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SNETP Newsletter n° 3

April 2009

A few words from the Research Vice-Chair

It is with great pleasure that I introduce significant highlights of the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) within this third newsletter.

Since the previous newsletter, the SNETP held its first General Assembly in Brussels on November 26, 2008, in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission. The event, open to the general public, gathered some 230 participants.

After one year of operation, the platform has grown – from about 30 original organisations that drafted the Vision Report to about 70 organisations from European countries. The organizations represent all types of stakeholders: industry, research and academia, technical safety organisations and non-governmental organisations.

The European Commission has recently acknowledged SNETP as a European Technology Platform. This will allow SNETP members to be invited to events organised by the Commission, in which experience is shared between the technology platform leaders, and information provided to improve the operation and efficiency of technology platforms.

SNETP has put in place an organisational structure to carry out the first tasks of the platform, establishing the Strategic Research Agenda, the Deployment Strategy and the basis of an integrated Education, Training and Knowledge Management approach at a European scale. The initial work was carried out by the SNETP Secretariat on a voluntary basis. Since December 2008, the Secretariat is operated by a group of organizations, namely LGI (coordinator), CEA, E.ON, FORATOM, UJV Rez, with financial support from the European Commission. The main tasks of the Secretariat are to strengthen

efficiency, impact and visibility of the platform.

The Strategic Research Agenda was finalized and was open for public consultation from the 9th February to 15th March, 2009. The final version is expected to be issued in May 2009.

Further developments included the drafting of the Deployment Strategy prepared by the dedicated Working Group and the preparation of the European Industrial Initiative by the Task Force as a part of the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan). The main contents of both drafts were presented to the General Assembly last year and final versions will be issued later this year. Moreover, the Education, Training and Knowledge Management Working Group has drafted its Objectives and Work Plan document.

SNETP also invites you to attend the FISA 2009 conference, which will take place in 22-24 June 2009, Prague, Czech Republic. FISA will be an opportunity for the SNETP Community to present its R&D strategy and projects funded by the European Commission under the Euratom Framework Programme.

In conclusion, I am very pleased that the first General Assembly appreciated the SNETP activities, and that in parallel with our key documents, progress is made in building common research and infrastructure facilities, with the aim of achieving a sustainable production of nuclear energy.



František Pazdera
Deputy Director of Power Generation for R&D,
CEZ, a. s.
Vice-Chair of SNETP
April 2009

■ More about SNETP's first General Assembly Meeting, Brussels, November 26th, 2008, on page 3

■ More about the SNETP Strategic Research Agenda on page 2

■ SNETP website:
<http://www.snetp.eu>
■ Cordis website on European Technology Platforms:
http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html
■ FISA 2009 website:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/euratom-fission/fisa2009_en.html

News from the Strategic Research Agenda Working Group

The Strategic Research Agenda of the SNETP identifies and prioritises the Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) topics necessary to reach the objectives presented in SNETP's Vision Report. The latter document, presented at the launch of the SNETP on September 21st, 2007, highlighted the role of nuclear energy in Europe's energy mix

and its contributions to the security and competitiveness of energy supply, as well as to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Strategic Research Agenda is the result of the contributions of nearly 200 scientists and engineers from some 70 member organisations of SNETP, which was coordinated by Dr. Hamid Aït Abderrahim of SCK•CEN.

The main outline of the Strategic Research Agenda was presented at the SNETP First General Assembly on November 26th, 2008 in Brussels. During the past months, work has been going on to finalise the Strategic Research Agenda. As a final step, the document was made available for public consultation on the platform's website, between February 9th and March 15th.

Taking the feedback into account, a printed version of the Strategic Research Agenda document will soon be made available for wide dissemination. It may also be requested by directly contacting the SNETP Secretariat: secretariat@snetp.eu.

**Strategic Research Agenda WG
Chairman,
Hamid Aït Abderrahim (SCK•CEN),
haitabde@SCKCEN.BE**

News from the Deployment Strategy Working Group

The Deployment Strategy Working Group is mandated by the SNETP Governing Board to identify the key actions necessary to implement the Strategic Research Agenda, overcome the technical and non-technical barriers, deliver its results, and communicate to decision makers and general public on its benefits and impact.

The Deployment Strategy group consists of a core team in charge of drafting the docu-

ment, and a larger team in charge of reviewing it. The group includes stakeholders from utilities, manufacturers, academics and technical safety organisations, and is still open to other SNETP members.

End 2008, the group has issued a draft document which identifies nine key objectives to support the long-term operation of the current Light water Reactor fleet (Gen II) and the deployment of the new technology (Gen III) while keeping their high level of safety

and competitiveness, and to prepare the next generation of technology (Gen IV). Roughly speaking, the Deployment Strategy group suggests implementing a smart structure to improve nuclear fission R&D coordination at the EU level for Gen II and Gen III, building on existing networks. It recommends speeding up the development of Gen IV reactors through the framework of the European Industrial Initiative on Fast Neutron Reactors.

These nine key messages have been delivered to the General Assembly of the Platform. For the time being, the group is completing the final version of the Deployment Strategy document for a presentation to the next Executive Committee meeting in May.

**Deployment Strategy WG Chairmen,
Olivier Marchand and Patrick Morilhat
(EDF),
Olivier.marchand@edf.fr and
patrick.morilhat@edf.fr**

News from the Education, Training and Knowledge Management Working Group

The Education, Training and Knowledge Management Working Group is tasked with facilitating the strengthening of nuclear engineering and science education and training and its role in knowledge management in support of the recommendations in the Strategic Research Agenda. In undertaking this requirement the Working Group draws on the education and training infrastructure consolidated across Europe in the

European Nuclear Education Network (ENEN), comprising 44 organisations, as well as the additional support of ten R&D institutions, seven major industrial organisations, Foratom and the European Nuclear Society.

Since last reporting our activities in Newsletter No. 1, the Working Group has been working on formulating its work packages and data gathering. It has also produced a document (Objectives, Scope and Work Plan) that is presently

undergoing internal approval after which it will be posted on the SNETP web site. In parallel, questionnaires addressing human resources and availability of facilities have been produced and will be circulated shortly.

In addition, the Working Group is supporting the Education & Training activities of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) and the draft conclusions of the Council of the European

Union, Joint Working Party Research/Atomic Questions – Need for Skills in the Nuclear Field (RECH 341, ATO99). Following a gap analysis the present resources and future requirements in Education, Training and Knowledge Management will be published by the end of 2009.

**Education, Training and Knowledge
Management WG Chairman,
Phil Beeley,
pabeeley.dcm@nd.da.mod.uk**

SNETP held its 1st General Assembly Meeting

On November 26, 2008, SNETP organised its first General Assembly in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission, Brussels.

The event was open to the public and turned out to be a great success, attracting over 230 participants from both the 67 member organisations, representing the various stakeholders of nuclear fission research, and non-members of the platform, such as journalists and representatives of European institutions.



This one-day event was inaugurated by Octavio Quintana Trias, Director Energy-Euratom, DG RTD of the European Commission. It included sessions with presentations, a panel discussion and a poster session.

The first session was dedicated to the topic of the development of priorities for R&D in nuclear fission. It was the occasion to present the platform's Strategic Research Agenda, as well as recommendations from the platform's

Working Groups on Deployment Strategy and Education, Training and Knowledge Management.

The second session was dedicated to the SET Plan and the implementation of R&D for nuclear fission recommended in the Strategic Research Agenda.

Edit Herczog, Member of the European Parliament, presented the EP's views on the SET Plan. According to Mrs Herczog, there is strong interest from the Parliament to be informed about the potential of nuclear energy and its research prospects.

Concerning the short term objectives of the Strategic Research Agenda, Bernd Guethoff (E.ON), Vice-Chair of SNETP, presented proposals to support R&D for current and future light water reactors,

where focus needs to be put on maintaining safety and competitiveness of nuclear fission energy. More generally, Mr Guethoff suggested the SNETP adopt a new organisation structure in order to efficiently carry out its mission.

What concerns the long-term objectives of the Strategic Research Agenda, Yves Kaluzny (CEA), Member of SNETP Executive Committee, presented the work of the platform's Task Force dedicated to the preparation of a European

Industrial Initiative for Sustainable Fission. The Initiative aims to accelerate the development and demonstration of Generation IV Fast Neutron Reactor technologies with closed fuel cycles, with deployment expected during the second half of this century. According to Mr Kaluzny, the next steps include a consultancy study on financial and legal aspects of the Initiative as well as the set-up of a network of supporting research infrastructures, after which the Initiative will be launched in the 2nd half of 2009.

The panel discussion on funding for nuclear fission R&D gathered representatives of the European Parliament, European Investment Bank, European Commission, Ministries, research organisations, utilities and Technical Safety Organisations, with Platt EU News acting as moderator. During the discussion it became clear that funding opportunities are numerous both at EU-level and member-state level, though both efforts need to be further increased. As mentioned by SNETP Governing Board Chairman Ph. Pradel in his closing speech, the SNETP intends to launch during 2009 a working group dedicated to identifying each funding means and informing decision makers about these opportunities, for the benefit of the platform and its stakeholders.

Parallel to the presentations, a poster session included about 30 contributions illustrating current R&D projects or programmes in the field of nuclear fission energy performed either on a national basis, or on a European basis e.g. through the Euratom Framework Programme.

For more information on this event (including presentations and posters), please see:

<http://www.snetp.eu/scripts/home/publigen/content/templates/show.asp>

The next General Assembly of the SNETP will be held in 2010.

Who are the members of SNETP?

Focus on the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (INRNE BAS)



The Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (INRNE), created in 1972 on the basis of the Institute of Physics founded in 1946, is the biggest one within Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). The center plays a leading role in basic and applied research in nuclear physics in Bulgaria. The scientific and applied works carried out in the INRNE are fully in line with the milestone issues of Bulgaria in accordance with the modern world tendencies and technologies.

The scientific staff of the Institute has been working mainly on traditional scientific areas, e.g.:

- theory of the elementary particles and field theory, atomic nuclei and quantum phenomena,
- experimental physics of the elementary particles, nuclear reactions, structure of atomic nuclei, astrophysics, cosmic particles and gamma-quanta at ultra high energies,
- neutron interactions, cross sections, physics of the fission and fusion,
- reactor physics, nuclear energy, nuclear safety and security,
- nuclear methods for material studies; the nuclear instrument design and production,
- dosimetry and radiation safety,
- treatment and conditioning of radioactive waste,
- radiochemistry and radioecology and the complex monitoring and management of the environment.

The activities are realized inside seven

Divisions, unified 25 Laboratories, two Basic scientific experimental facilities and 13 Departments.



Since 2005, 13 INRNE laboratories have obtained the QQS certificate for Quality management system ISO 9001:2000 and the Environmental management system 14001:1996. IQNET confirmed the certificates for ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004.

The balance between fundamental and applied research is the consequence of the strategy, clearly defined several years ago to be in accordance with the national and European Commission priorities.

Almost half of the developments concern problems related to the scientific background of the national nuclear energy production, radioactive waste treatment monitoring and management of the environment.

The results give rise to scientific papers published in some 160 foreign refereed

journals every year and more than 200 papers in proceedings of international conferences and symposia. INRNE BAS organizes and hosts about ten such events every year.

Many of the results have been obtained in close collaboration with international organizations (IAEA, JINR, CERN, SISA) and foreign centers (DESY, CNRS, INFN, Grenoble), universities and institutions.

The collaboration with five Institutes of the Joint Research Center of the European Commission plays a key role for the efficient participation of INRNE in large projects of 5th, 6th and 7th Framework Programmes, with an average success rate above 50%.

The strong collaboration of INRNE with CERN resulted in the successful completion of the set-up of all produced muon proportional chambers and electron channels in the CMS detector and noticeable improvement of

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computer network and the existing Grid cluster in INRNE.

During the past two years, the signing of several Memorandum of understanding guaranteed the effective contribution of INRNE to large European experiments such as SPIRAL2, FAIR and DRIPS in the field of low and middle energy nuclear physics. In January 2007 Bulgaria became member of Euratom Fusion Program and INRNE was appointed National Coordinator Institution.

The technical design project for the reconstruction of the research reactor IRT 2000 (<http://irt.inrne.bas.bg>) into a new IRT 200 was successfully finished and analyzed by Nuclear Regulatory Agency. The contract for transport of the high enriched IRT 2000 spent fuel

The Basic Environmental Observatory Moussala became a Center of Excellence and the 6th Framework Programme project BEOBAL was successfully accomplished in September 2007. An important consequence of the European Commission's evaluation is that the facility has now been included among the infrastructure units of pan-European importance.

was performed in June 2008. The project for Environmental impact assessment of the reconstructed low power reactor IRT 200 as well as the international training activity of the operational staff were significantly improved.

The Basic Environmental Observatory Moussala became a Center of Excellence and the 6th Framework Programme project BEOBAL was successfully accomplished in September 2007. An important consequence of the European Commission's evaluation is that the facility has now been included among the infrastructure units of pan-European importance. Aerospace and terrestrial environment, interactions between cosmic rays and atmospheric parameters, global change and climate

research, natural hazards and technological risks are the main aims of research of the Observatory (<http://beo-db.inrne.bas.bg>).

In 2008 INRNE created the Nuclear Technological and Educational Center. Its aim is the preparation of new nuclear experts, with combined efforts of INRNE, the Technical University of Sofia and "Kl. Ohridsky" University of Sofia.

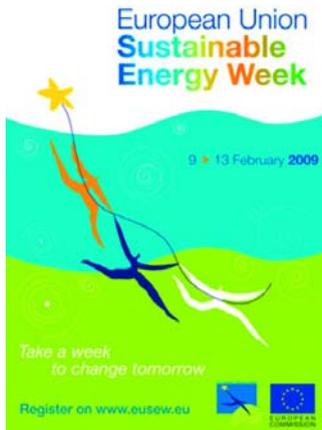
It is clear that the consequent development of these main trends will assure INRNE BAS a sustainable development in the coming years.

Prof. Dr.Sc. Jordan Stamenov
 Director of INRNE BAS
 Website: www.inrne.bas.bg



Basic Environmental Observatory Moussala

In Brief - SNETP Participates to the EU Sustainable Energy Week, 9 to 13 February 2009



In the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Week, 9 to 13 February 2009, the EC DG TREN organised a half-day event on future energy technologies. This was an occasion for presenting and exchanging views on strategies through which low carbon energy technology can be brought into the market faster and in a cost effective manner.

The agenda included a session dedicated to the supply perspective and integration aspects as well as to tools for implementation of an energy technology

policy and another session dedicated to the demand side with a focus on technologies for energy efficiency.

Nuclear technology was represented, alongside with traditional low-carbon technologies such as wind, solar, electricity grid and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Hamid Aït Abderrahim, SNETP Strategic Research Agenda Working Group chairman, contributed to the supply side session by giving SNETP's vision on how sustainable nuclear energy can help EU to reach its ambitious medium-

(2020) and long-term (2050) energy policy goals.

Mr Aït Abderrahim's message was supported by Mr Lubomir Mazouch, the Czech Republic representative in the SET-Plan Steering Group, according to whom the two main axes for large electricity production in the coming decade will be CCS and nuclear.

For more on the EU Sustainable Energy Week, 9 to 13 February 2009 see <http://www.eusew.eu/>

SNETP Secretariat

In Brief - Highlight on the Sustainable Fission European Industrial Initiative

As announced in the SNETP Newsletter n°2, a balanced group of industrials and research organisations have started working to set the basis of the nuclear fission European Industrial Initiative (EII), in support of Europe's SET-Plan. This "EII Task Force" held its second meeting in Paris on the 9th of January 2009. The third meeting is scheduled in April in Brussels.

Research organisations:



Nuclear Research Institute Řež plc

Industrials:



AnsaldoNucleare
Una Società Finmeccanica



e.on | Kernkraft



The participation in the Task Force is open to other participants ready and willing to contribute to the development and further implementation of the Sustainable Fission European Industrial Initiative.

The immediate next step is the realisation of a consultancy study on funding mechanisms and legal options, for which the European Commission has recently launched a call for tender. The results of the study are expected for the third quarter of 2009. This study will provide specific insights for the "Nuclear EII", in a complementary way to the more general Communication on the Financing of the SET-Plan, tentatively announced by the Commission for the 24 June. As a result of the study, the Sustainable Fission European Industrial Initiative might be officially launched end of 2009 or early 2010, and the Task Force transformed into a Management Team.

Meanwhile, a project proposal, in reply to a topic of the Call for Proposal of the Euratom Work Programme 2009, is being prepared for identifying and networking the R&D infrastructures needed to support the work programme of the Nuclear EII.

Yves Kaluzny, CEA
yves.kaluzny@cea.fr

Highlight on FP7 Projects

PERFORM 60

PERFORM 60: Prediction of the Effects of Radiation FOR reactor pressure vessel and in-core Materials using multi-scale modeling – 60 years foreseen plant lifetime

PERFORM 60
FP7 Project

In nuclear power plants, materials may undergo degradation due to severe irradiation conditions that may limit their operational life. Utilities that operate these reactors need to quantify the ageing and the potential degradations of some essential structures of the power plant to ensure safe and reliable plant operation.

So far, material databases needed to take account of these degradations in the design and safe operation of

installations mainly rely on long-term irradiation programs in test reactors as well as on mechanical or corrosion testing in specialized hot cells. Continuous progress in the physical understanding of the phenomena involved in irradiation damage and continuous progress in computer sciences have now made possible the development of multi-scale numerical tools able to simulate the effects of irradiation on materials microstructure.

A first step towards this goal has been successfully reached through the development of the Reactor Pressure Vessel-2 and

Toughness Module numerical tools by the scientific community created around the FP6 PERFECT project. These tools allow simulating irradiation effects on the constitutive behaviour of the Reactor Pressure Vessel low alloy steel, and also on its failure properties.

Relying on the existing PERFECT Roadmap, the 4 year Collaborative Project PERFORM 60 has mainly for objective to develop multi-scale tools aimed at predicting the combined effects of irradiation and corrosion on internals (austenitic stainless steels) and also to improve existing ones on RPV (bainitic steels).

The 4-year Collaborative Project PERFORM 60 has as main objective the development of multi-scale tools aimed at predicting the combined effects of irradiation and corrosion on internals and the improvement of existing ones on Reactor Pressure Vessel.

PERFORM 60 is based on two technical sub-projects, namely Reactor Pressure Vessel and Internals. In addition, the Users' Group and Training sub-project shall allow representatives of constructors, utilities, research organizations etc from Europe, USA and Japan to receive the information and training to get their own appraisal on limits and potentialities of the developed tools. An important effort will also be made to teach young researchers in the field of materials' degradation.

PERFORM 60 officially began on March 1st, 2009, with 20 European organizations and universities involved in the nuclear field.

PERFORM-60 Coordinator,
Abdou Al-Mazouzi (EDF) - present
abderrahim.al-mazouzi@edf.fr

Sylvain Leclercq (EDF) - former
sylvain.leclercq@edf.fr

Highlight on SNETP Office

A «new» platform secretariat

Since December 2008, the EC is supporting the secretariat of SNETP. Building on the partnership of the original 'volunteer' secretariat, a renewed team coordinated by LGI Consulting has set up a 'Support Action' in the frame of Euratom's FP7. Among the objectives of this

2-year 'SNETP Office', are an increased visibility of SNETP (see calendar, p.8, and keep posted for the upcoming new website), structured exchanges with EU stakeholders (other ETPs, SETIS, EERA, etc.) as well as continuous support to the platform activities (such as the editing and publication of the SRA).



Kick-off of SNETP Office in Paris: V.Chauvet (LGI), R.Ivens (Foratom), A.Bredimas (E.ON), H.Paillère (CEA), A.Ehlert (E.ON), G.Miu (LGI), J.Misak (UJV)

LGI
CONSULTING

e-on | Kernkraft



FORATOM
for nuclear energy in Europe

Nuclear Research Institute Řež plc

cea

SNETP Office in facts & figures

Partners:

LGI (Gabriela Miu, Vincent Chauvet),
CEA (Pascal Chaix replaced Henri Paillère),
E.ON (Andreas Ehlert replaced Alexandre Bredimas),

Foratom (Richard Ivens),
UJV Rez (Jozef Misak)

EC Project Officer: Michel Hugon

Duration: Dec 2008 – Nov 2010

Budget: ~1 M€, EC funding 0.7 M€

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■ Highlight on Events: Research Connection 2009



EU2009.CZ



On 7-8 May 2009, the Research Connection 2009 conference and exhibition will take place in Prague, under the Czech Presidency of the European Union. This will be an excellent opportunity for scientists, industrialists and researchers to learn about EU funding possibilities for research and innovation projects and meet experienced researchers from successful European projects.

SNETP will participate with an exhibition stand presenting the platform and some of the ongoing projects and future initiatives.

■ Website:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/rtd-2009/index_en.cfm

Contacting the secretariat:
secretariat@snetp.eu

Access to the internal workspace of the Platform (members only):

<https://extranet.snetp.eu>

If you do not have a login and password, contact the secretariat at the above address.

Future events

ICAPP '09,

2009 International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants, 10-14 May 2009, Shinjuku Tokyo.

- <http://www.icapp09.org/>

ANIMMA 2009,

Advancements in Nuclear Instrumentation, Measurement Methods and their Applications, 7-10 June 2009, Marseille.

- <http://www.animma.com/>

FISA-2009,

the conference focused on Euratom FP-funded research for nuclear reactors and fuel cycle, 22-26 June 2009, Prague.

- http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/euratom-fission/fisa2009_en.html

ICONE-17,

17th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering, 12-16 July 2009, Brussels.

- <http://www.asmeconferences.org/icone17>

2009 Frédéric Joliot/Otto Hahn Summer School on Nuclear Reactors,

"Physics, Fuels, and Systems", 26 August – 4 September 2009, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, for PhD students and young scientists.

- www.cad.cea.fr/fjoh and www.fzk.de/fjohss

SMiRT 20,

20th International Conference on Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology, 9-14 August, 2009, Espoo, Finland.

- <http://www.vtt.fi/proj/smirt20/index.jsp>

GLOBAL 2009,

The Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Sustainable Options and Industrial Perspectives, 6-11 September 2009, Paris.

- https://www.sfen.fr/index.php/plain_site/global_2009

Top Fuel 2009,

in coordination with GLOBAL 2009, 6-10 September 2009, Paris.

- https://www.sfen.fr/index.php/plain_site/water_reactor_fuel_performance_meeting_wrfpm_2009_top_fuel

NENE 2009,

18th International Conference on Nuclear Energy for New Europe, 14-17 September, 2009, Bled, Slovenia.

- <http://www.nss.si/bled2009/>

International Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Water Cooled Reactors in the 21st Century,

27-30 October 2009, Vienna.

- <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/Announcements.asp>

SNETP Calendar 2009

- **9 January, Paris**
2nd meeting of the EII Task Force
- **14 January, Essen**
4th meeting of the SNETP Executive Committee
- **19 January, Paris**
5th meeting of the SNETP ETKM Working Group
- **9 February**
SNETP Strategic Research Agenda open for public consultation on www.snetp.eu (until 15 March)
- **11 March, Petten**
The SNETP Secretariat meets with the JRC Institute of Energy to initiate information exchange with 'SETIS' (SET-Plan Information System)
- **30 March, Brussels**
6th meeting of the SNETP ETKM Working Group
- **30 April, Brussels**
3rd meeting of the EII Task Force
- **7-8 May, Prague**
SNETP presents its stand at "Research Connection" conference
- **26-27 May, Helsinki**
5th meeting of the SNETP Executive Committee
- **26-28 May, Brussels**
SNETP presents its stand at "Sustainable Development" conference
- **9 June, Marseille**
4th meeting of the SNETP Governing Board
- **6-11 September, Paris**
SNETP presents its stand at "Global 2009" conference

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