



ATOMEXPO 2015

Round Table:

«Methods and mechanisms of international cooperation to support education&research for sustainable nuclear power development»



 POLITECNICO DI MILANO



# International cooperation towards development of SMR technology The experience of Politecnico di Milano

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Moscow, 2015 June 1st



# Key questions on the table

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1. Why we need (international) cooperation on R&D and E&T?
2. Which mechanisms of cooperation are suitable?



## 1. Why we need (international) cooperation on R&D and E&T?

- **effective** nuclear R&D and innovation are complex and expensive: we need to **share ideas** and share **costs**
- development of new solutions and **time-to-market** constraint: we need to **share facilities** and **expertise** (e.g. to support licensing and training)
- nuclear sector in the wake of a generational change process: we need (soon) a **new generation** of nuclear experts
- nuclear sector in the development phase: we need a new workforce (at industrial and institutional level, esp. in “**newcomer**” countries)
- nuclear is becoming a real **international** market: we need to prepare experts on different nuclear technologies (international E&T)

## 2. Which mechanisms of cooperation are suitable?



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## 2. Which mechanisms of cooperation are suitable?

- objective of this presentation: to share some ideas



# International R&D cooperation on new nuclear technology deployment: the SMR case

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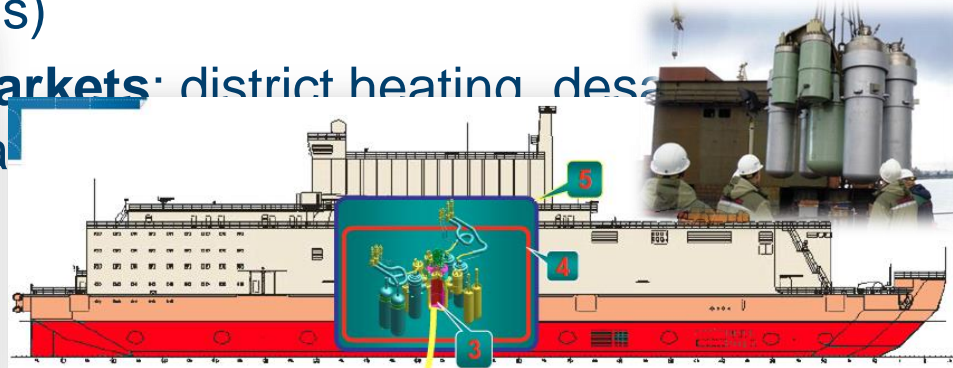
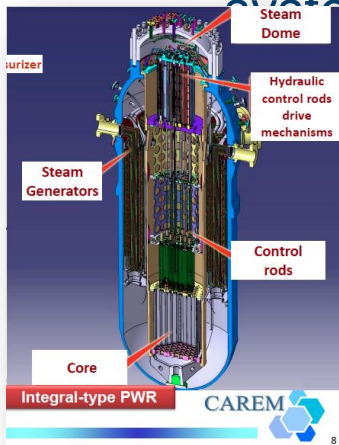


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- **Why Small Modular Reactors (SMRs, 30 - 300 MWe)?**
  - **reduced:** size, costs, complexity, construction time
  - **less financial risk** (investment affordability, cost increase due to delays)
  - modularity, shop construction: demand , **quality** control
  - technology innovation: enhanced safety (e.g. **passive safety** systems)

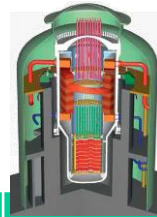
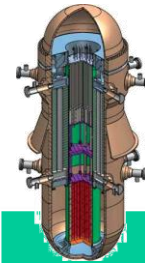
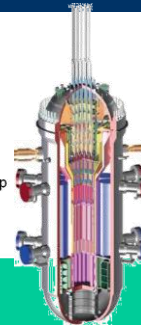
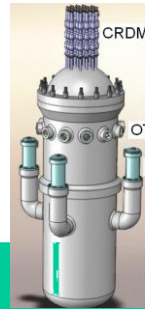
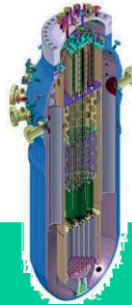


- Since 2005, several actions at IAEA level, to support SMR understanding & knowledge sharing, and to foster





# Innovative SMR technology: iPWR (almost) full integration



**Integration  
of  
components**

ABV-6M

CAREM

NuScale

ACP  
100

SMART

mPower

WEC

IRIS

IMR



Pressurizer

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

Steam  
Generators

X

X

X

X

X

X

almost

X

X

Pumps

NC

NC

NC

X

NC

CRDMs

X

X

X

X

X

**SIZE** MWth  
MWe

38  
6100  
25160  
45310  
100330  
100530  
180800  
2251000  
3351000  
350



- **Fuel, Integrated components:** pumps, steam generators, CRDMs, pressurizer

- **Safety systems:** (usually) passive, natural circulation, two-phase flow systems

Separate Effect Test (SET)

- **Integral layout:** integration of components, safety systems, (containment)

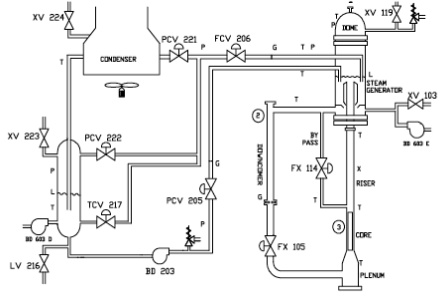
Integral Effect Test (IET)

Main goals: i) to test safety effectiveness, performance  
ii) **to validate codes & models**

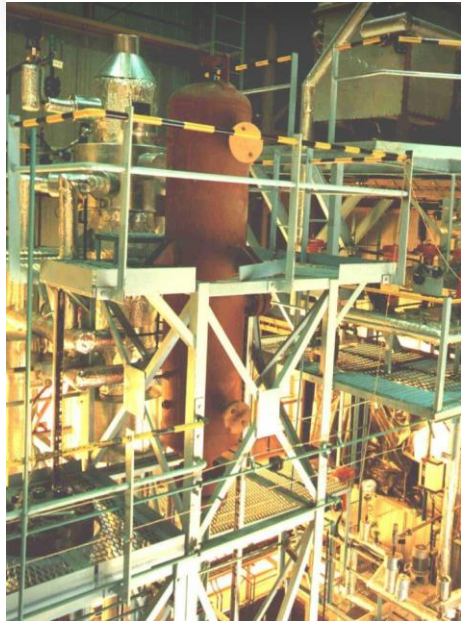




# SMR – iPWRs: Integral Effect Tests (IET) facilities



**NuScale:** NuScale Integral System Test (NIST) facility  
(1:1 in P, T; 1:3 in height, 1:253 in volume, 1:1 in time)



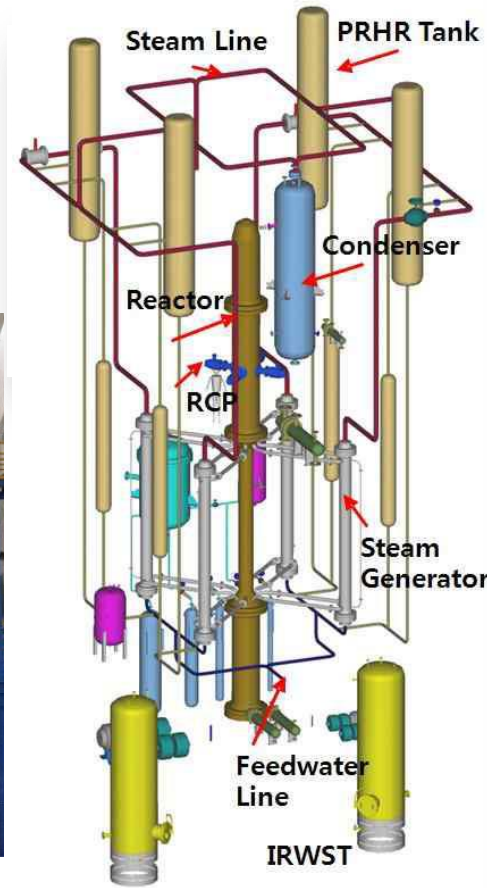
**CAREM25:** CAPCN, TH dynamics in conditions similar to CAREM-25 operational states  
(1:1 in height and P, T; 1:335 in power)



**mPower:** Integrated Systems Test (IST) facility  
(1:1 in height and P, T; 1:375 in power)



**ACP100:** Core Cooling and REsidual heat removal System Test facility (CREST)  
(1:1 in height and P, T; 1:37 in volume; 1:100 in power)



**SMART:** SMART-ITL large scale integral test facility  
(1:1 in height, 1:1 in P, T; 1:49 in power)



# International collaboration for an “Open” iPWR facility?

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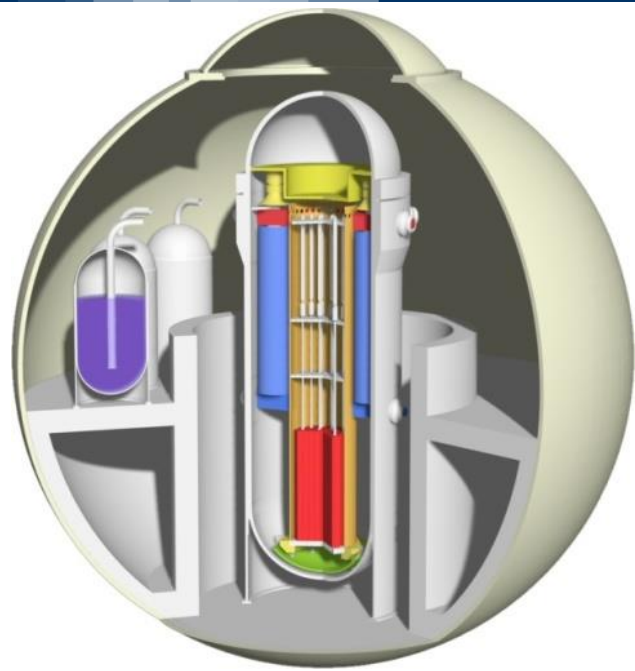
- Sensible level of **similarities** among SMR-iPWR concepts
- IET facilities usually adopted for licensing purposes (**proprietary**, not accessible now)
- “**Open**” IET facility for iPWRs at SIET labs: SPES3

(SIET labs are performing SG tests for NuScale licensing)

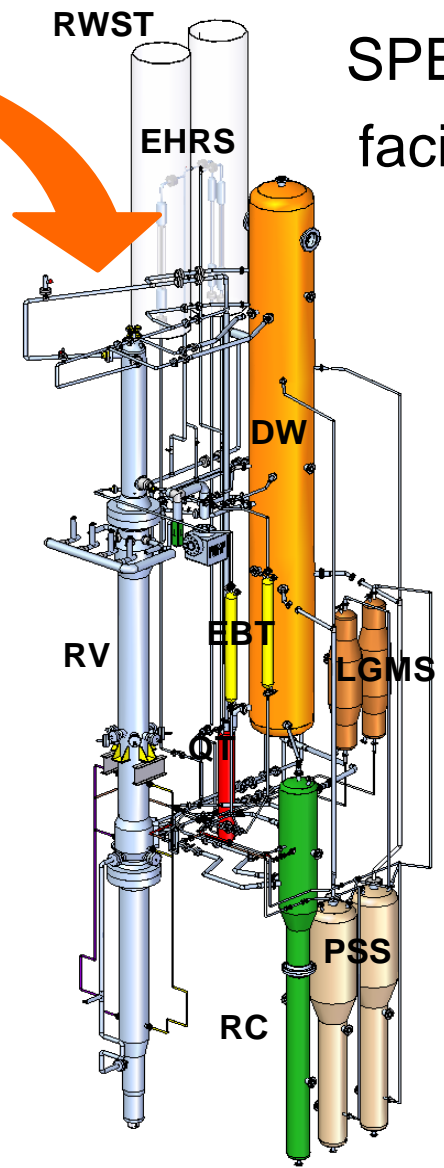
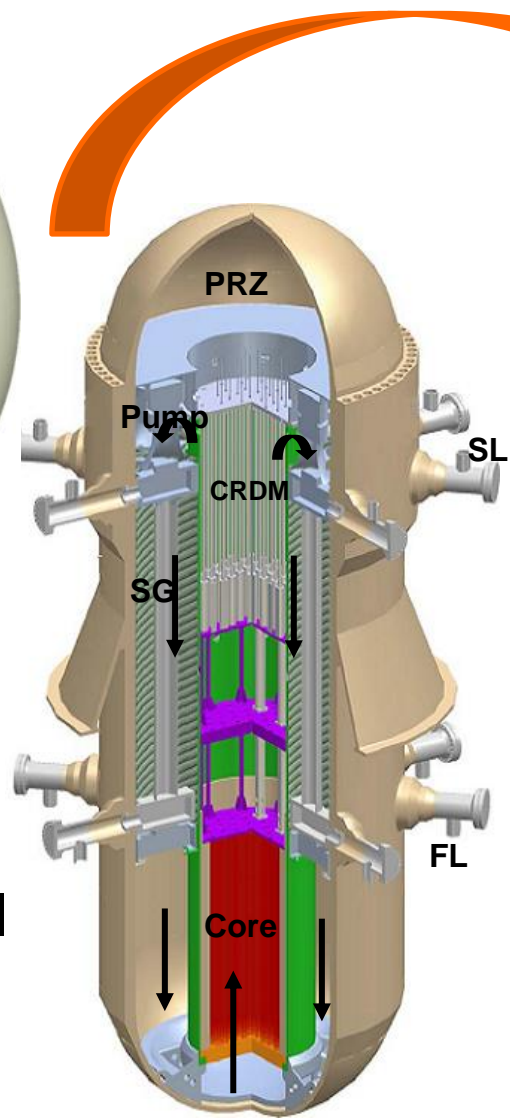




# IRIS – SPES3: a possible IET case



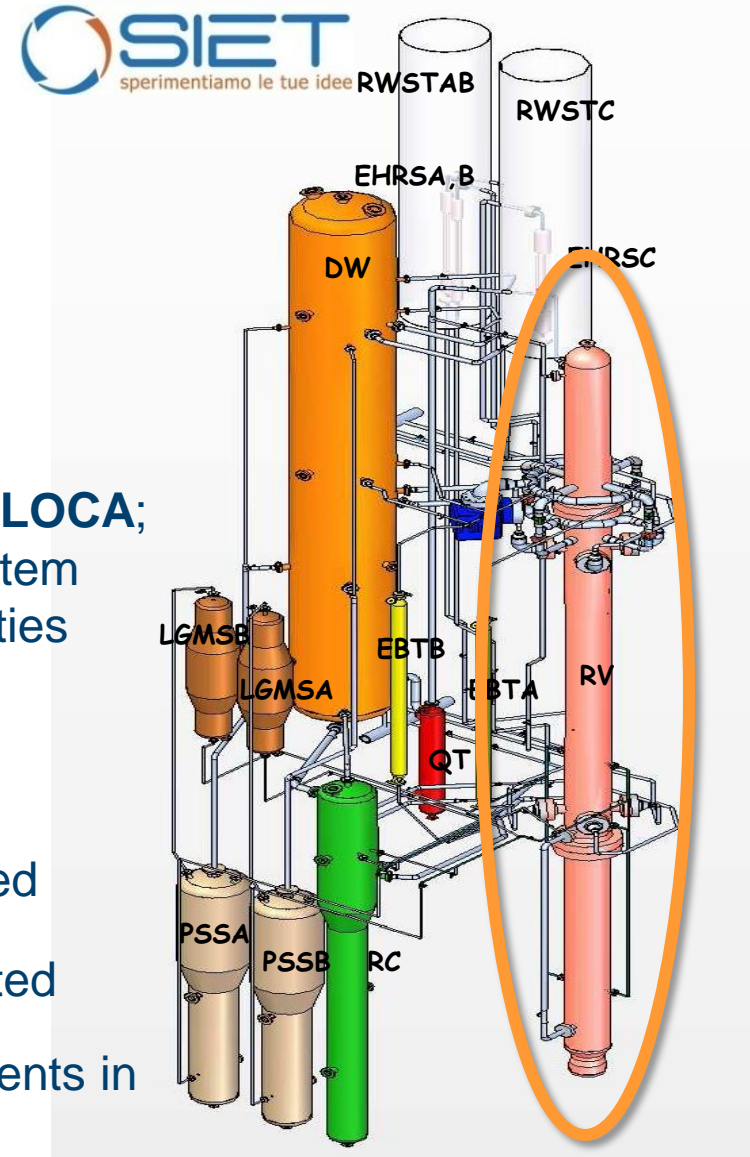
IRIS spherical Containment + IRIS integral RPV



SPES3 facility

## iPWR (IRIS-based) Integral, Large Scale Test Facility

- **Full scale** (1:1) in height, temperature, pressure
  - Scaled **1:100 in power** and volume
  - **> 700 measurement points**, new instrumentation developed
  - thermal-hydraulic phenomena during **SBLOCA**; **dynamic coupling** between primary system and containment system; EHRSA capabilities
- 
- ✓ scaling phase and design phase completed
  - ✓ site preparation and control room completed
  - ✓ construction phase started: main components in place (except RPV simulator)



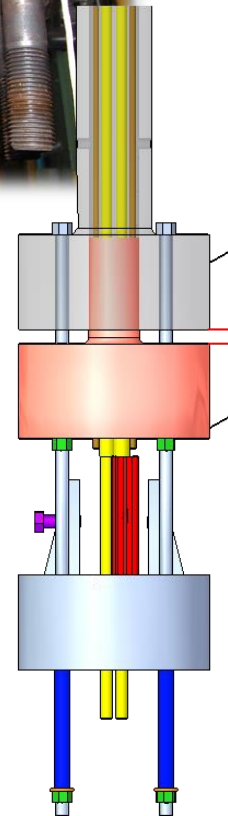
# SPES3: area preparation for components installation + heating rods testing (fuel)



**SPES3 side view**



**SPES3: drywell and EHR pools**





>10M€ investment (Italian Min.Econ.Dev.), >60% completed

## Main goals:

- Access to experimental data by different international stakeholders (safety authorities, technology developers, newcomer countries, R&D organisations)
  - Computer codes & models validation (safety), e.g. ISP, database
  - Integrated system performance
  - Safety features demonstration
  - Control and protection systems verification
- **iPWR knowledge development & share**
- **Educational & Training purposes**

## How to proceed?

- Expression of Interest from potential partners
- International Advisory Board
- Cost-sharing

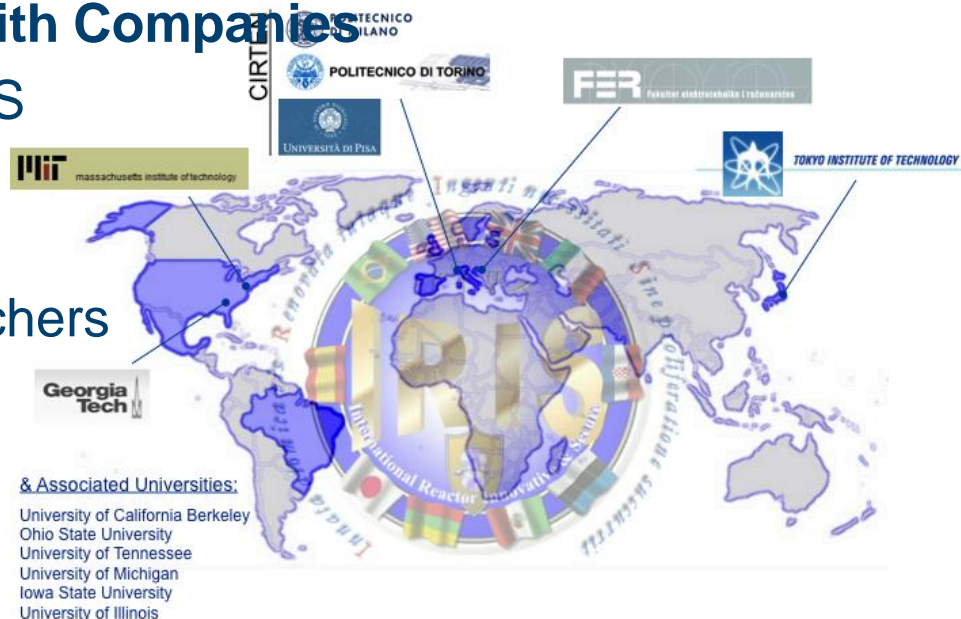




The IRIS case (2002-2007):

## ▪ Students' collaboration

- within University labs and/or through Company internships
- thesis work (3-to-12 months)
- PhD program (6 months-3 years)
- post-graduation period (6 month-1 year)
- Formal agreements (students exchange) among U-IRIS; formal/informal agreements **with Companies**
- **>130 students** worked on IRIS
- **400 papers** co-authored by students, professors, experts
- Professors/permanent researchers involved: >30





# Nuclear Education & Training: open to international collaboration

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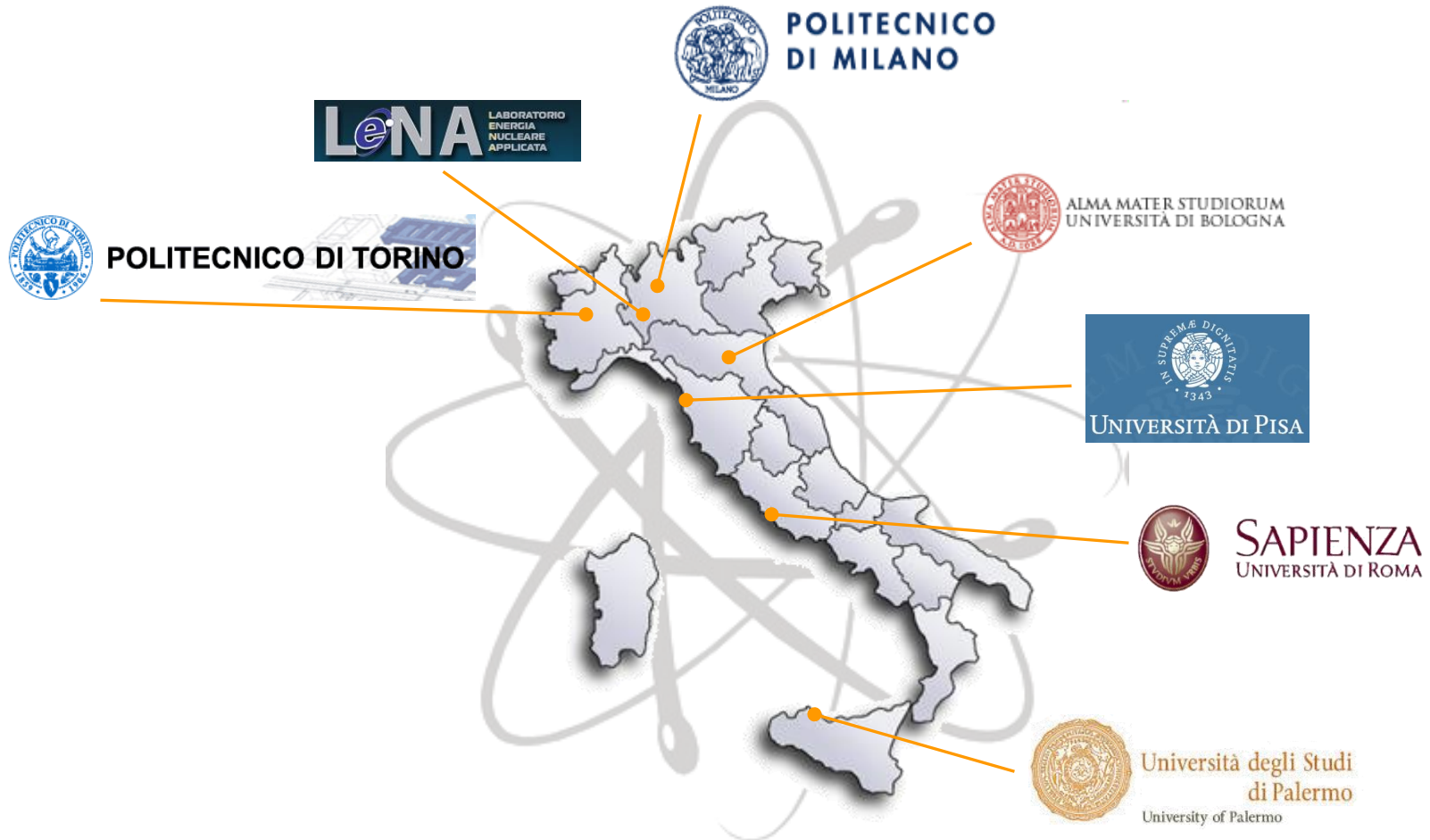


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The Italian Nuclear Universities case: since 1994, **CIRTEN** consortium (ENEN partner)



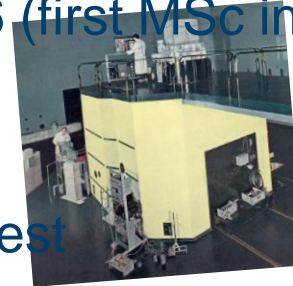


## Politecnico di Milano (Engineering, Architecture, Design, since 1863):

- the leading technology university in Italy, among top 5 in EU (QS Employer ranking), 31st in the World in Engineering & Technology (QS ranking 2014)
- Nuclear Engineering education since 1956 (first MSc in NE and first nuclear research reactor in Italy)

Today:

- Still first MSc in NE in Italy, one of the largest in EU



## How to be prepared for international collaboration?

- fully **English taught MSc + PhD** + professional education programmes in Nuclear Engineering
- **Brand-new experimental labs**
- Access to **external facilities**
- **Partnership** with selected Universities and Companies





# New experimental labs, opening ceremony March 6, 2015

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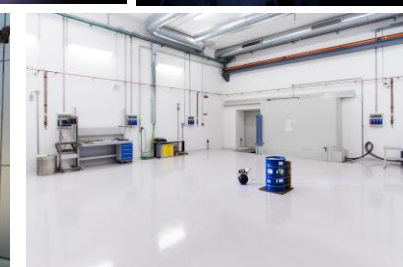
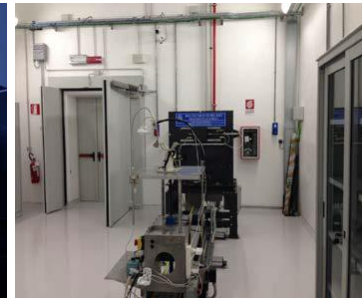
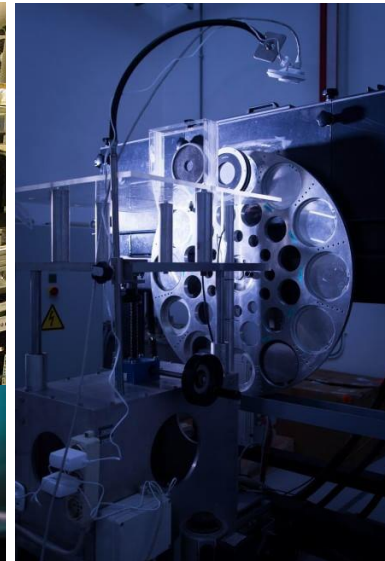
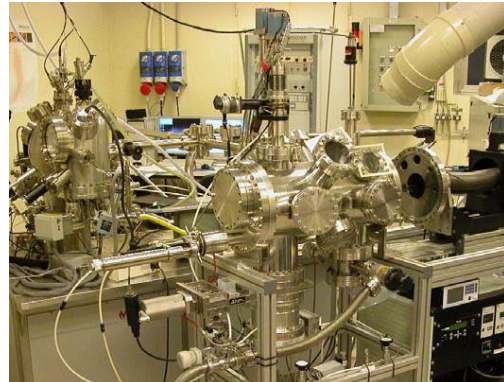
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- New, advanced experimental labs for research, training & education
- Chemical-energetic and Nuclear engineering labs
- 3 stories building, more than 6 000 m<sup>2</sup>, more than 15M€ investment (POLIMI)



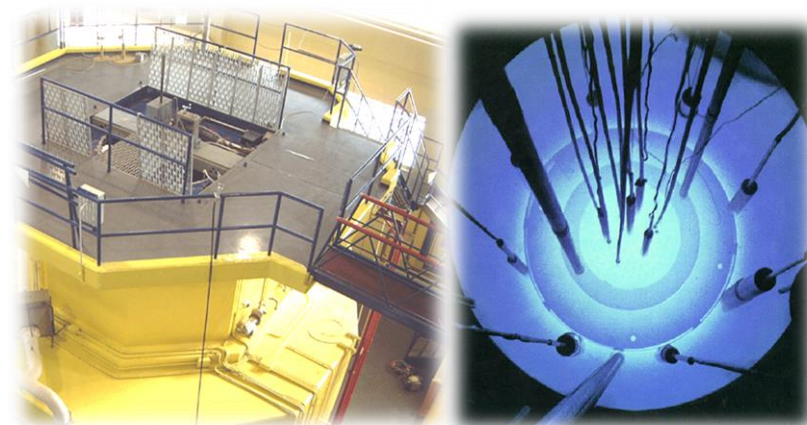
- Radiochemistry
- Radioprotection
- Nuclear instrum. & measurements
- Nuclear electronics
- Calibration and testing
- Health physics
- Contaminants migration
- Nuclear safeguards
- Material science & nanotechnology
- The facility includes also a **bunker for irradiation**



Open access for companies, universities and research centers, for E&T and R&D



- **TRIGA research reactor (at Pavia)**  
Training and R&D activities



TRIGA MarkII (250 kW)



- **SIET labs (at Piacenza)**  
world-class, large scale exp. labs for safety systems and thermalhydraulic tests, for nuclear reactor components and systems



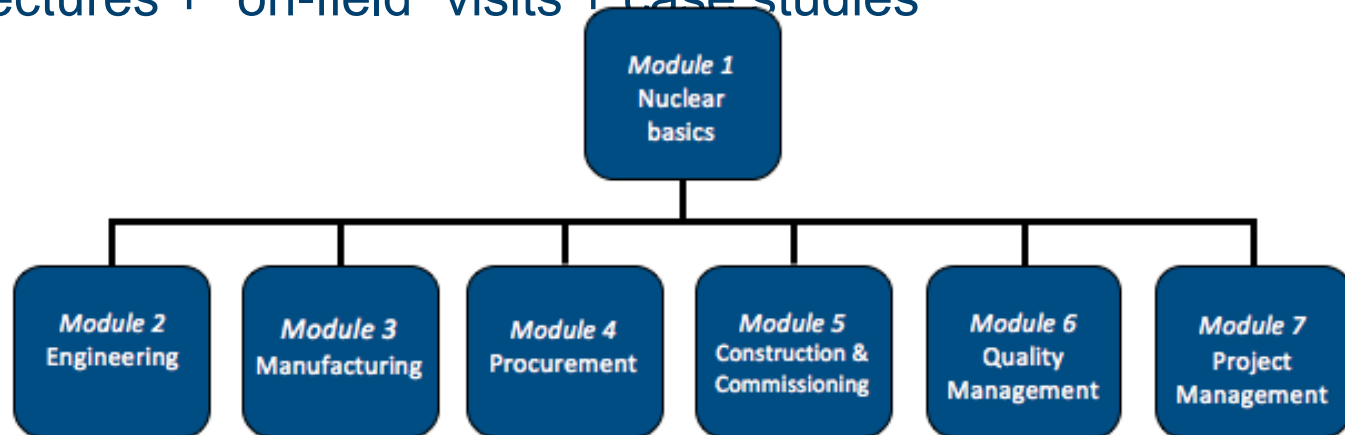
- **CNAO (at Pavia)**  
Sincrotron for adrontherapy, for medical applications of radiation (few in the world)





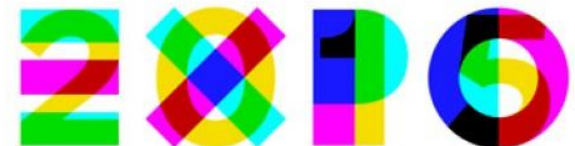
## “Executive Master in Nuclear Plant Construction Management”

- Specialisation course, 1 year
- designed with companies (ENEL, AREVA, EPCs, etc.) for companies
- lectures + “on-field” visits + case studies





# Thank you for your attention



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## Common set of design principles with iPWRs:

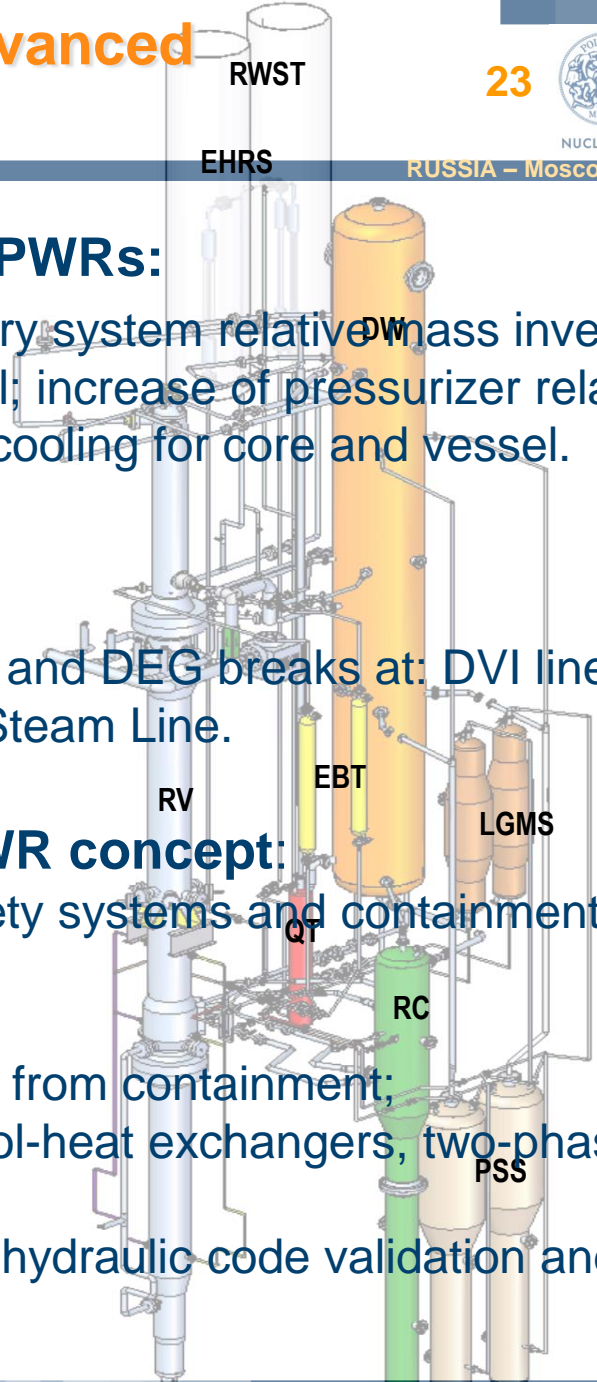
- integral vessel layout; increase of primary system relative mass inventory; passive safety systems for heat removal; increase of pressurizer relative volume; increase of natural convection cooling for core and vessel.

## Transient simulation:

- Integral tests of DBA, BDBA, SBO; split and DEG breaks at: DVI line, EBT top line, ADS line, Feed Line and Steam Line.

## SPES-3 may offer critical insight on iPWR concept:

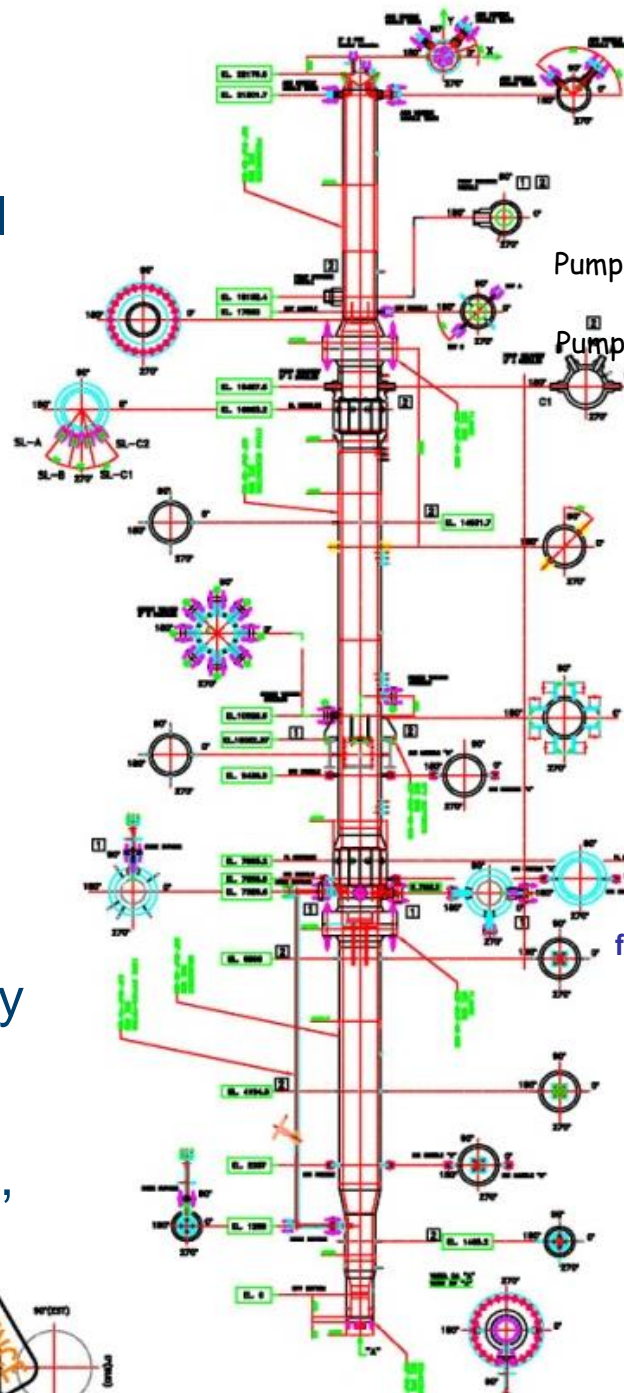
- investigation of behavior of passive safety systems and containment-vessel coupling;
- safety systems intervention sequence;
- heat removal capabilities from RPV and from containment;
- SETs on SGs and EHRS, pumps, in pool-heat exchangers, two-phase flow instrumentation;
- qualified data for best-estimate thermal-hydraulic code validation and benchmark.



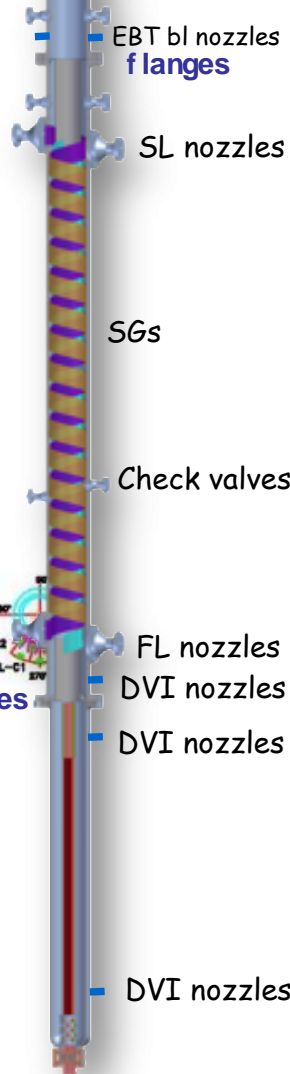


# SPES-3: integral reactor simulator

- 3 forged pieces + 4 helical coil SG simulators
- Detailed design provided by italian manufacturing enterprises
- Co-funding (50%) by italian companies
- Estimated cost: 5 M€
- Co-funding: discussions with Regional Government, Ministry of Economic Development
- Partnership: Industries, ENEA, SIET labs, POLIMI



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## How to proceed?

- Secure funding to conclude construction phase
  - Declaration / Expression of Interest letters about the use of the Open Facility (e.g. from international org., gov.ntl org., R&D centers, EU-Euratom, etc.)
- **Set up of an International Advisory Panel, to support/advice the Open Facility operational management (SIET)**
  - Experts/representatives from countries interested in SMR technology (e.g. IAEA, safety authorities/TSO, R&D centres, etc.)
  - Select experimental campaigns of main interest, propose ISP, organise blind benchmarks, iPWR-SMR workshops, etc.
- **Cost-sharing**
  - Typical cost of an experimental campaign (order of magnitude): 500K€