
Question 1: What is the Small Modular Reactor Regulators' Forum (SMR RF)?

The SMR RF is a regulator-to-regulator entity that promotes the international collaboration and brings together experienced regulatory bodies to identify and address key SMR-related regulatory challenges.

The SMR RF acts as a peer-to-peer platform, where experts work together on the development of consensus-based documents on technical and regulatory issues of interest to Forum Members that can inform changes, if necessary, to requirements and regulatory practices.

Question 2: Why and how was the SMR RF created?

The increasing global interest in small modular reactors (SMRs) and, consequently, the importance of international collaboration on issues associated with regulation and licensing of SMRs, informed the need to establish an international forum for regulatory bodies to discuss SMR-related issues. This idea was first raised in mid-2012 after bilateral discussions between the USA and Canada.

In 2013, at the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) Dialogue Forum on Licensing and Safety Issues for Small and Medium-sized Reactors, held in Vienna, explicit interest to evaluate and discuss the benefits of forming a regulators' forum that would specifically address regulatory issues in safety and licensing of SMRs was expressed by several IAEA Member States. In response, two consultancy meetings, facilitated by the IAEA, were held in Vienna in 2014, and resulted in the agreement to create the SMR RF, initially as a 2-year pilot. The technical activities of the SMR RF working groups were launched in 2015.

Question 3: Is there a written agreement/contract among the SMR RF Members?

Yes. The [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) are agreed by the SMR RF Steering Committee. Any changes to the ToR are agreed by consensus.

The quorum for the SMR RF Steering Committee meetings is half of its Members plus one, including the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson. Decisions of the SMR RF Steering Committee are adopted by consensus of the Members present at the meeting, whereby consensus is considered reached in the absence of substantiated objections.

Question 4: What are the SMR RF objectives?

The SMR RF objective is to share SMR regulatory knowledge and experience among the Members and other stakeholders to:

- Develop common positions based on identification and discussion of key safety issues that may challenge regulatory reviews associated with SMRs and, if possible, approaches for their resolution;
- Encourage enhanced nuclear safety and security;
- Facilitate international cooperation among regulators performing SMR-related assessments;
- Facilitate efficient, robust and thorough regulatory decisions;
- Advise the IAEA on the need for revision or development of new IAEA publications on safety and security of SMR.

Question 5: What are the SMR RF outcomes?

The SMR RF outcomes include:

- Common position statements on regulatory (policy and technical) issues;
- Suggestions for revisions, or drafting of, IAEA publications, especially the IAEA Safety Standards regarding SMRs;
- Generation and sharing of information that regulators may use to enhance their regulatory framework and regulatory activities;
- Description of regulatory challenges and discussion on paths forward; and
- • Suggestions for high level issues to be raised to international codes and standards organizations.

Question 6: Is the SMR RF part of the IAEA?

No. The SMR RF is an independent regulator-to-regulator entity, with its own organizational structure, membership and leadership. The IAEA's participation in the SMR RF was considered at the time of the Forum's creation due to the IAEA's ability to provide a long-term vision to maximize Member States' participation and to provide an efficient means to apply lessons learned from discussion into the IAEA global safety framework.

The IAEA serves as the Scientific Secretariat and, by this virtue, is a Member of the SMR RF Steering Committee. The Scientific Secretariat has, among others, the responsibility to promote the Forum, its activities and outputs, and to support the SMR RF Steering Committee and Working Groups in achieving the Forum's objectives.

Question 7: How many and who are the SMR RF Members?

As of July 2026, the 12 SMR RF Members are:

- Canada
- China
- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Japan
- Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States

Question 8: How to become an SMR RF Member?

The Forum is a regulator-to-regulator entity (regulatory bodies may choose to be represented by a Technical Support Organization (TSO). Membership of the Forum is open to all IAEA Member States able to contribute in a meaningful manner to the work of its Working Groups (WGs) (see Q. 11 for the WGs).

The work being conducted is generally of a complex nuclear safety nature with a focus on SMRs that requires experience in:

- Multidisciplinary technical assessment across multiple areas of safety;
- Application of defence-in-depth in design and safety analysis; and
- Use of risk informed methodologies in regulatory decision making.

In particular, if a Member State is a SMR technology holder or developer, has operating experience or already has commitments for new build or firm plans to

have commitments for licensing in the near future, it may apply for membership of the Forum, which will then be subject to an approval process (by the Forum's Steering Committee).

Membership presupposes a commitment to devote adequate resources, with appropriate experience and knowledge base, to ensure that the Forum's purpose and objectives can be fully achieved. There is also an annual financial contribution provided by each Forum Member (see Q. 12).

Question 9: Can international organizations or an IAEA Member State participate in the SMR RF activities without being a Member of the SMR RF?

Yes. International and regional organizations that have expressed interest may request the SMR RF Steering Committee to be granted the status of Observer. Organizations and any other relevant entities working on topics relevant to the Forum may, on occasion, be invited to participate in SMR RF WGs activities.

Currently, the SMR RF has three permanent Observers:

- Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC JRC);
- Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD NEA); and
- Cooperation in Reactor Design Evaluation and Licensing Working Group of the World Nuclear Association (WNA CORDEL).

Observers may participate in the Forum's Working Groups and are granted a read-only access to the Forum's restricted website. However, their participation in the Steering Committee's activities is limited to the Steering Committee Plenaries only.

The IAEA Member States can participate as observers to a single combined meeting of the Steering Committee and Working Groups prior to submitting a request to join the Forum. A positive decision by the Forum's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson is considered sufficient for allowing such participation.

Question 10: When and where are SMR RF meetings held?

The SMR RF regular biannual meetings are usually held in hybrid format in Vienna, in spring (around April/May) and in autumn (around November/December). In the

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past, some meetings were also held in virtual or in-person only formats. The Forum's Members can volunteer to host Forum's regular meetings. These meetings are organized by the Scientific Secretariat.

The SMR RF Steering Committee also holds ad-hoc meetings. These are usually virtual. The SMR RF Working Groups meet regularly in-between bi-annual meetings, using virtual meetings or calls.

Question 11: What is the SMR RF Structure? What is the current SMR RF leadership?

The SMR RF organizational structure is currently comprised of:

- Steering Committee;
- Technical Working Groups (WGs); and
- Scientific Secretariat, also a part of the Steering Committee, provided by the IAEA.

Based on the complexity of the topics to be developed, the SMR RF Steering Committee decides on the best arrangement for the technical SMR RF WGs. Currently, the SMR RF is organized as follows:



A short bio of the SMR RF Chairs and WG Chairs can be found under the **Who's who** menu.

Since 2022, Ms Paula Calle Vives has been the SMR RF Scientific Secretary. Ms Calle Vives is a Senior Nuclear Safety Officer and the New Technologies Technical Lead at the Regulatory Activities Section of the IAEA Division of Nuclear Installation Safety (RAS/NSNI). She is also the Technical Lead for the Regulatory Track of the IAEA Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI).

Question 12: What is the required financial contribution made by the SMR RF Members?

In financial terms, the Forum is supported through annual contributions of approximately 30,000 – 40,000 euros/year from each Forum Member. The annual contributions should be received by the Secretariat by 31 December of each year, and the Steering Committee will follow up on those contributions in line with the Policy on Non-Contributing Members. Forum Members finance their own participation in the Forum's regular biannual meetings.

In case the financial extra-budgetary contribution constitutes a burden for a specific contributing Forum Member due to legal restrictions, the SMR RF Steering Committee may accept, on a case-by-case basis, proposals from respective Forum Members, with the agreement of the Scientific Secretariat, of contributions in-kind. These contributions in-kind should be in the format of assignment of a cost-free expert to the IAEA for one year per year of contribution, from the respective Forum Member, to work in the NSNI/RAS on tasks assigned by the RAS Section Head.

Every three years, an evaluation should take place to assess the Forum's performance and to determine its further financial support.

Question 13: How are the SMR RF financial contributions used?

The IAEA will use these extrabudgetary funds to provide the following support services:

- IAEA staff member costs (both general and professional staff), such as salary and travel needed to participate in the Forum's activities and promote the Forum's activities;
- Support for specific activities as necessary, such as consultants from academia to support SMR RF WG research;

- Support for communications, including the website support required to maintain and update the Forum's public and restricted websites; and
- Support towards the delivery of educational events to promote the work of the Forum and support regulatory capacity-building.

Question 14: What are the SMR RF outputs? Where to find them? Are there any costs involved?

The SMR RF produces interim and final phase reports, which are consensus-based documents on technical and regulatory SMR-related issues. These are publicly available and can be found under **Our Publications** menu item.

The content produced by the SMR RF is protected by copyright. The Forum strives to make information concerning its activities available in the public domain. However, where external parties seek to use this information, in part or in its entirety, for their own purposes, the Forum requires the parties to seek authorization from the Scientific Secretary at: SMR-RF.Contact-Point@iaea.org

Any inquiries may be authorized by the Secretariat using the following template:

The SMR RF SC is pleased to grant you the permission to reproduce excerpts from "_____ Report" to the extent and for the purposes detailed in your e-mail (or letter). We request that you kindly give credit to the SMR RF for the reproduction of its material in your publication.

Question 15: Are the SMR RF reports considered IAEA safety publications?

No. The IAEA Safety Standards and other publications serve as reference for the SMR RF discussion and its common positions, but the key findings developed by the SMR RF Working Groups are produced by consensus by the Forum's experts and based on their own frameworks and experiences. The SMR RF reports are reviewed by the SMR RF permanent Observers and approved by the SMR RF Steering Committee in a process independent from the IAEA publication process.

Question 16: How does the SMR RF Secretariat disseminate main outcomes of the Forum?

The key challenges identified, and main common positions developed by the SMR RF Working Groups are disseminated through:

- the publication of the Working Groups' reports on the SMR RF website;
- the SMR RF webinars, open to experts and participants from the IAEA Member States, as well as a wider general public wishing to have a better understanding of SMR-related topics;
- the educational and other capacity-building events on SMRs (see Q. 17);
- the SMR RF Newsletter;
- other promotional materials (cards, leaflets);
- the participation and contribution of SMR RF representatives/SMR RF Secretariat in events and activities organized by other organizations. The decision regarding such involvement is made by the SMR RF Steering Committee by consensus.

Question 17: How does the SMR RF contribute to regulatory capacity-building?

From 2021 to 2025, the SMR RF organized eight regional educational workshops (EWS) (full list can be found on the SMR RF website under Capacity-building activities) to promote its work by sharing its common positions on SMR-related regulatory issues and support capacity-building. EWS were aimed at regulatory bodies in countries embarking on a nuclear programme or expanding their nuclear programme and considering deploying SMRs in the short and medium term.

In addition to lectures delivered by the SMR RF experts and the SMR RF Scientific Secretariat, the participants were invited to make presentations on nuclear programmes in their countries to contribute to the sharing of information and experience with respect to the organization of their regulatory bodies and relevant regulatory frameworks, main regulatory challenges and prospects for/status of SMR deployment.

The SMR RF EWS paved the way for the *IAEA Pilot School for Regulating Small Modular Reactors*. The Pilot School, supported by the SMR RF alongside the [Regulatory Cooperation Forum \(RCF\)](#), was hosted by the National Atomic Energy Agency of Poland (PAA) from 25 August to 2 September in Warsaw, Poland. 29 participants from 19 IAEA Member States attended the Pilot School.

In turn, the Pilot School laid the foundations for the comprehensive *IAEA Interregional Training Course on Safety and Regulatory Aspects of Small Modular Reactors and Other Advanced Reactor Technologies* conducted under the Interregional Technical Cooperation Programme. The first instalment was conducted over three weeks, from 20 April to 8 May 2026, in Vienna at the IAEA HQ, with the continued support from the SMR RF and RCF.

The objective of the Training course is capacity-building via equipping regulatory bodies with the knowledge and tools necessary to ensure the safe deployment and effective oversight of SMRs and other innovative reactor technologies. Building on the programme, materials and feedback from the Pilot School, the new format of the Training Course introduces several improvements, including: detailed presentations on safety aspects of different SMR technologies ; programme structured through thematic blocks, comparative exercises across regulatory frameworks, and expert support for working groups ; and dynamic learning tools, animations, and case-based learning.

Question 20: Does SMR RF cooperate with other international organizations/entities?

Yes. The organizations/entities the SMR RF expects to interface with include:

i. Regulatory forums:

- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/ Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA);
- the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF);
- the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG);
- the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA).

ii. Industry forums:

- Generation IV International Forum (GIF);
- World Nuclear Association (WNA) - Cooperation in Reactor Design Evaluation and Licensing (CORDEL);
- the EU SMR Industrial Alliance;
- the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO);
- the European Utility Requirements (EUR).

The SMR RF may, on occasion, invite selected representatives of these organizations/entities or any other relevant ones to participate in its activities.

Furthermore, in accordance with the SMR RF Terms of Reference, the SMR RF may engage in other activities under its co-ordination or with its participation or contribution, as follows:

- Upon a proposal from an international organization or by the SMR RF Steering Committee or individual Forum's Member(s), the Forum can be involved in activities carried out under its co-ordination or with its participation or contribution in the form of independent expert advice. Such activities shall not contradict the Forum's stated objectives and shall contribute to its stated outcomes.
- The decision regarding such involvement shall be made by the SMR RF Steering Committee by consensus, whereby consensus is considered reached in the absence of substantiated objections within a specified period of time.
- The detailed modalities of the SMR RF involvement in such activities shall be decided upon and be subject to the approval by the Steering Committee by consensus.

Question 21: How has the SMR RF contributed to the IAEA Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI)?

NHSI Phase I (2022 – 2024)

Recognition of the SMR RF role and of the expertise and experience of its Members informed an invitation in June 2022 for the Forum to lead the work of one of the NHSI Regulatory Track (RT) working groups.

In August 2022, the SMR RF officially joined the IAEA NHSI RT to lead the Regulatory Track Working Group 3, tasked with developing processes for leveraging other regulatory bodies' reviews and for enabling them to work together when performing reviews. The SMR RF Licensing Issues Working Group served as the main organizational modality, with its focus, composition and schedule adjusted accordingly. For this effort, the SMR RF Members were joined by experts from other IAEA Member States including Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, India, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, as well as the OECD-NEA. During Phase I, experts met ten times, five times virtually and five in a hybrid format. This work resulted in the publication in 2025 of the [IAEA-TECDOC-2098 Collaborative Reviews and Effective Leveraging](#).

TECDOC-2098 explores how regulatory bodies can leverage each other's reviews, while maintaining independent assessments aligned with national requirements. Drawing on lessons from past and ongoing multinational efforts, this document is a must-read for regulatory bodies, technical support organizations, and industry stakeholders involved in pre-licensing and licensing of advanced reactor designs.

NHSI Phase II (2025 – 2026)

At the NHSI Plenary Meeting in October 2024, the IAEA was requested to continue the efforts mainly on the implementation of the Phase I processes and the subsequent analysis of implementation feedback. In this context, the SMR RF continued its partnership with the NHSI RT to develop a [Regulatory Cooperation Toolkit \(RCT\)](#), which was made available in 2026.

Building on the IAEA TECDOCs [2098](#), [2105](#) and [2118](#), the RCT is a set of guidance documents, templates, questionnaires, examples and case studies designed to provide practical support to regulatory bodies in joint and collaborative reviews, as well as in leveraging existing assessments. It also identifies and categorizes differences in regulatory expectations and provides resources to bridge them. It is a concrete, practical resource, ready for direct use by the regulatory bodies.

With the publication of the RCT, the partnership between the SMR RF and IAEA NHSI has successfully concluded.

Question 22: Are there any confidentiality arrangements in place?

Each SMR RF Member shares their regulatory experiences and lessons learned within the scope of the Forum. In addition, within the scope of specific confidentiality agreements, further information can be shared.

A structured web space within the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) (maintained by the IAEA) includes a restricted, password protected area used for the SMR RF internal information exchanges and to enable the work of the SMR RF Working Groups.

Question 23: Where can I get more information about the SMR RF?

- The official IAEA SMR RF web pages:
 - <https://gnssn.iaea.org/regnet/SMR-Forum/Pages/default.aspx>
- and

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<https://www.iaea.org/topics/small-modular-reactors/smr-regulators-forum>

- [SMR RF Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#)
- SMR RF webinars
- SMR RF Newsletters (you can subscribe [here](#))
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