ENEA RC-1 TRIGA reactor)



- Pre-TRADE experiments achieved using Am-Be source and D-D/D-T generator (2004-2006)



■ Project stopped prematurely

- **Russia / SAD project (2000 – 2006 / ISTC#2267 + support of EU partners)**

- EXISTING 660 MeV protons from JINR-Dubna phasotron (some μA)
- Pb target (air cooled)
- fast subcritical core (MOX fuel),

SAD closest system from power ADS



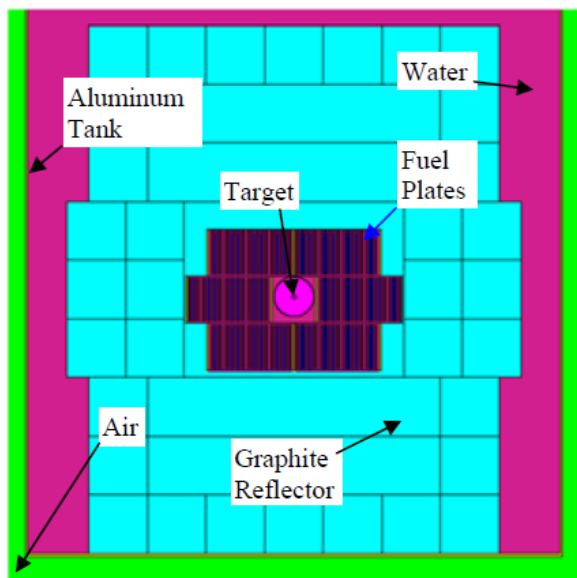
Dubna proton accelerator

SAD Basic data

k_{eff}	~0,95
Fuel loading	< 420 kg
Fission power	27,6 kW
Cooling	air
Core	
Coolant flow rate, G	~ 0,6 kg/s
velocity, v	10 m/s
Pressure, P (inlet)	0,12-0,135 MPa
Temperature, T (inlet, outlet)	50/96 °C
Target (Pb)	
Coolant flow rate, G	~ 0,0067 kg/s
Velocity, v	50 m/s
Pressure, P (inlet)	0,12-0,135 MPa
Temperature, T (inlet, outlet)	50/125 °C

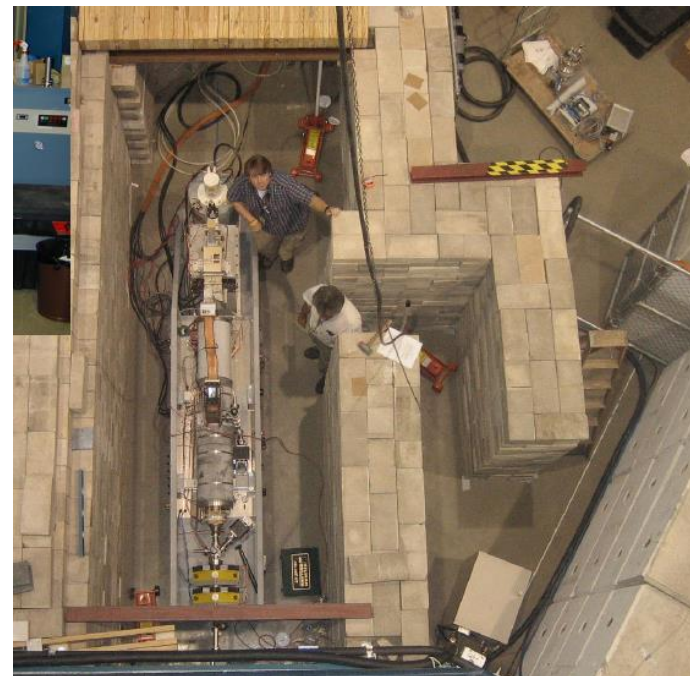
■ Project stopped prematurely

- USA / RACE-HP (High power) (2003 - 2007 / AFCI + Mou IP-Eurotrans)



IAC full core configuration

- EXISTING 20 MeV electrons (portable LINAC)
(80-100 mA beam current => 2 kW max.)
- Prototype W-Cu target (water cooled)
- EXISTING thermal cores (UT NETL & TAMU TRIGA) reactors



LINAC in place at UT NETL TRIGA

- zero power experiments achieved at ISU-IAC (RACE-LP).
Main outcome: PNS techniques are applicable with an e⁻ LINAC
- very preliminary experiments at UT-NETL at low core power
(< 100 W) (many operational problems to solve)

■ Low power experiments completed

Country	Project	Period	Facility	Operator	Type of facility	Core	Neutron source
Belarus	Yalina-Thermal	2000 - 2005	YALINA	JIPNR	Subcritical assembly (keff < 0,98)	Thermal	252Cf, Am-Be, D-D/D-T generator (NG-12-1)
	Yalina-Booster	2005 - 2008				Fast/Thermal	
Belgium	GUINEVERE, FREYA	2006 - 2016	VENUS-F	SCK	Zero power critical assembly	Fast	Am-Be, D-D/D-T generator (GENEPI 3C)
★ Brazil	-	2014	IPEN-MB-01	IPEN	Zero power critical assembly	Thermal	Am-Be
China	NBRPC	2005 -	VENUS-1	CIAE	Subcritical assembly (keff < 0,98)	Fast/Thermal	²⁵² Cf, Am-Be, D-D/D-T generator (CIAE PNG)
France	MUSE-1	1995	MASURCA	CEA	Zero power critical assembly	Fast	²⁵² Cf
	MUSE-2	1996					²⁵² Cf
	MUSE-3	1998					D-T generator (Sodern Genie 26)
	MUSE-4	1999 - 2004					D-D/D-T generator (GENEPI 1)
India	-	2013 -	PURMINA BRAHMMA	BARC	Subcritical assembly (keff ~ 0,85 - 0,9)	Thermal	D-D/D-T generator (BARC PNG)
Italy	TRADE phase I (RACE-T)	2004 - 2006	ENEA RC-1	ENEA	TRIGA (1 MW MarkII)	Thermal	²⁵² Cf Commercial D-T generator
★ Japan	FCA XX1-1	2001	FCA	JAEA	Zero power critical assembly	Fast	²⁵² Cf + W test zone
Japan	KART, Lab project	2002 -	KUCA	KURRI	Zero power critical assembly	Thermal	D-D/D-T generator 100 MeV protons / W target
USA	RACE	2004 - 2007	ISU subcritical assembly	ISU-IAC, UNLV, UT,	Subcritical assembly (keff ~0,90)	Thermal	20-25 MeV electrons (LINAC) + W-Cu target
			UT NETL	TAMU	TRIGA (1 MW Mark II)	Thermal	

- ***The very first tests : FEAT, MUSE-1 & 2***
- ***MUSE-3***
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- ***Others programs***

THE BEGINNINGS : FEAT, MUSE-1/2

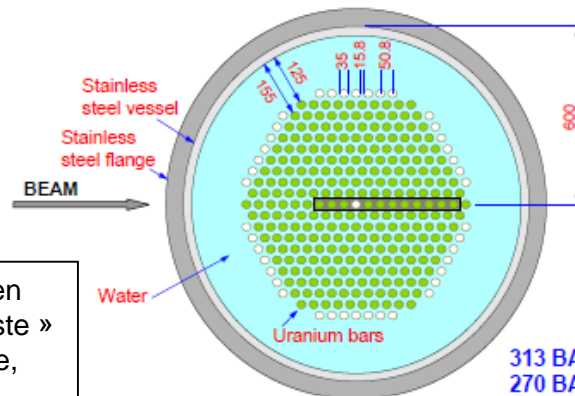
■ FEAT : First Energy Amplifier Test (1994 / CERN)

- Objectives:

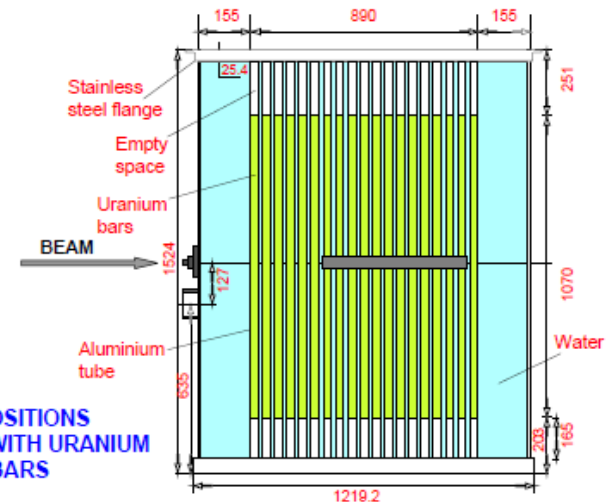
- Study the Energy gain as a function of proton energy
- Validate Monte Carlo simulation

- Set-up:

- 3.5 tons of U_{nat} immersed in water
- $k_{\infty} = 0.97$, $k_{\text{source}} \sim 0.91$
- Proton beam from CERN PS accelerator
- Proton energy in the range 0.5 - 3 GeV, 10^8 p/s
- Beam power ~ 1 W
- Target : Pb, W



313 BAR POSITIONS
270 BARS WITH URANIUM
10 EMPTY BARS



« Demonstration of an Accelerator-Driven System for the Destruction of Nuclear Waste »
Y. Kadi, J.-P. Revol – Workshop, Trieste, September 2001 »

■ FEAT : First Energy Amplifier Test (1994 / CERN)

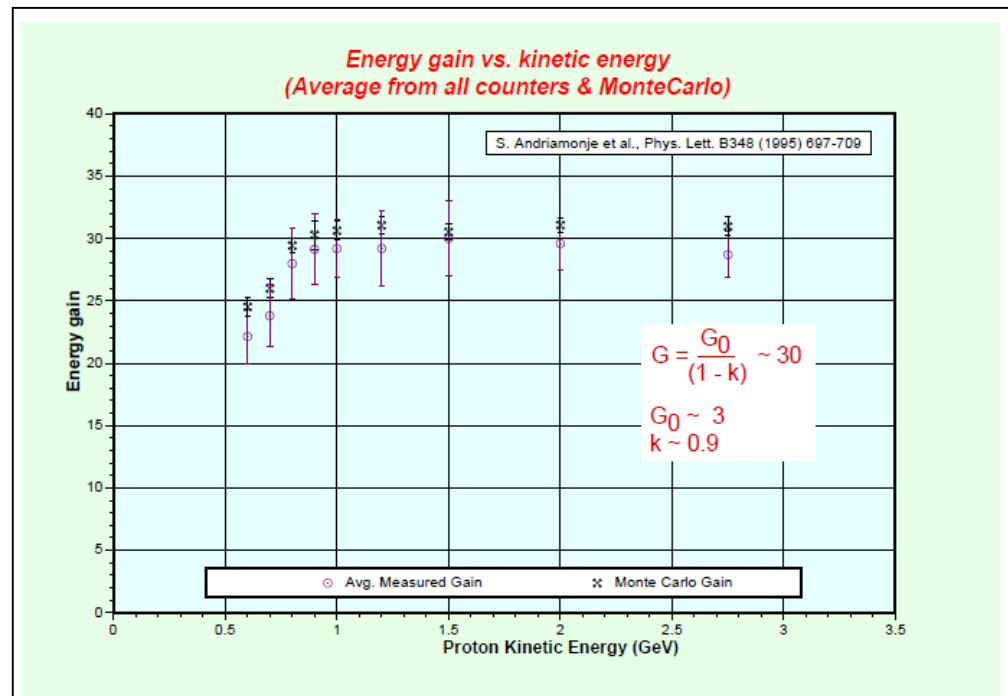
- Objectives :

- Study of the ratio "Energy produced in the device / Beam energy" (Energy gain as a function of proton energy)
- Monte Carlo code validation

- Main results

- Optimum proton energy at ~900 MeV
- Phenomena well predicted by MC simulation

S. Andriamonje & al., "Experimental determination of the energy generated in nuclear cascades by a high energy beam", Physics Letter B, Volume 348, Issues 3-4, 6 April 1995, Pages 697-709



■ MUSE-1 & 2 : first parametric studies (1995-1996 / CEA+CNRS)

- **Short tests** (2 weeks & 2 months) taking advantages of **fast cores** loaded in the MASURCA facility at CEA /Cadarache for programs underway at that period (Mox fuel, Pu content ~24.5%)
- **Neutron source = ^{252}Cf** ($7.6 \cdot 10^7$ & $6.1 \cdot 10^7$ n/s) at different axial positions (mid core plane, +15 cm , +25 cm)
- Two different diffusing materials (sodium, steel) placed around the source
- Measurements of : reactivities (**standard method used for critical reactors**), ^{235}U fission rate distributions, source importance

- Main results

- **feasibility of measurements** at deep subcritical levels **confirmed**
- **demonstration the source effect/importance** (more “peaked” distributions as expected)
- **good agreement between calculations and experiments (deterministic and MC simulations)**

■ MUSE-3 experiments (1998 / CEA+CNRS+EDF+FRAMATOME)

- Enlargement of collaboration between french institutes (GEDEON research network)
- **Several subcritical cores** ($k_{\text{eff}} = 0.995, 0.99, 0.985, 0.95$)
- **Neutron source = SODERN genie 26 D-T pulse generator** at core center ($3, 10^8$ n/s)
- **Two different diffusing materials** (sodium, lead) placed around the source
- Measurements of : reactivity (**standard method, PNS/fit method**), ^{235}U fission rate distributions, source importance
- **First Pulsed Neutron Source measurements** and first difficulties with the analysis of data

Main outcome of the program

- need for a dedicated neutron generator with improved performances (in terms of quality of the pulse and source intensity)

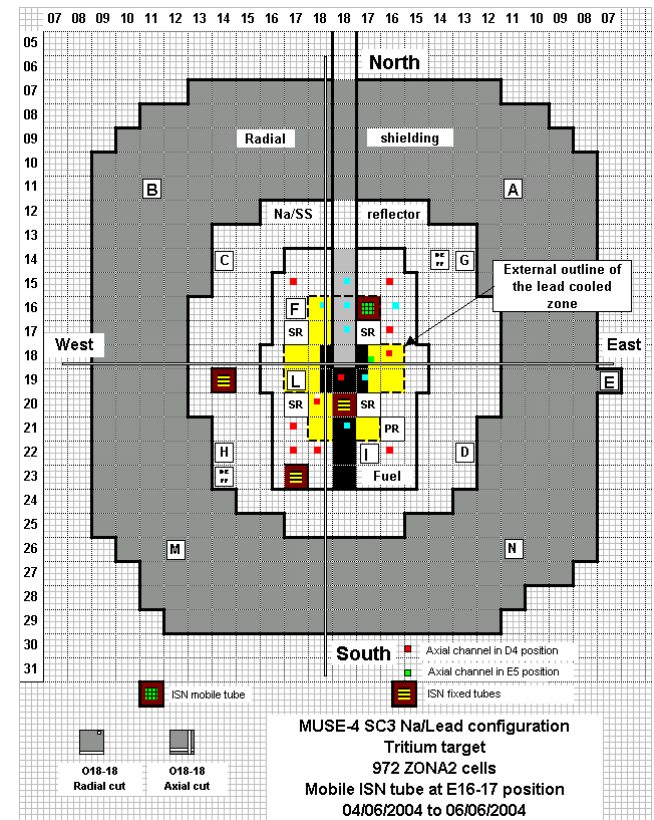
➔ **GENEPI (GEnerator of NEutrons Pulsed & Intense)**

- **Designed and built by CNRS**

THE MUSE-4/GUINEVERE/FREYA SUITE

■ MUSE-4 project (2000-2004 / Euratom FP5)

- international collaborations (FP 5 /12 partners; bilateral collaborations with DOE, PSI and JAERI)
- **fast Mox core especially designed for the program (lead zone simulating a spallation target)**
- horizontal beam line
- licencing of the experience more time consuming due to the presence of GENEPI and the physics of a coupled systems (first of a kind for our safety authorities)
- Five phases : critical, SC0 (0,994), SC2 (0,97), SC3 (0,97), SC3 Na/Pb (0,965)
- **extensive characterization of the cores**
 - not only ^{235}U fission rate distributions; also : ^{232}Th , ^{238}U , ^{237}Np , $^{239, 240, 242}\text{Pu}$, ^{241}Am ..., a number of dosimeters , ..
 - measurement of kinetics parameters



■ MUSE-4 project (2000-2004 / Euratom FP5)

- *much time and effort devoted to the reactivity control issue (without a priori for their applicability)*

Nature of neutron source	Analysis method	Experimental parameter	
<u>Core intrinsic source</u>	Reference method (rod drop + Multiplication source method)	ρ_s	
	Rossi- α method	α_p	
	Feynman- α method		
	APSD and CPSD methods		
<u>^{252}Cf source</u>	Rossi- α method	α_p	
	Source jerk method	ρ_s	
<u>Pulsed neutron source</u>	Area method	ρ_s	
	Slope fit methods (several kinetics models : one/two/three zones; one/two energy groups)	α_p	
	k_p method	k_p	
	Rossi- α method	α_p	
	Feynman- α method		Deterministic way
			Stochastic way
		APSD and CPSD methods	
	Frequency variation method	ρ_s	

More than 10 methods



■ MUSE-4 project (2000-2004 / Euratom FP5)

- several theoretical developments in support of analysis :

- derivation of Feynman- α functions considering a pulsed source
- development of a new kinetics model based on the neutron inter-generation lifetime distribution (the k_{prompt} method),

S. Chabod & al., "Reactivity Measurement at GUINEVERE Facility Using the Integral k_p Method, PHYSOR 2014, Kyoto, Japan, Sept. 28th–Oct. 3rd

Main outcome

- a proposal of strategy for the control and monitoring of the reactivity based on :

- PNS measurements for the control of reactivity at BOC (and a selection of most appropriate methods : area method, k_{prompt} method, fit methods),
- continuous monitoring of the beam current/flux ratio (**monitoring of source to be implemented in next programs**)
- intermediate cross checking, during operation, taking advantage of regular and short beam interruption)

➔ **New specifications for next external neutron source**

➔ **Base for futur experimental program to be performed in FP 6 IP-EUROTRANS**

THE MUSE-4/GUINEVERE/FREYA SUITE

■ **GUINEVERE (2005-2010 / Euratom FP6 – IP Eurotrans)**

- facing with abandoning of TRADE plus project, SCK-CEN proposed to host the continuation of MUSE-4 in the VENUS facility

- **only preparatory work could be achieved during FP 6 time window:**

- **transformation of the VENUS facility (initially devoted to light water reactor studies) into a fast critical assembly VENUS-F**



P. Baeten, "The GUINEVERE project at the VENUS-F facility", Proceedings of the International Conference on the Physics of Reactors - PHYSOR 2008, Interlaken, Switzerland

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 - development of a new generator able to operate in **continuous wave, pulsed and beam trip modes**

Table 1: Beam specifications.

Pulsed mode	Continuous mode
Peak current: 40 mA	Mean current: 160 μ A to 1 mA
Repetition rate: 10 Hz to 5 kHz	Beam interruption rate: 0.1 to 100 Hz
Pulse width: ~ 0.7 μ s (FWHM)	Beam interruption duration: ~ 20 μ s to 10 ms
Reproducibility: 1% pulse to pulse	Transition time on/off: ~ 1 μ s



M. Baylac, "The GENEPIEC-3C accelerator for the GUINEVERE project", International topical meeting on nuclear research applications and utilization of accelerators; Vienna (Austria); 4-8 May 2009

THE MUSE-4/GUINEVERE/FREYA SUITE

■ **GUINEVERE (2005-2010 / Euratom FP 6 – IP Eurotra**

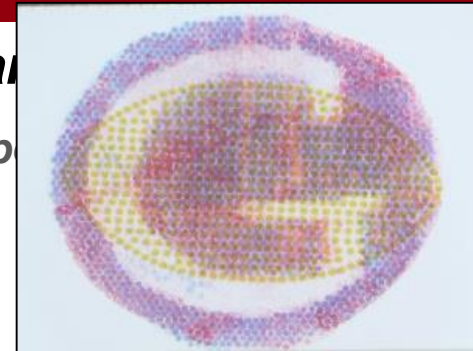
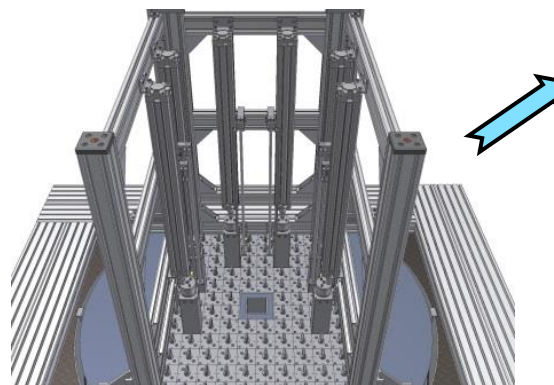
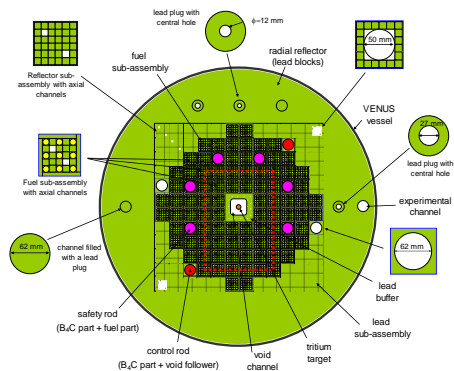
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- **development of a new generator able to operate in continuous wave, pulse and beam trip modes**

- **design & building of a brand new core, preparation of safety file, licencing**

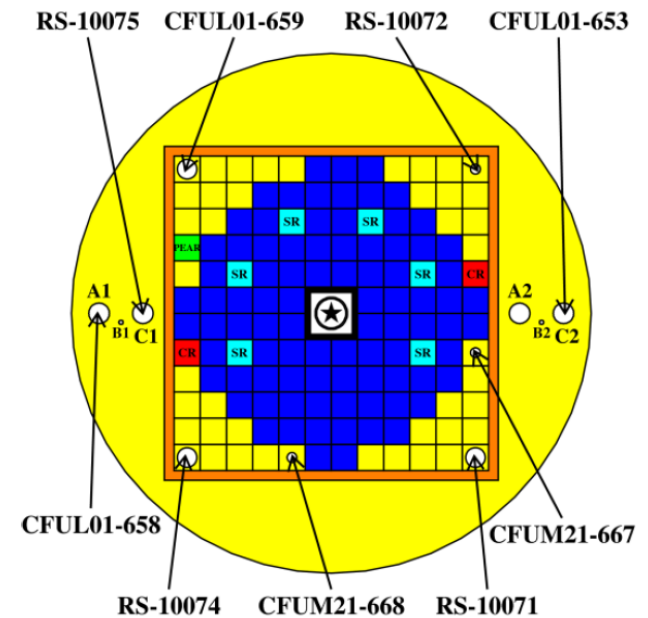


- **first criticality on february 2011**

- **experimental program to be conducted in next program (FREYA / FP 7)**

■ FREYA (2011-2016 / Euratom FP7)

- better representativity of ADS : **a full fast lead system (core+reflector)** , an **axial beam line**, an **external source** allowing to operate in **CW mode and with short beam interruptions**, most of detectors out-core



- experimental program in the line of MUSE-4 and also taking into account the outcomes and lessons from YALINA-B

- **extensive measurement** program in the **three modes** (pulsed, CW, BT) of neutron generator

■ FREYA (2011-2016 / Euratom FP7)

- again much effort devoted to the reactivity calibration and monitoring issue
- most of detectors out of core
- results compared to a **robust reference** established in critical configuration (as it was also in MUSE-4)

J.L. Lecouey & al., "Estimate of the reactivity of the VENUS-F subcritical configuration using a Monte Carlo MSM method", Annals of Nuclear Energy 83 (2015) 65-75

- reactivity calibration:

- confirmation of **accuracy and robustness of area method**
- confirmation of **potential of k_{prompt} method for short time measurements**

- reactivity monitoring:

- **detailed and successfull analysis of beam trip experiments**

T. Chevret, "Mesure de la réactivité de réacteurs sous-critiques pilotés par accélérateur par l'analyse d'expériences d'interruptions de faisceau programmées", 2016, Thesis

■ YALINA (“spruce” in Belarus language)

- **subcritical facility** ($k_{\text{eff}} < 0,98$),
- *purpose : investigate the static and dynamics behaviour of ADS and properties of MA transmutation reactions*
- ^{252}Cf , Am-Be, D-D/D-T generator (up to $1,5 \cdot 10^{12}$ n/s with rotating TTI target device)
- *first operation in the early 2000s*



■ Initially, thermal core using LEU (10%)

■ New configuration Yalina-Booster (2005-2006)

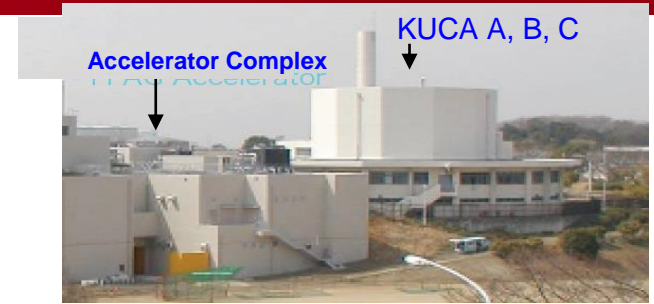
- more representative of ADS neutron spectrum (central fast zone)
- **first experiments with beam trips** (nevertheless polluted by electromagnetic interference)
- appreciation of reactivity measurement results accuracy remains difficult due to the lack of reference
- participation of IP EUROTRANS partners to the experiments and further analysis

V. Becares, Evaluation of reactivity monitoring techniques at the Yalina – Booster subcritical facility, 2014, Thesis

ACTIVITIES AT KUCA (KYOTO UNIVERSITY CRITICAL ASSEMBLY)

■ Critical facility (100 W max.)

- Enriched uranium core moderated and reflected by high density polythen (A core)



■ 2002: launch of the KART project (five years) with the aim of

- Constructing of a FFAG (Fixed Field Alternating Gradient)
- Coupling it at KUCA A core
- *First experiments with 14 Mev neutrons from D-T generator*

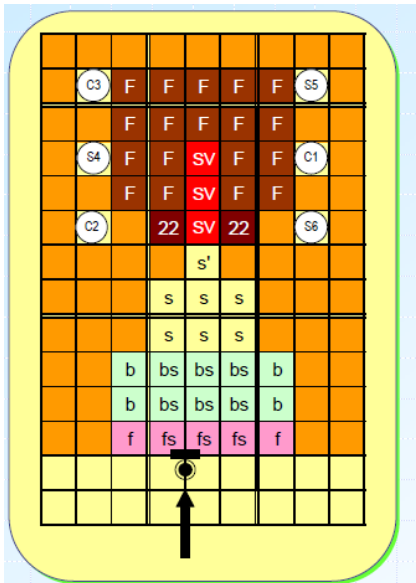


Fig. KUCA A-core with neutron guide



- 2008 : first extraction of 100 MeV protons from the FFAG

- March 2010 : first injection of 100 MeV protons into the Th reactor core with W target

- March 2011 : first injection of 100 MeV protons into the Th reactor core with W target



- Since : further studies with different spallation targets + D-T generator, various Th cells and fuel, several subcritical levels + critical states, different target positions, ..., many publications

OTHER PROGRAMS

■ **BRAHMMA experimental facility (India/BARC, 2013)**

- **subcritical facility**, Made in India D-T generator
- natural uranium core moderated by high density polythen + **BeO reflector**
- series of PNS and source jerk experiments with keff in the range [0.89 ; 0.95]
- analysis with point kinetics without any added correction; few results published

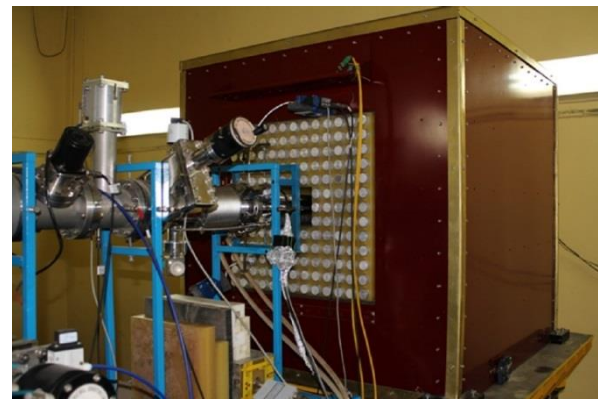
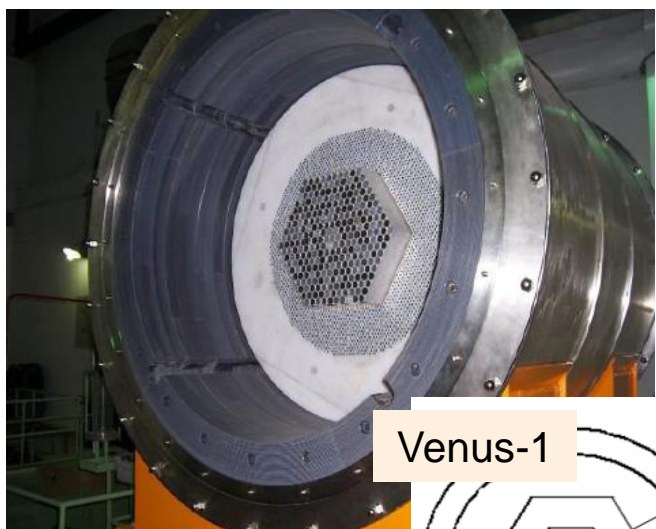
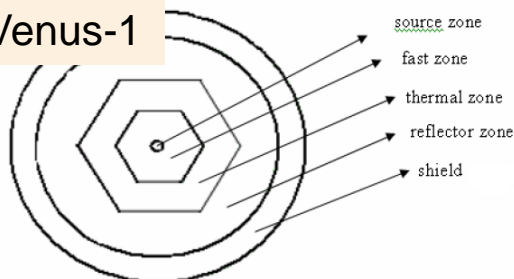


Fig. 3. BRAHMMA subcritical core coupled with neutron generator.



Venus-1



■ **VENUS-1 experimental facility (China, 2005)**

- Subcritical facility (keff < 0.98)
- **Coupled fast/thermal zones**, CH₂ reflector
- CIAE Pulsed Neutron generator
- first coupling in 2005, five keff
- PNS experiment analysis work in 2007
- PNS simulation work in 2011

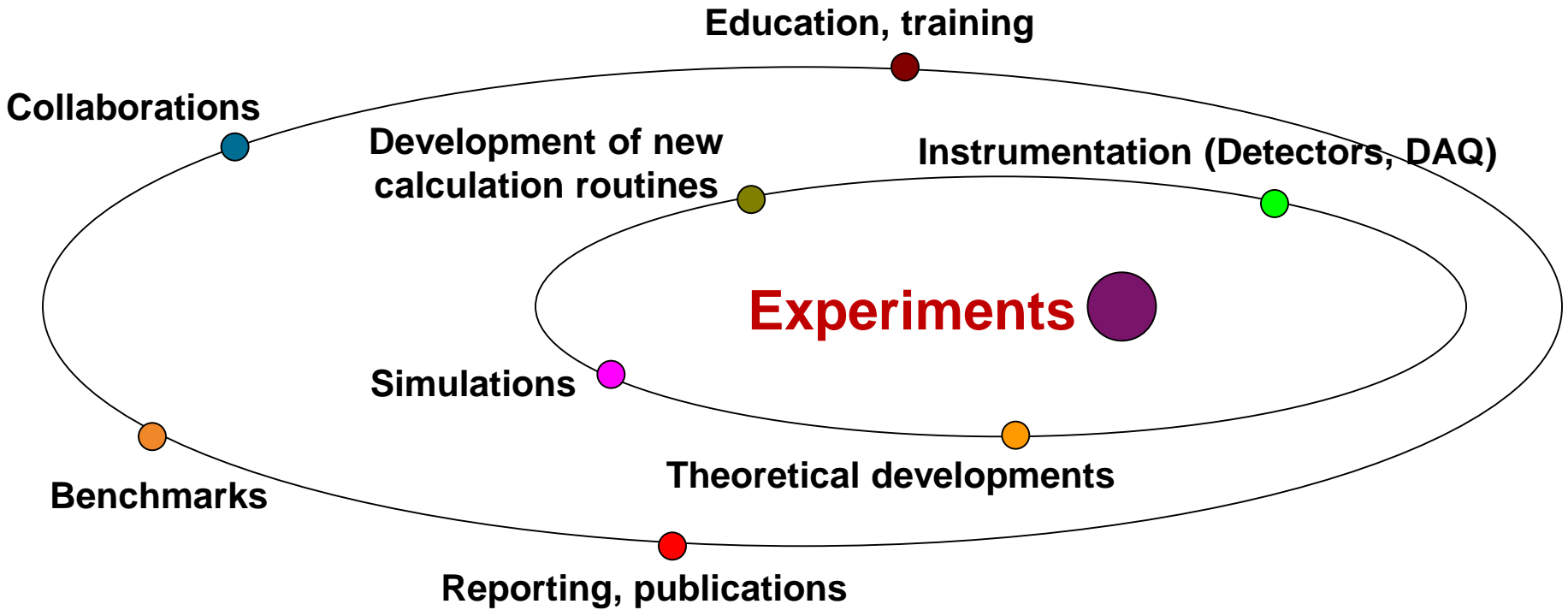
Programs that used only radioactive neutron sources

■ *FCA XXI-1*

- FCA (Fast Critical Assembly), similar to MASURCA, operated by JAEA
- FCA XXI-1 core devoted to investigations on measurement of deep subcritical levels
- ^{252}Cf + W test zone at core center
- FCA design serves as a reference for TEF-P

■ *Experiments at IPEN-MB-01*

- Critical facility for light water cooled reactor studies
- Tests with an Am-Be neutron source for investigating a new experimental approach for the determination of subcritical levels using the '**generalized reactivity kinetic model**' (A. Gandini & al., Journal of Nuclear Science and Technology 39 6 pp 673-686)



- **Extensive Monte Carlo simulations (much less in the early 90's)**
- New approaches and kinetics models developed for the determination of subcritical levels (standard PK model is no more valid !)
- Much work on noise methods (ex : derivations of Feynman- α formulae considering PNS)

CONCLUSIONS

- **For more than 20 years, coupling experiments on ZPR have been motivating many teams worldwide,**
- **Different realizations (of unequal size) were carried out although some aspects (fuel and neutron spectrum in particular) were not always representative of a power ADS.**
- **Some experiments combining the three main components of ADS (high energy protons, a heavy metal target, a subcritical core) could be achieved**
- **The control and monitoring of reactivity is a shared key issue that concentrated most effort in EU initiatives and valuable progress have been made in this field (R&D conducted on this item is also relevant for critical reactors),**
- **Further advances will need higher power experiments (core power of several tens/hundreds of kW). They remain a major objective.**

■ Next steps

- **MYRTHE project in Belgium**
 - follow-up of FREYA in VENUS-F facility, next step forward MYRRHA
 - funded by HORIZON 2020 EU Research and Innovation Program
- **Commissioning of NSC KIPT ADS in Ukraine**
- **CLEAR-0 facility and associate experimental programs in China**
(more information in the upcoming presentation)

■ Beyond !



**The future is the result of chance, of will
and necessity**

(Jacques Lesourne / French economist engineer)

Thanks for your attention

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