Press Release

Restart Update for the High Flux Reactor, Petten

Petten, 5 December 2008

In August NRG did not restart the HFR reactor following the annual major maintenance and inspection period, because a small gas bubble release was observed in the primary cooling water system. The gas bubble release was caused by localised corrosion between an external part of the system that is surrounded in cast concrete. NRG has worked intensively with experts from both inside and outside the Netherlands to restart the reactor.

Yesterday a detailed repair plan was completed for the introduction of a sleeve into the cooling system. Due to the complexity of this repair and the need for high precision in its performance, it is now clear that there will be a further delay of a few months to complete this repair option. This is mainly due to the need to perform various qualification testing of the materials and methods to be used; as well as appropriate training of the technical staff.

Given the importance of the operation of the HFR for the supply of healthcare products and for energy research; NRG is now investigating alternative possibilities to restart the reactor at an earlier date. This is based on the extensive data that is now available from the detailed investigation, testing and measurement of the HFR that have been performed over the recent months.

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