

# **IPEN – Nuclear and Energy Research Institute**

## **An important nuclear research institute in Brazil**

**Institution of the State of São Paulo**

***Supported and operated technical and administratively by  
the  
Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN)  
of the  
Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and  
Communication***

**Associated to the University of São Paulo (Education)**

# A little of our history

The IEA R1 reactor was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1958 in the presence of the President of Brazil (Juscelino Kubitschek).

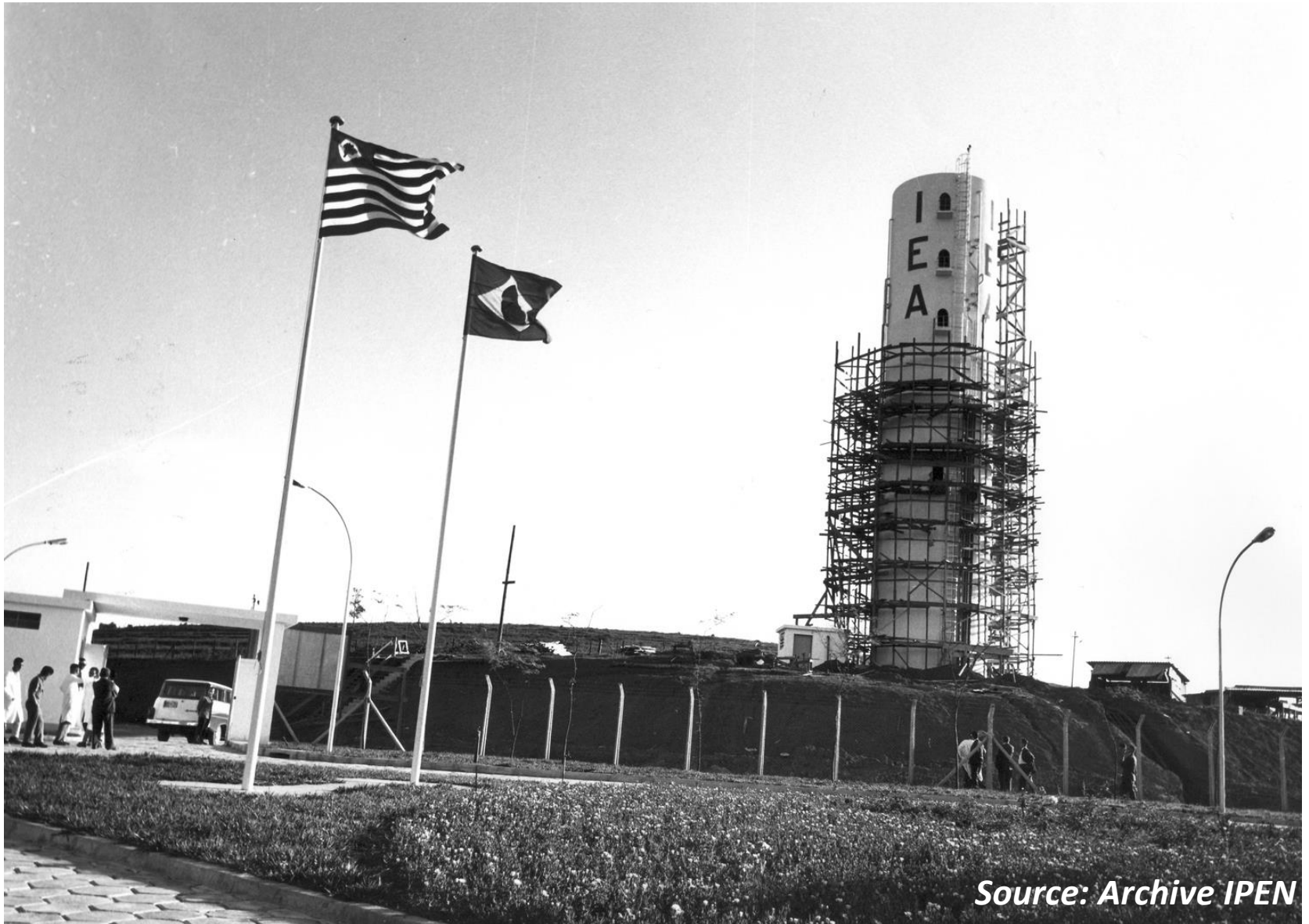


IPEN established its post-graduation program in Nuclear Science and Technology with USP-1976



*Source: Archive IPEN*

## New areas developed to dominate the technology on the Fuel Cycle



*Source: Archive IPEN*



# Aerial View of IPEN today

## IPEN - Nuclear and Energy Research Institute

Photo : Marcello Vitorino



## MISSION

"Our commitment is to improve the quality of life of the Brazilian population, producing scientific knowledge, developing technologies, generating products and services in a safe way and training human resources in the nuclear and related areas."

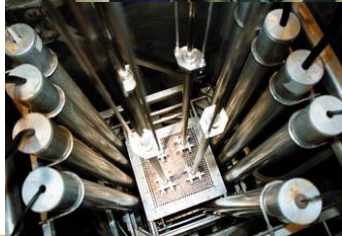
## Research Centers (11)

### Radiopharmacy

**Nuclear Fuel  
Production**



**Nuclear  
Engineering**



**Fuel  
Cells &  
Hydrogen**



**Lasers &  
Applications**



**Science &  
Technology  
of Materials**



**Research Reator**



**Biotechnology**



**Radiation  
Technology**



**Radioprotection**



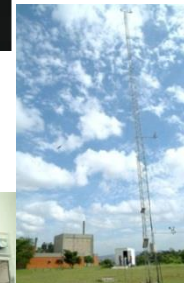
**Radiation  
Metrology**



**Radioactive  
waste**



**Chemistry &  
Environment**



# Infrastructure (highlights)



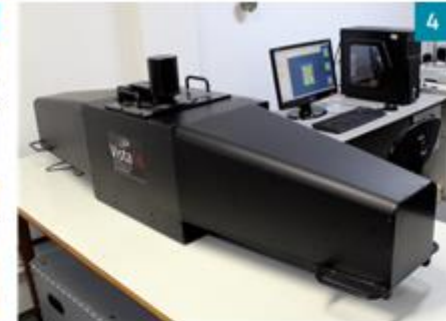
1  
Cyclone 18 - 18Mev cyclotron particle accelerator



2  
37 PBq <sup>60</sup>Co Multipurpose irradiator



3  
1.5 Mev electron accelerator and 65mA beam



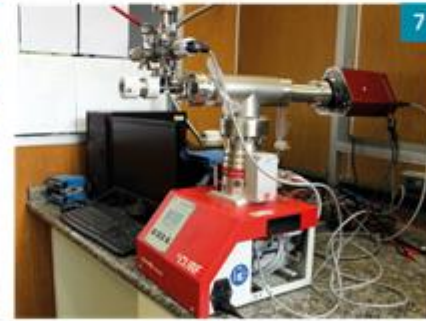
4  
Optical computerized tomography used in 3D radiotherapy dosimetry



5  
Cyclone 30 - 30 Mev particle accelerator



6  
1.5 Mev electron accelerator and 25mA beam



7  
Differential electrochemical mass spectroscopy for fuel cell testing



8  
IPEN/MB-01 100w critical nuclear reactor

# Infrastructure (highlights)



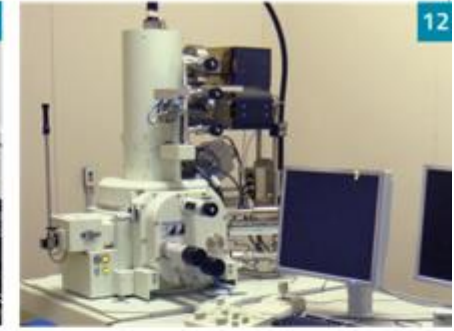
Animal facility (Bioterium)



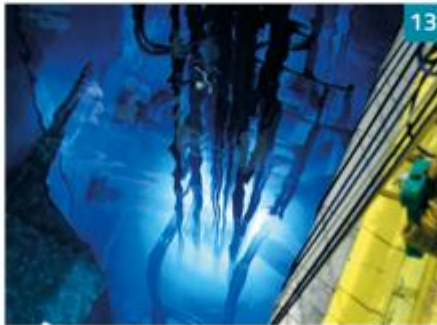
Argon plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES)



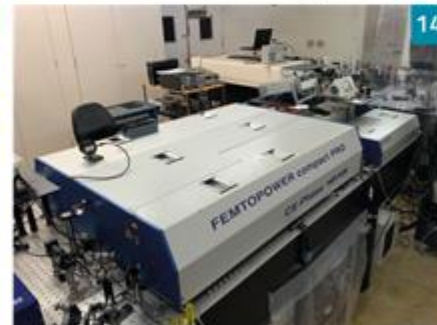
Automatic machine for measuring combustible plates by laser triangulation



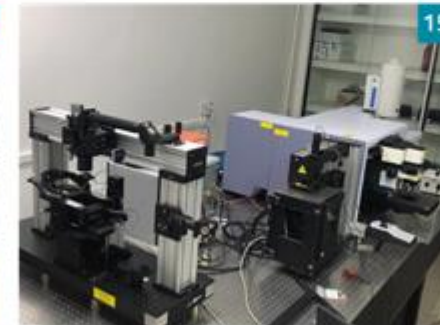
Scanning electron microscope with field emission gun (SEM-FEG)



5 MW IEA-R1 Research Nuclear Reactor



1/2 TW peak power laser

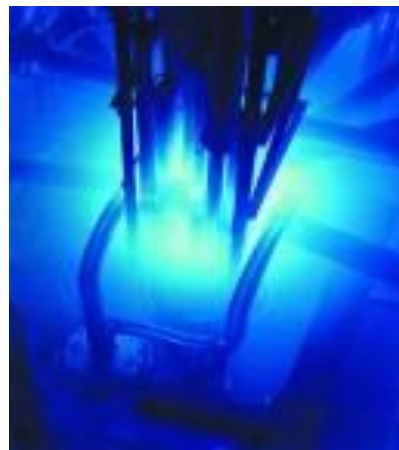


SNOM – Scanning Near-field Optical Microscopy

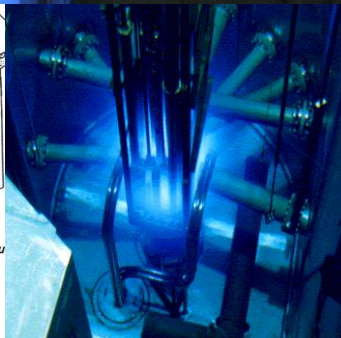
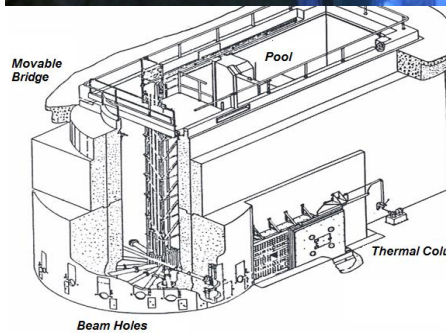
# IPEN IEA-R1 research reactor

**The Nuclear Reactor IEA-R1 operates since 1957 (officially inaugurated in 1958) for research and radionuclides production, mainly for nuclear medicine.**

**The uses for research are nuclear physics, neutron activation, radiochemistry, etc,  
Training for reactor operation.**



# IPEN IEA-R1 research reactor



## *Main characteristics*

- **Constructor: Babcock-Wilcox**
- **First criticality: September 16th, 1957**
- **Type: open pool type reactor**
- **Moderator and coolant: light water**
- **Nominal power: 5 MW**
- **Thermal flux:  $1 \times 10^{14} \text{ n cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$**
- **Fast flux:  $1.3 \times 10^{13} \text{ n cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$**
- **8 radial and 2 tangential beam holes;**
- **Operating cycle: 9h per day, 3 days per week**

# IPEN/MB-01 research reactor

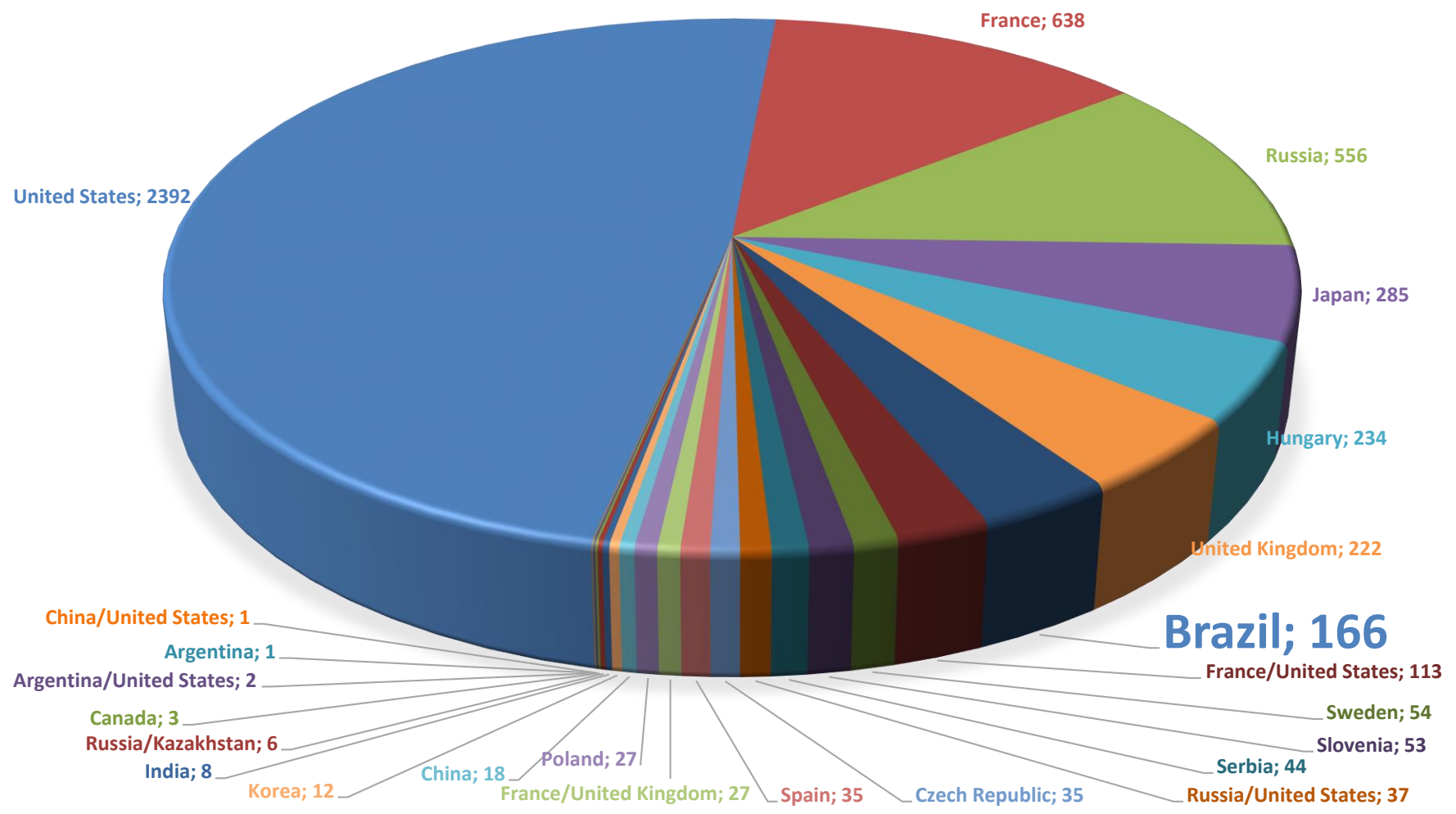
IPEN/MB-01 reactor,  
100 W critical facility  
(Built by Ipen with the collaboration  
of the Brazilian Navy – first  
criticality in 1988)



- Nuclear fuel performance and irradiation damage studies.
- Thermal hydraulic, structural and risk analysis.
- Ageing management of mechanical components.
- Probabilistic safety assessment.

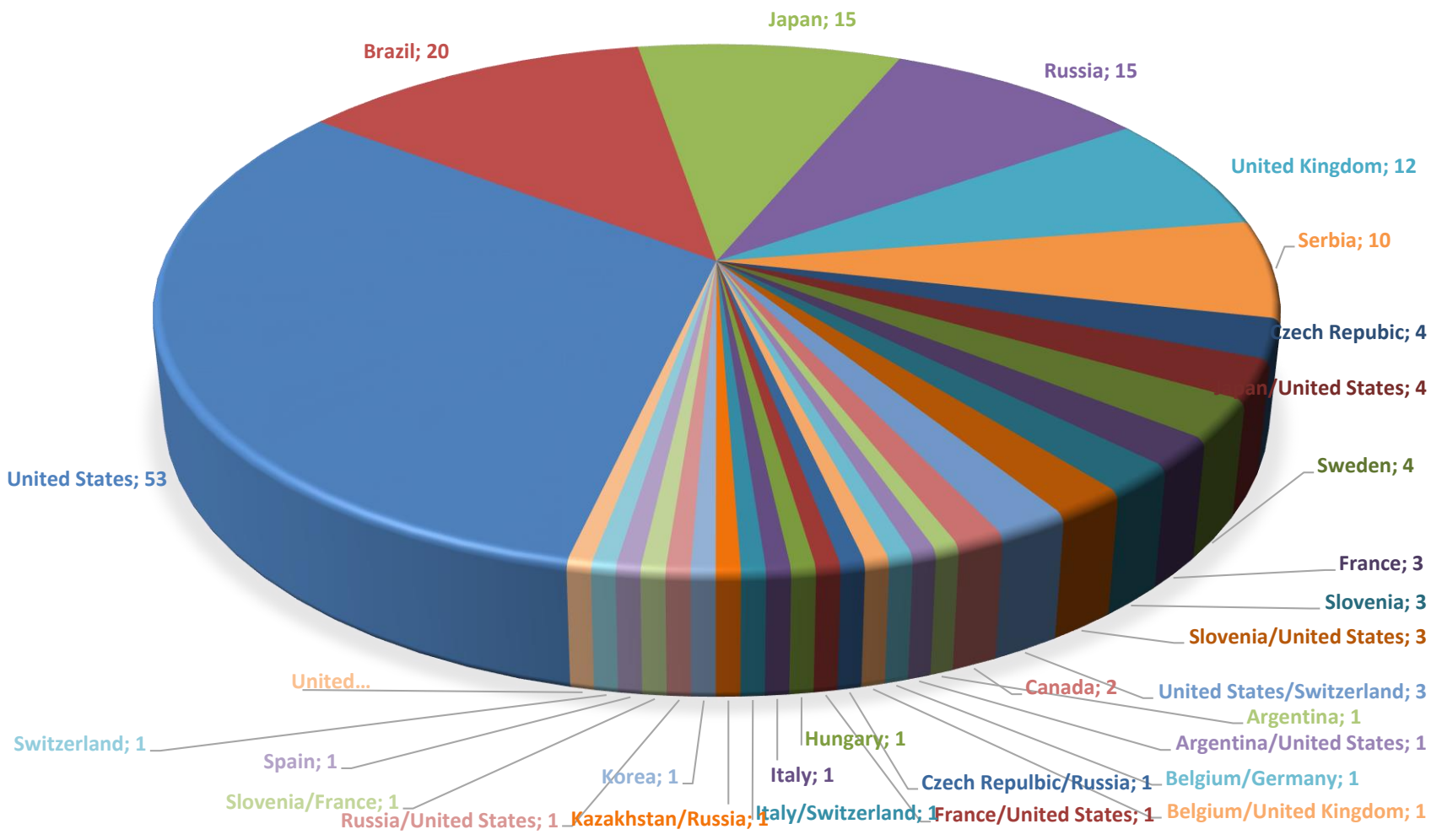
# Contribution by Country

## International Criticality Safety Benchmark Experiments - ICSBEP Configurations



# Contribution by Country

## International Reactor Physics Experiments-IRPhEP Experimental Series



# Nuclear Fuel

Since 1987, IPEN has been manufacturing the fuel for the research reactors

**In last years a new program to fabricate fuels with high uranium density has been started**



# Brazilian Multipurpose Reactor (RMB)

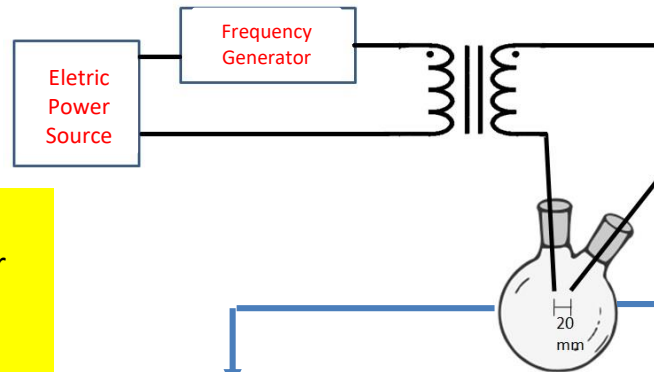
**The new Reactor will provide Brazil with a key infrastructure to national development activities of the nuclear sector in the areas of social, strategic, industrial, scientific and technological development and application**

## **Main Functions:**

- **Radioisotope Production for Medical/Industrial Applications**
  - **Fuel and Materials Irradiation Testing**
    - **Neutron Beam Laboratory**
    - **Education and Training**

# Important research being developed at IPEN

# Advanced 2D Materials obtained by low-cost cold plasma methods



**materialstoday**  
**ADVANCES**  
 Volume 12, December 2021, 100181



Facile, clean and rapid exfoliation of boron-nitride using a non-thermal plasma process

Rodrigo F.B. de Souza, Victoria A. Maia, Priscilla J. Zambiazzi, Larissa Otubo, Dolores R.R. Lazar, Almir O. Neto

- Fast, simple, clean and scalable simple method for producing 2D materials Includes
- Bottom-Up and Top-Down strategies
- Synthesis of materials in solid, liquid or gas phase

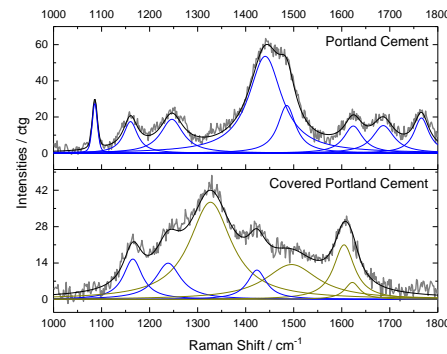
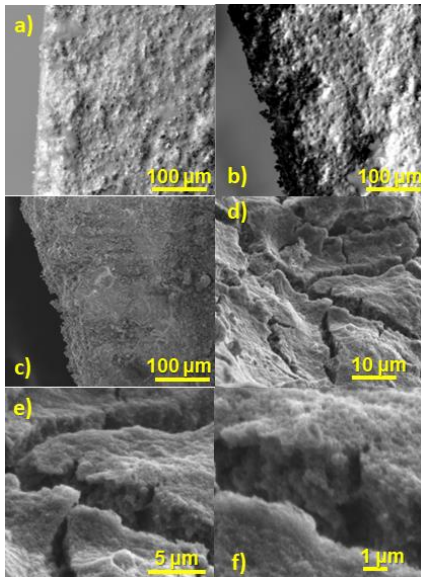


Synthesis of high purity graphene by bottom-up process



Synthesis of Boron Nitride Nanosheets by dry top-down process

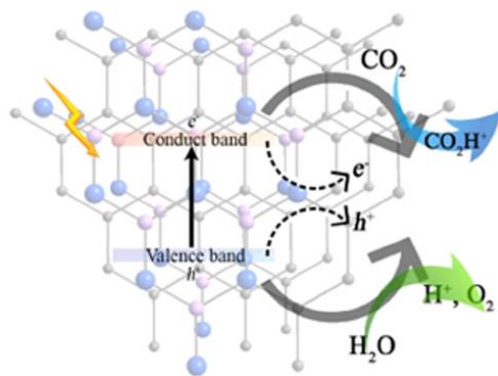
# Hydrophobic Graphenoid Layer on Portland Cement for Non-Thermal Plasma Method



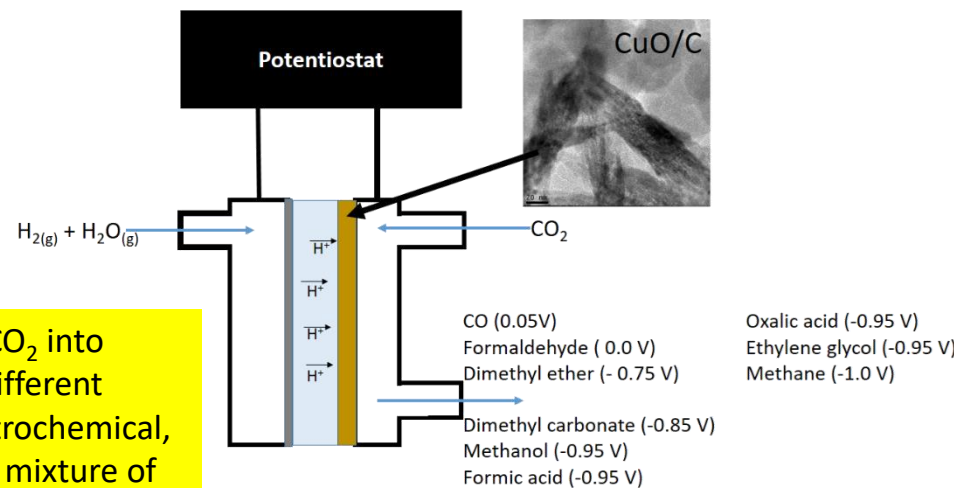
- Hydrophobic coating on ready-made surfaces
- Prevents infiltration
- No need for paints or polymers
- deep application of graphenoid directly into concrete



# CO<sub>2</sub> into Products



Transformation of CO<sub>2</sub> into products through different routes such as electrochemical, photochemical or a mixture of both



Applied Materials Today 29 (2022) 101605

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Applied Materials Today**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apmt](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apmt)



**International Journal of Hydrogen Energy**

Volume 47, Issue 6, 19 January 2022, Pages 4010-4017



Layered graphene/hexagonal boron nitride nanosheets (Gr/h-BNNs) applied to the CO<sub>2</sub> photoconversion into methanol

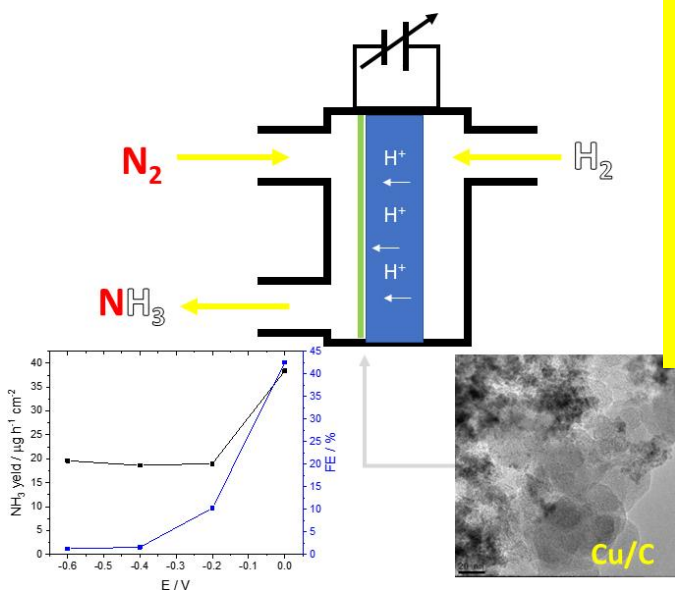
Paulo V.R. Gomes<sup>a</sup>, Nathalia F.B. Azeredo<sup>a</sup>, Luis M.S. Garcia<sup>b</sup>, Priscilla J. Zambiasi<sup>a</sup>, Giovanni R. Morselli<sup>b</sup>, Rômulo A. Ando<sup>b</sup>, Larissa Otubo<sup>a</sup>, Dolores R.R. Lazar<sup>a</sup>, Rodrigo F.B. de Souza<sup>a</sup>, Debora F. Rodrigues<sup>c</sup>, Almir O. Neto<sup>b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Instituto de Pesquisas Energéticas e Nucleares, Av. Prof. Lineu Prestes 2242, São Paulo CEP 05508-000, Brazil  
<sup>b</sup> Laboratório de Espectroscopia Molecular, Departamento de Química Fundamental, Instituto de Química, Universidade Estadual de São Paulo - USP, Av. Prof. Lineu Prestes, 740, São Paulo CEP 05508-000, Brazil  
<sup>c</sup> Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Houston, TX 77204-4003, United States

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction on Cu/C used as a cathode in a polymeric electrolyte reactor - Fuel cell type

Mariana Lima, Camila M. Godoi, Monique C.L. Santos, Julio Nandenha, Almir O. Neto, Rodrigo F.B. De Souza ✉

# Electrification of Ammonia Synthesis



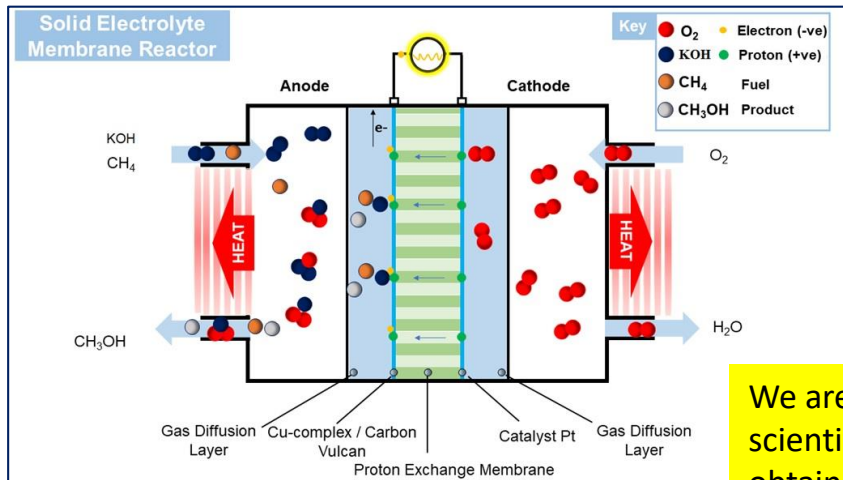
Obtaining ammonia electrochemically using a polymer electrolyte, making it possible to obtain the gas without salt contamination and with higher energy efficiency than the traditional Haber-Bosh.



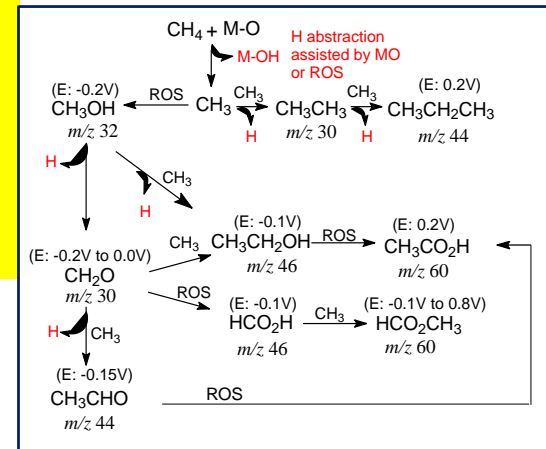
Conversion of nitrogen to ammonia using a Cu/C electrocatalyst in a polymeric electrolyte reactor

Victoria A. Maia<sup>a</sup>, Camila M.G. Santos<sup>a</sup>, Nathália F.B. Azeredo<sup>a</sup>, Priscilla J. Zambiasi<sup>a</sup>, Ermete Antolini<sup>b</sup>, Almir O. Neto<sup>a,\*</sup>, Rodrigo F.B. de Souza<sup>a</sup>

# Methane in Chemical Inputs



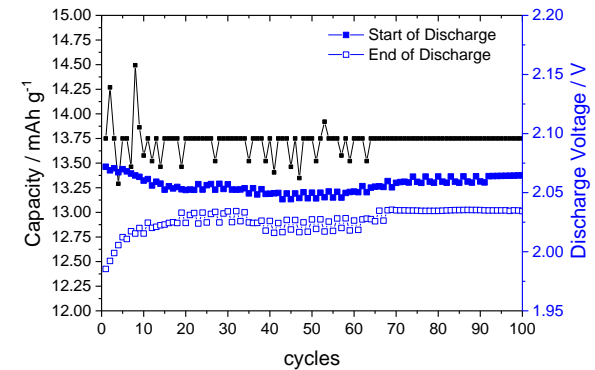
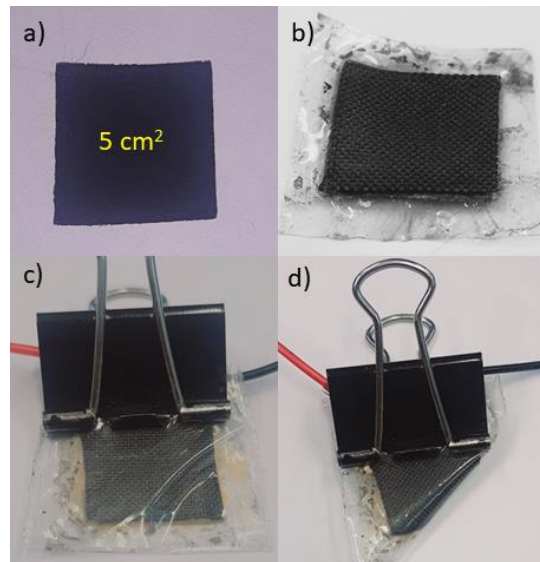
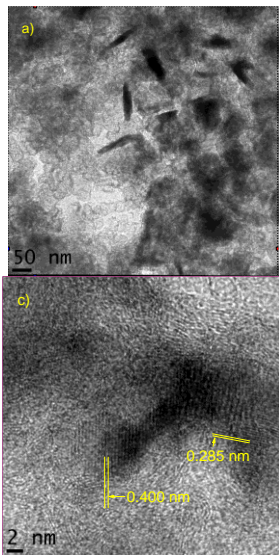
We are currently at the scientific frontier in obtaining liquid hydrocarbons from methane electrochemically at mild conditions.



Review  
**Partial Methane Oxidation in Fuel Cell-Type Reactors for Co-Generation of Energy and Chemicals: A Short Review**

Rodrigo F. B. de Souza <sup>1</sup>, Daniel Z. Florio <sup>2</sup>, Ermete Antolini <sup>3</sup> and Almir O. Neto <sup>1,\*</sup>

# Innovative Lead-Carbon Battery Utilizing Electrode-Electrolyte Assembly Inspired by PEM-FC Architecture



Using Pb/C nanostructured on fuel cell architecture we construct a flexible, light and very stable lead acid battery

# IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects

**Ionizing radiation applied for reducing plastic and microplastics pollution: standardization of methods for detection, characterization and treatment demonstration in situ**

**Sustainable and residue-free nuclear fuel fabrication for research reactors in Brazil**

**Strengthening industrial gamma tomography technology to characterize Brazilian reservoir rocks and quality control of refining towers and pipes for enhancement of oil production.**

**Development of radioisotope and radiopharmaceutical Ac225-PSMA for applicability in the treatment of prostate cancer**

# IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects

**Development of mobile unit using an electron beam accelerator for treatment of effluent from petroleum industry and degradation of toxic organic compounds in wastewater for reuse in industrial processes and cleaning purposes**

**Improving of Brachytherapy Production Quality for Cancer Treatment in Brazil**

**Project RLA1020 (ARCAL CLXXIX) - Promoting Radiation Technology in Natural and Synthetic Polymers for the Development of New Products, with Emphasis on Waste Recovery**

**Projeto Arcal RLA 2020016 "Implementación del proceso de irradiación de frutas frescas y secas com fines cuarentenários. Cooperation with Argentina**

# IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects

## Programme: Coordination Research Projects - CRP

**Enhancing the Beneficial Effects of Radiation Processing in Nanotechnology**

**Development of Radiation-Grafted Membranes for Cleaner and Sustainable Energy**

**Radiation based technologies for treatment of emerging organic pollutants**

**Determination of Lethal and Sterilizing Doses of gamma radiation for all life cycle stages of *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera:Plutellidae) diamondback moth for phytosanitary treatment**

**Radiation Processing For Preservation of Cultural Heritage Objects**

**Radiation Effect on Polymer Materials Commonly Used in Medical Devices**



**Meeting on Establishing and Maintaining a National Register of Sealed Radioactive Sources(SRS) (INT9186)**  
Ref. No.: EVT2003129  
27 June to 1 July 2022  
São Paulo - Brazil

*Photo : E. R. Paiva*

# Course organized by IPEN-CNEN with support of IAEA)



Photo : E. R. Paiva

# Products and Services

## Production of Radioisotopes and Radiopharmaceuticals



## Function: Products and Services

# Production of Fuel Elements for Research Reactors



# Function: Products and Services

## Provision of Technological Services

- ✓ **Characterization, treatment and storage of radioactive waste**
- ✓ **Risk analysis of nuclear facilities**
- ✓ **Radioprotection training**
- ✓ **Shielding calculation**
- ✓ **Radiologic Emergency Care**
- ✓ **Inspection of Fuel Elements**



## Postgraduate program in Nuclear Technology

**Started in 1976**

**Concept 6**

**CAPES Assessment**

**Degrees: End of 2021**

**Doctorate - 1,052**

**Master's - 2,094**

**TOTAL - 3,146**



***IPEN was contemplated with the award of Best Thesis  
of 2014 in Engineering (Area II)***

***Source: Archive IPEN***

## Professional Masters in Radiation Technology in Health Sciences



Photos : E. R. Paiva

**Stricto sensu  
Started in 2019  
2022: Fourth class**





**Function: Teaching**  
**Number of enrolled students**

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
NT	418	441	460	430	428	424
MP	-	-	-	26	55	76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>500</b>

## Master student granted

**Lilian Ninoska  
Braguin (2020)**  
Art: Katia Itioka

**Ana Gabryele  
Moreira (2021)**  
Art: Katia Itioka

**Stephanie Rodrigues  
Pavão (2022)**  
Art: Katia Itioka

**Monise Vasconcelos  
Andrade (2023)**  
Art: Katia Itioka



## International Collaborations



# Thank you

# Спасибо

IPEN: [www.ipen.br](http://www.ipen.br)

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