

Nantes, February 21th, 2011

## Press announcement

### SKIN: European project on safety analysis for geological nuclear waste disposal

SKIN is a European Project that has recently received funding for 3 years (01/01/2011 – 31/12/2013) within the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (FP7 Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities. It is an international collaborative project led by Professor Bernd Grambow, the project director and the scientific coordinator. The project includes 9 European countries and China: ARMINES/SUBATECH (France), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany), Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany), Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB (Sweden), AMPHOS 21 (Spain), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Stockholm University (Sweden), Paul Scherrer Institut (Switzerland), Loughborough University (United Kingdom) and Peking University (China).

The objective of SKIN (the acronym stands for "Slow kinetics of processes in close-to-equilibrium conditions for radionuclides in water/solid systems of relevance to nuclear waste management") is to assess the relevant individual processes in the near-field and far-field to allow the development of robust assessment methodologies for performance and safety. In fact, due to the slow groundwater movement in confined deep geological formations, the system "radionuclides – minerals – engineered barrier materials – water" will be close to chemical equilibrium. These systems, controlling radionuclide mobility, have been studied for many years, but only little attention has been given to the fact that, due to the long disposal time, individual very slow processes can have significant impact on the mobility of radionuclides, despite the achievement of local equilibrium states. The results would integrate and complete the FP7 Euratom programme for the implementation of geological disposal of radioactive waste.

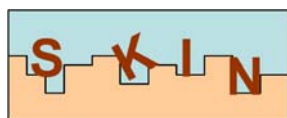
The first "kick-off" meeting has been held at SUBATECH laboratory the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2011. All the collaborators of the consortium were present including the scientific coordinator (Pr Bernd GRAMBOW), the administrative coordinator (Ms Sophie COUSIN) and the European Commission officer (Mr Christophe DAVIES). This meeting was the key element of the successful start for SKIN project. The next meeting in the form of the first annual SKIN workshop will be held at the Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany) in December 2011.

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Slow processes in close-to-equilibrium conditions for radionuclides in water/solid systems of relevance to nuclear waste management



Nuclear research and training activities

