

„Research on Technologies for Decommissioning and Dismantling of Nuclear Facilities in Germany“

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Since 1956, nuclear R&D in Germany has been supported by the Federal Government. Research centers were established and demonstration plants were built. In the meantime the focus of research activities shifted. Many facilities were shut down and the decommissioning and dismantling (D&D) is within the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Two big demonstration plants, in Niederaichbach (KKN) and Karlstein (HDR), are already totally dismantled and “green field” is reached. In addition to these decommissioning projects BMBF founded a lot of R&D on this field. New techniques were developed at German universities and in small and medium sized companies. Within the D&D projects of the research reactors some of these techniques were successfully used, for examples underwater-cutting technologies like plasma arc cutting and contact arc metal cutting. During the last five years BMBF allocated an average of 5-6 Million € per year. Beyond any doubt research on the field of D&D is important for the future. These research activities will help to save the know-how in nuclear engineering and enable Germany enterprises to compete on the D&D services market.