



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The World's Best Example

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية

国際原子エネルギー機関

International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Wagramer Strasse 5, P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Wien, Austria

Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007

E-mail: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <http://www.iaea.org>

In reply please refer to:

Dial directly to extension: (+431) 2600-21603

Mr. Prime Minister Howard, Your Excellencies, Members of the Board, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the IAEA Director General, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, I bring greetings and congratulations on the official opening of the OPAL reactor. This is an auspicious occasion for Australia and ANSTO, and marks the start of a new generation of world class research from a world class facility.

ANSTO and the IAEA have enjoyed many years of cooperation. Indeed, our areas of mutual interest confirm the importance that both organisations place on the value of nuclear technology in the modern world. ANSTO's role as a leading research organization is fully complementary to the promotional role of the IAEA's work in nuclear sciences, which is primarily to bring the benefits of nuclear sciences and applications to developing countries. For this we rely on support and cooperation with the world's leading nuclear institutions. IAEA and ANSTO are both, for example, active in the development of new radiopharmaceuticals for better diagnosis and treatments of disease; we both have interests in understanding environmental processes and the effects of pollutants in the marine and terrestrial environments, and in understanding climate change.

The Agency strongly promotes sustainable industrial development in developing countries, and it is also in this area that ANSTO's cutting-edge research capabilities are vital. The OPAL research reactor will open new horizons in physics, chemistry, materials science, medicine and engineering, and in many other important fields of nuclear technology. The IAEA looks forward to enhanced and even more fruitful collaboration.

In recognition of the long standing cooperation between ANSTO and the Agency, the IAEA has proposed and the Australian Government has agreed that ANSTO may be designated as an IAEA Collaborating Centre for Neutron Scattering Applications, ensuring greater value for both of our programmes in this topical area.

Mr. Prime Minister, Excellencies, Board members and staff of ANSTO

On behalf of the IAEA, I wish the OPAL reactor and its dedicated researchers a long and productive future, and assure Australia and ANSTO of our readiness to collaborate and assist in this important research in nuclear technology.