

Age-related degradation WS of RPV and internals
23 - 24 May 2019, Washington D.C., NRC Headquarters

**AM and LTO related activities of
RPV and its internals and other
primary pressure boundary
components
at the Paks NPP, Hungary**

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**paks
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Content

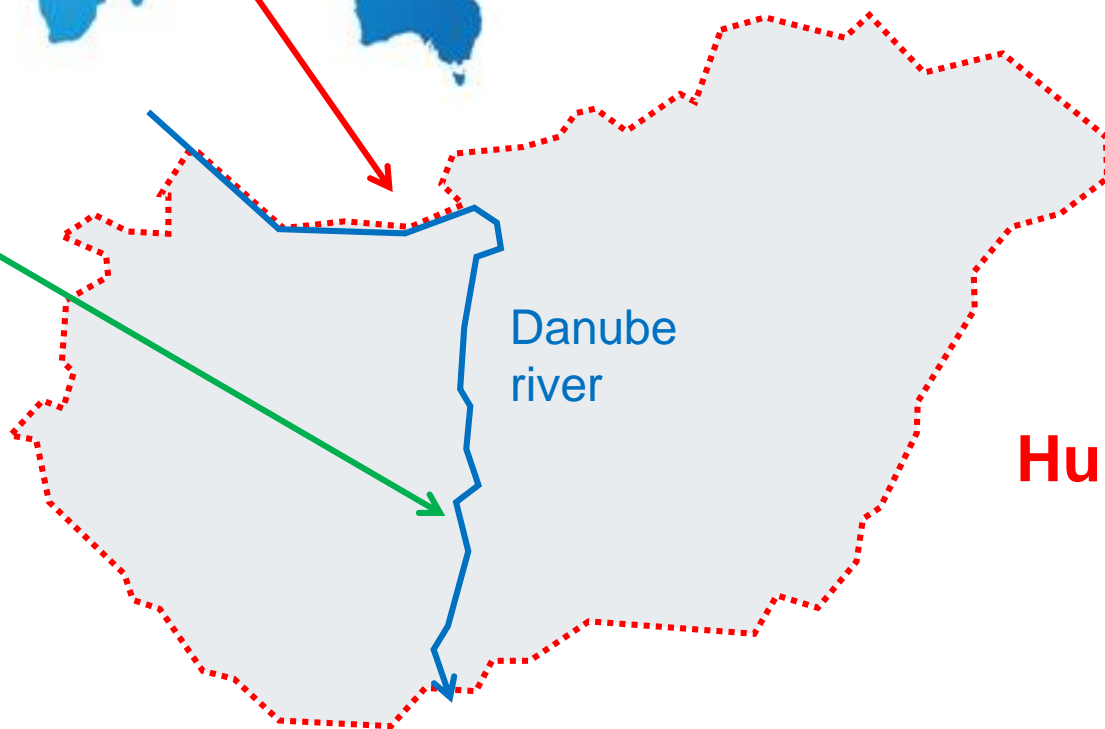
1. Introduction
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8. Other R&D activities: cooperation with EPRI, IAEA and European Union

Hungary and MVM Paks NPP



Hungary is a tiny country in Central-Eastern Europe


MVM Paks
Nuclear Power Plant



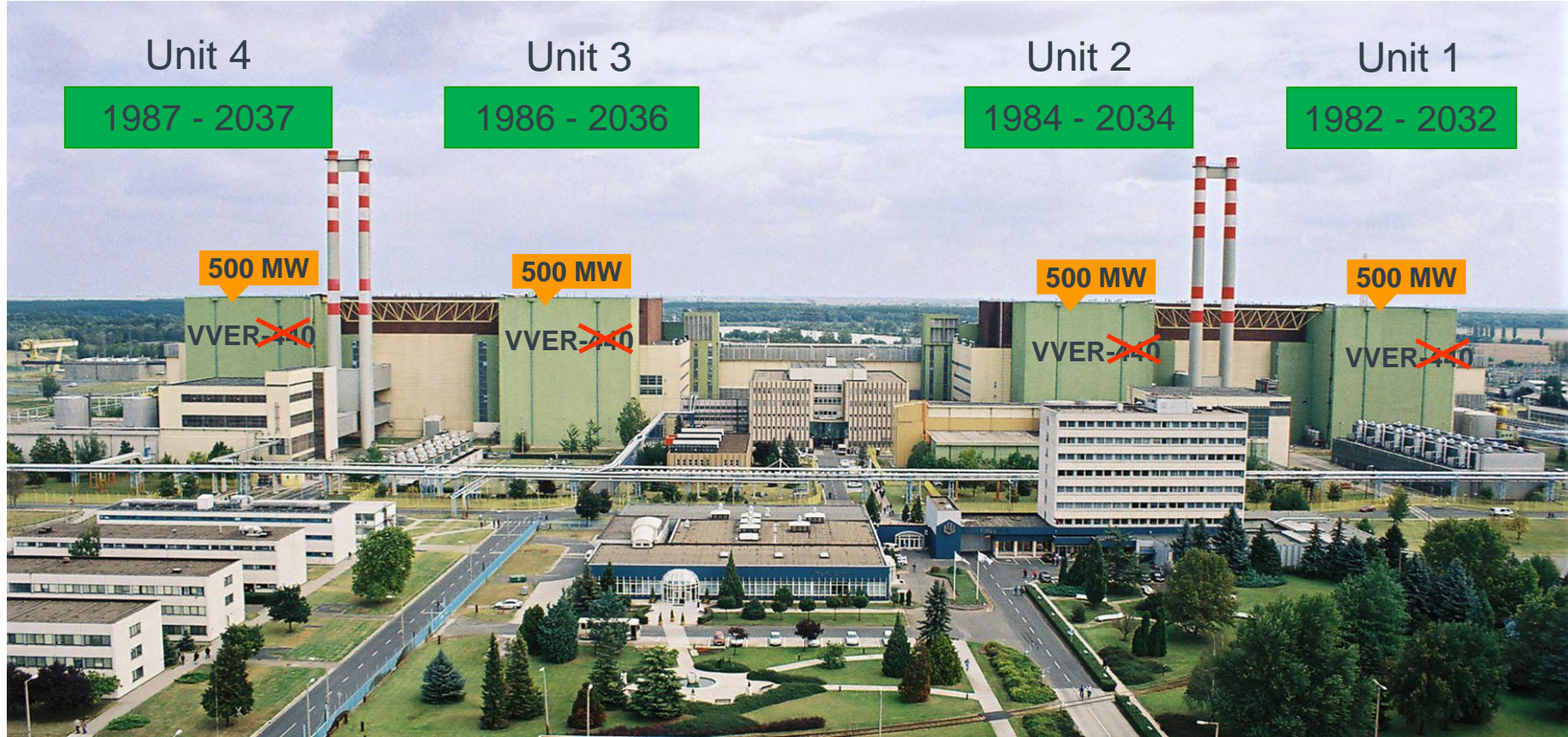
Danube river



Hungary



LTO at MVM Paks Nuclear Power Plant (50 years)



VVER440/V213 units (second generation)

- *Russian design of PWR (VVER) (twin Units)*
- *Power uprates conducted for 500 MW electricity output*
- *Original design life is 30 years*
- *Target operating life is 50 years (LTO: 30+20 years)*

Long Term Operation of Paks Units

Units	Start-up	Design operating life (30 years)	Extended operating licence (30 + 20 years)
Unit 1	1982	2012	2032 ✓
Unit 2	1984	2014	2034 ✓
Unit 3	1986	2016	2034 ✓
Unit 4	1987	2017	2037 ✓

Regulatory and technical approaches for LR and Ageing Management

Nuclear regulation relative to LR

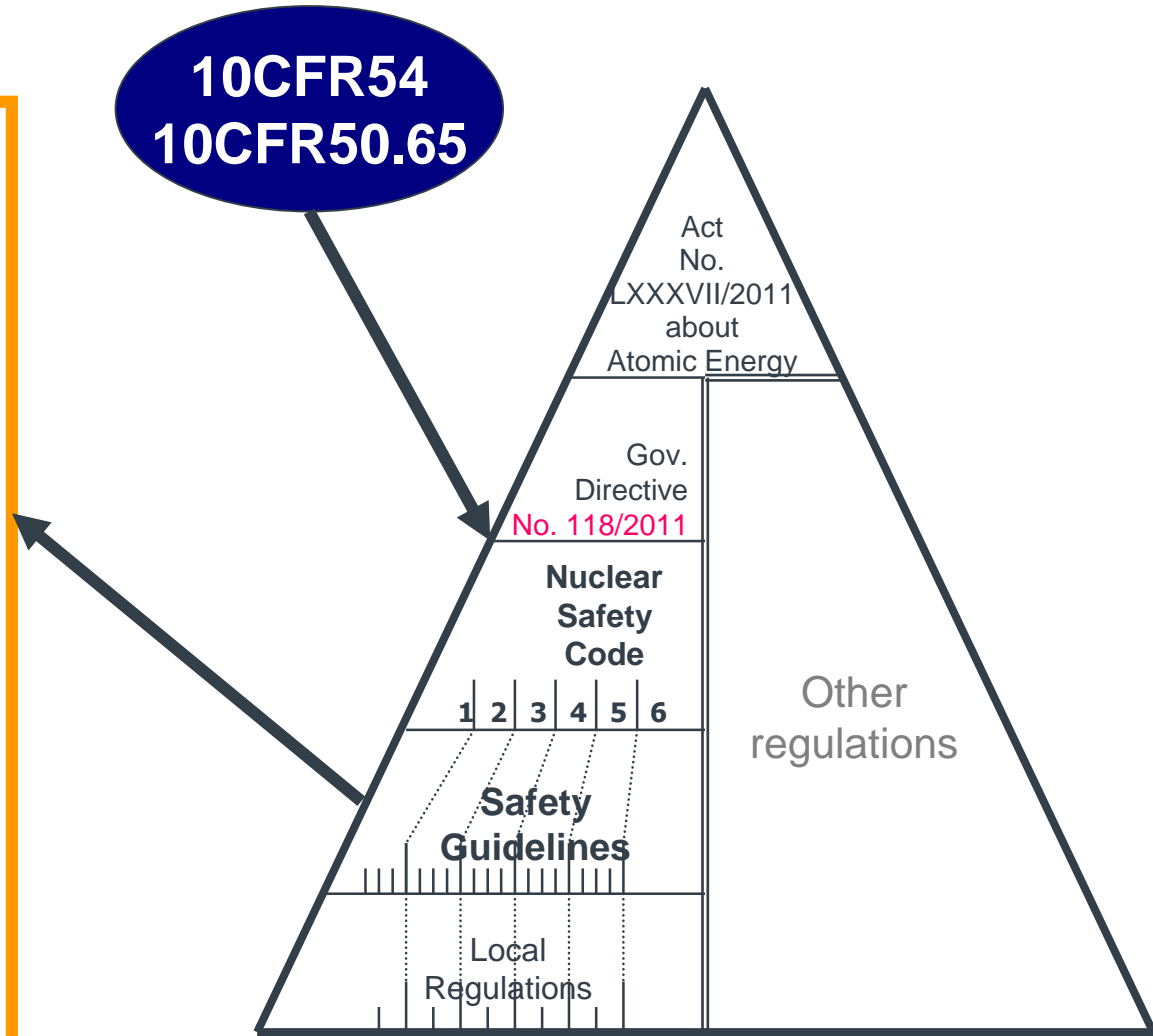
Guideline 1.28

Regulatory procedures on the operation beyond the design lifetime

Guideline 4.14

Activities to be implemented by the operator to support the License Renewal application for operation beyond design lifetime

10CFR54
10CFR50.65



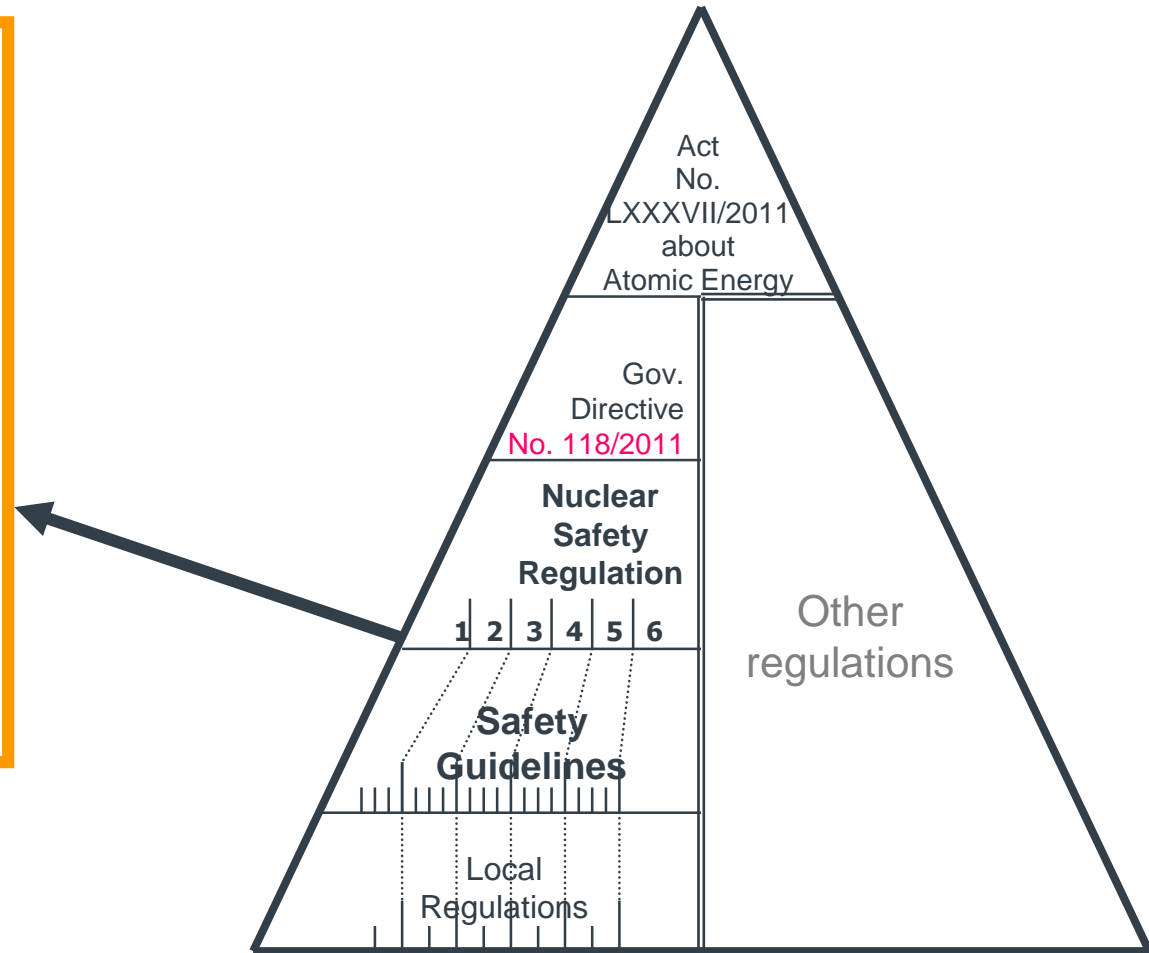
Nuclear regulation relative to AM

Guideline 3.13

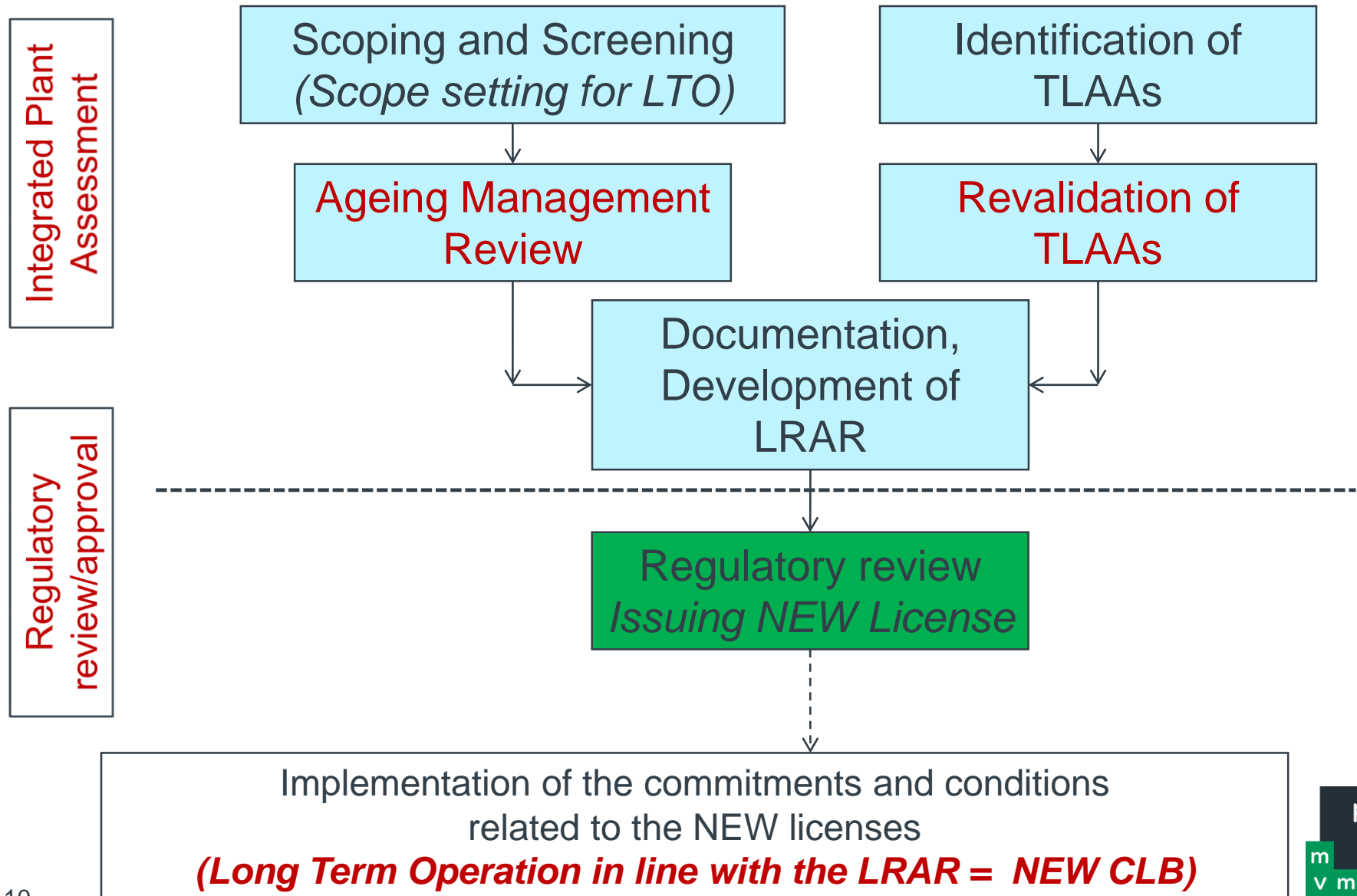
Consideration of ageing mechanism during the design

Guideline 4.12

Ageing management during the operation of NPPs



Technical basis of LR



Scope setting and screening for AMR

Scope setting:

- Safety Class 1-3+ (~ 25000 SCs/ Unit);
- Justification of the completeness;
(diagrams + data base);
- Reproducibility;
- Listed by:
 - diagram based – mechanical components;
 - building based – civil structures;
 - diagram based – I&C components;

Screening for AMR:

- Long lived Passive SCs;

Ageing Management Programmes

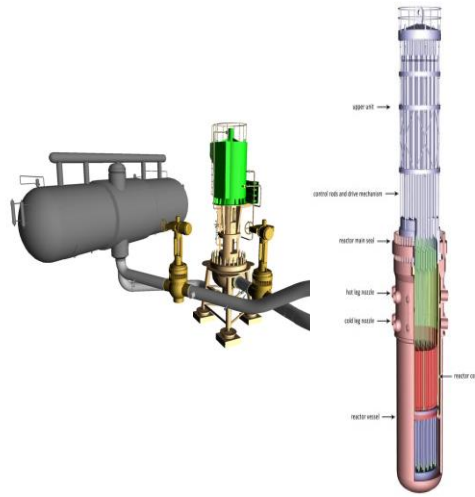
Main features:

- Based on the US NRC GALL, and updated by the IAEA IGALL
- ~150 AMPs were developed for passive safety related components (component or commodity groups oriented)
- Active components are managed by the Maintenance Effectiveness Monitoring (*MEM*)
- Very detailed programmes, 50 to 150 pages each
- Includes references to other operation AM programmes (e.g. ISI, water chemistry, condition oriented programmes, etc..)
- **Living programmes (regularly updated according to the new R&D results and/or OPEX e.g. US (EPRI), EU (NUGENIA))**
- **AM related research needs were identified and those are consequently performed**

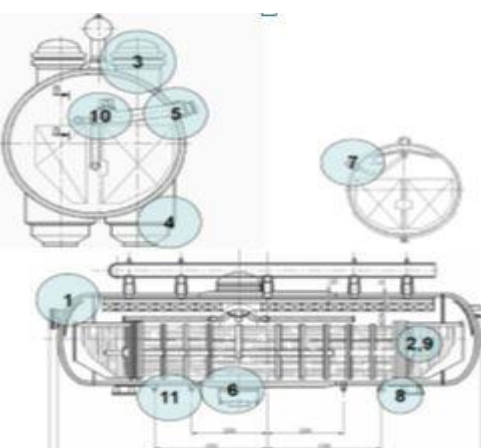


Example for the content of AMP: Steam Generator

(Attribute 1 - ageing effects/degradation mechanism and critical locations)



Degradation mechanism \ Location	Fatigue	General corrosion	Boric acid induced corrosion	Local corrosion (stress corrosion)	Wear	Loss of preload	Deposit
Casing/welds/nozzle areas		+	+	+			+
Heat-exchanging tubes				+			+
Connections of the collector covers/other flanged joints /bolted connections	+	+		+	+	+	
Primary circuit collectors	+			+			
Feedwater inlet nozzle		+		+			
Connection areas of the NA 500 main circulation pipeline nozzles with dissimilar welds				+			+
Inlet nozzle of the emergency feed-water		+		+			
Directly connecting supporting structures, the earthquake protection reinforcements		+	+	+	+	+	
Heat exchanger pipe plugs and welds				+			
Feed-water collector				+		+	
Blow-down nozzles, cleaning nozzles		+		+			+



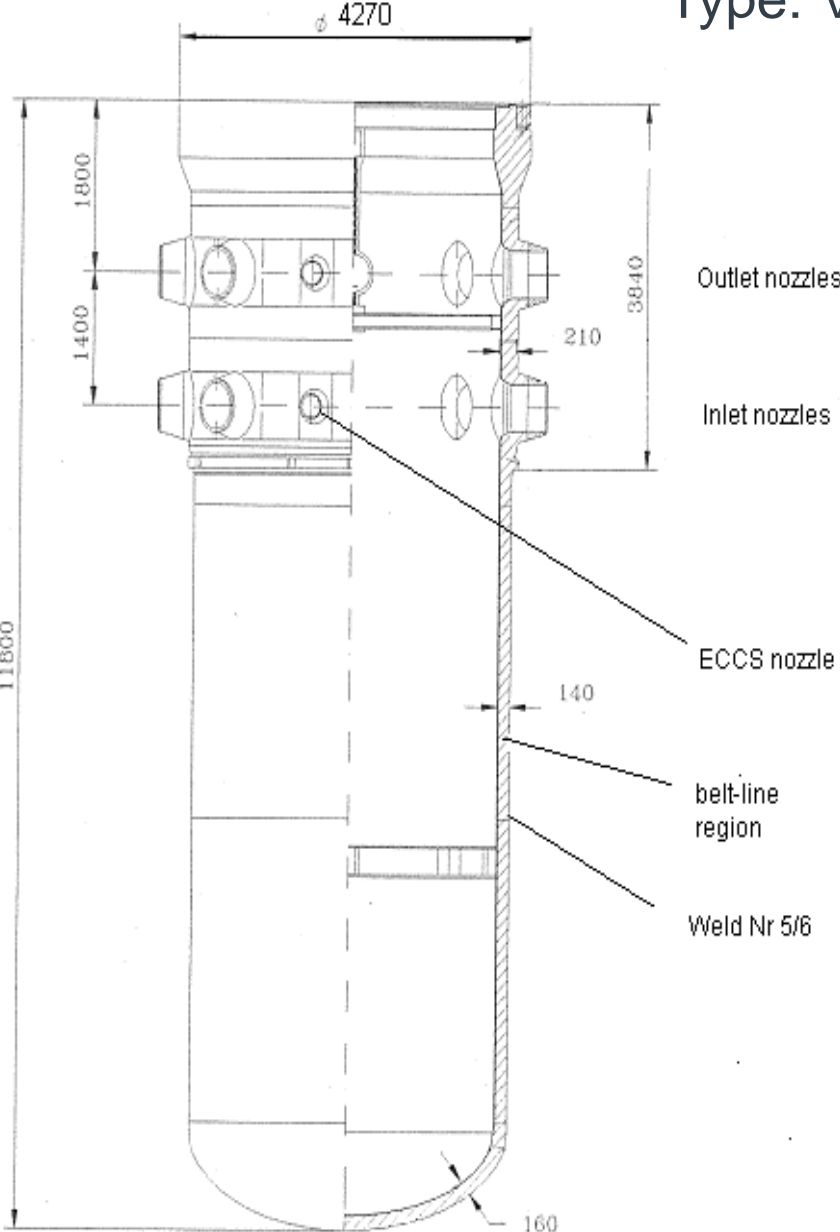
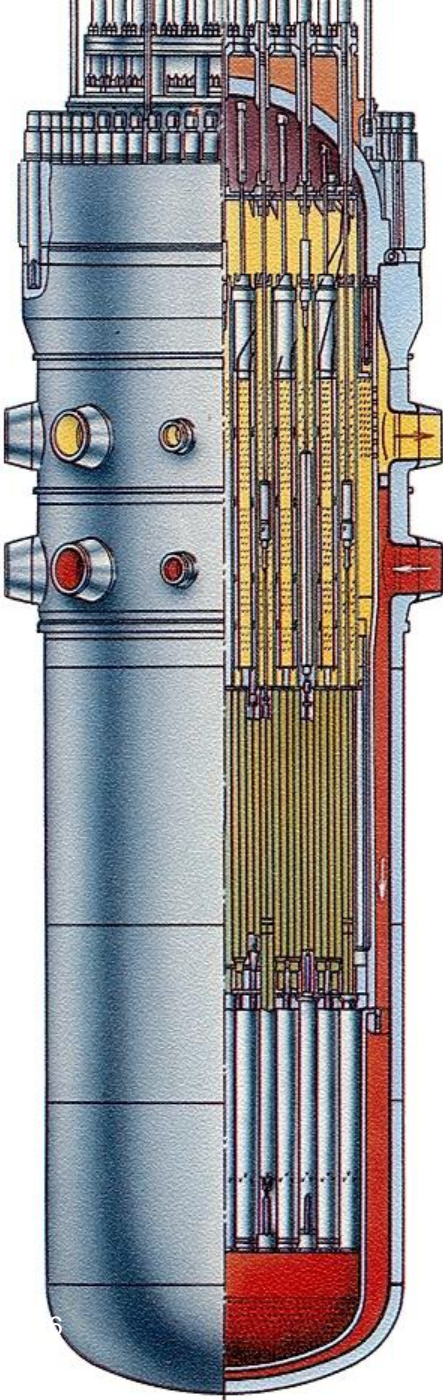
Time Limited Ageing Analyses

- 30 calculations were identified;
- New calculations were performed;
- State-of-the-art methods were applied:
 - most important (Class 1-3) **mechanical components**: design review has been performed taking the ASME BPVC III requirements;
 - all **building structures** were checked against the EUROCODE;
 - all safety related **I&C components** were subject to EQ (IEEE 323 or IEC 60780 & 60502);

Main TLAA of RPV
Pressurized Thermal Shock
(PTS)

Reactor Pressure Vessel

Type: VVER440/213



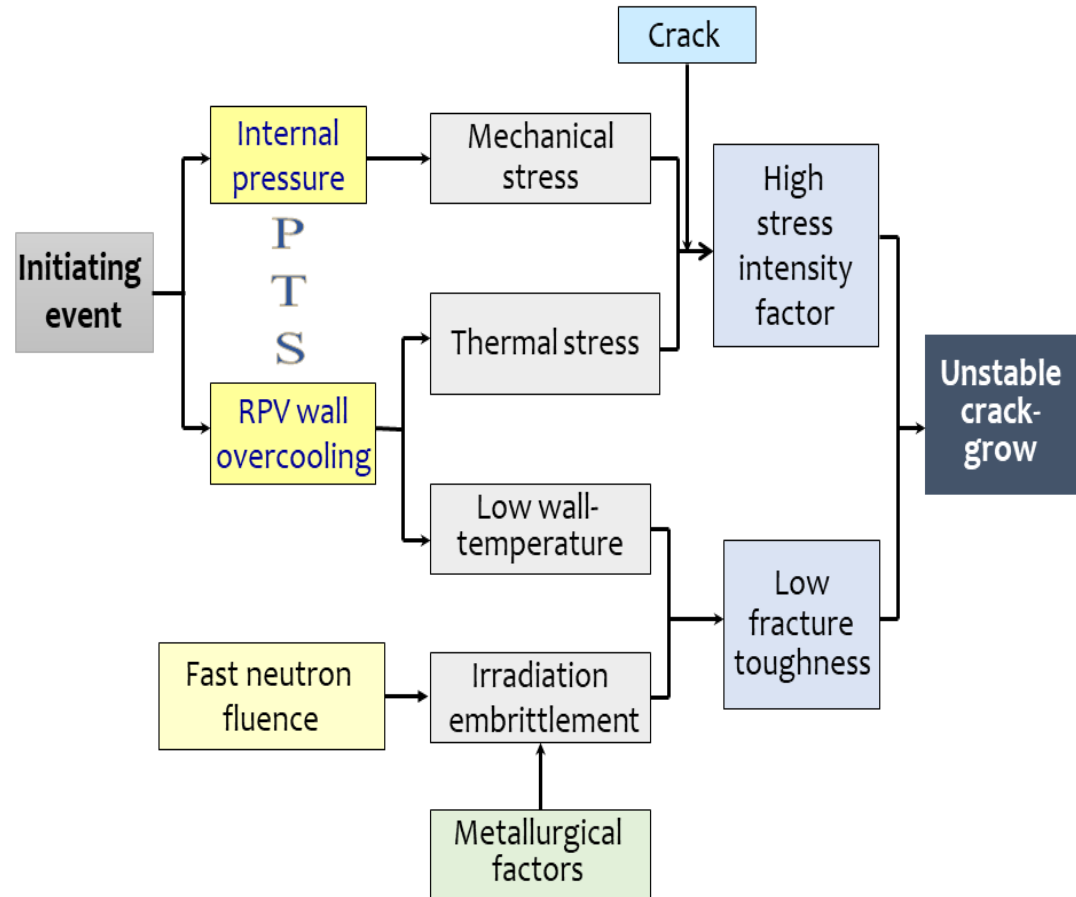
Original Design Parameters

Mass	215 t
Length	11,800 m
Diameter (cylindrical region)	3,840 m
Diameter (nozzle region)	3,980 m
Wall thickness (cylindrical region)	0,140 m
Wall thickness (nozzle region)	0,210 m
Number of nozzles	2 x 6 (primary) + 2 x 2 (ECCS)
Operational pressure	12,26 MPa
Design pressure	13,7 MPa
Hydrotest pressure	19,12 MPa (original) 16,64 MPa (since 1992)
Operational temperature	265 °C
Design temperature	325 °C
Design life	40 year
End-of-life fluence (base metal)	$2,6 \times 10^{24}$ ($E > 0,5MeV$)
End-of-life fluence (Weld No 5/6)	$1,8 \times 10^{24}$ ($E > 0,5MeV$)



Pressurized Thermal Shock – process and impact

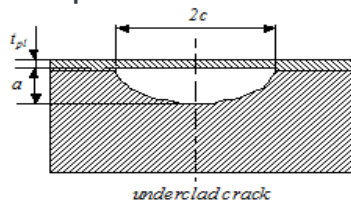
- **PTS: overcooling transient** causing thermal shock to RPV wall
 - Pressure is either maintained or the system is re-pressurized
 - Thermal stress in combination with pressure stress results in large tensile stresses (maximum: in inside surface)
- **Irradiation embrittlement (environmental effect)**, occurs in the RPV wall reducing fracture toughness and shifting transition temperature to higher temperature
- If a crack exists near to inside surface, where the material degraded due to irradiation, and a PTS transient happens, the RPV integrity is jeopardized



Elements of PTS analysis

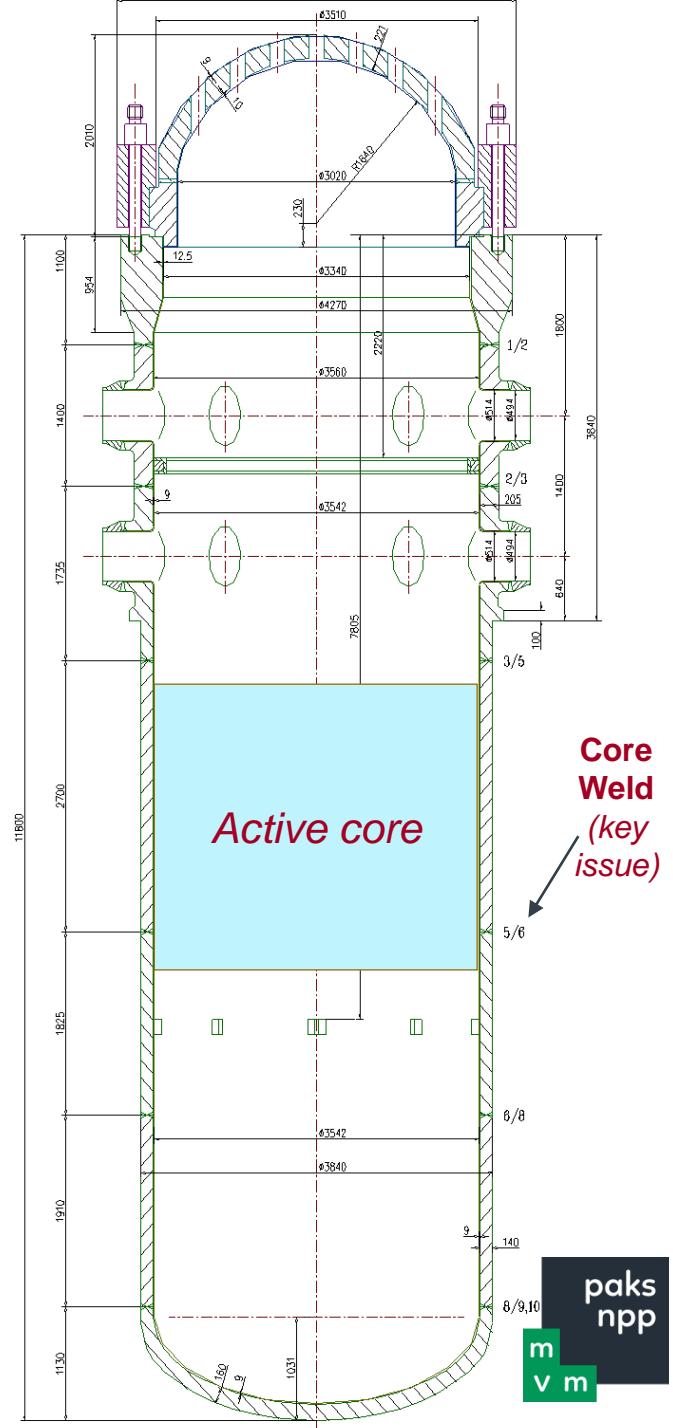
- 50+10 operation years
- PTS transient identification
 - deterministic (based on engineering judgement)
 - probabilistic (PSA based) – $f > 10^{-5}/\text{year}$
- Thermal-hydraulic calculations
 - RELAP5/mod3.2, ATHLET
 - flow stagnation: REMIX
- Fast neutron fluence calculations
 - KARATE and MCNP for RPV wall and surveillance position
- Evaluation of irradiation effects on RPV materials
 - **surveillance programmes (see those later)**
 - trend curve
- Evaluation of in-service inspection results
- Postulated cracks: semi-elliptic underclad crack set

$a = 0.1 t$, $a/c = 1/3$



- Structural integrity analyses (LE FM, EP FM) → Allowable transition temperature: T_k^{allow}

T_k^{allow} : 5/6 welding=166,7 [°C]; forging (at core)=200,4 [°C]



Surveillance programmes of RPV

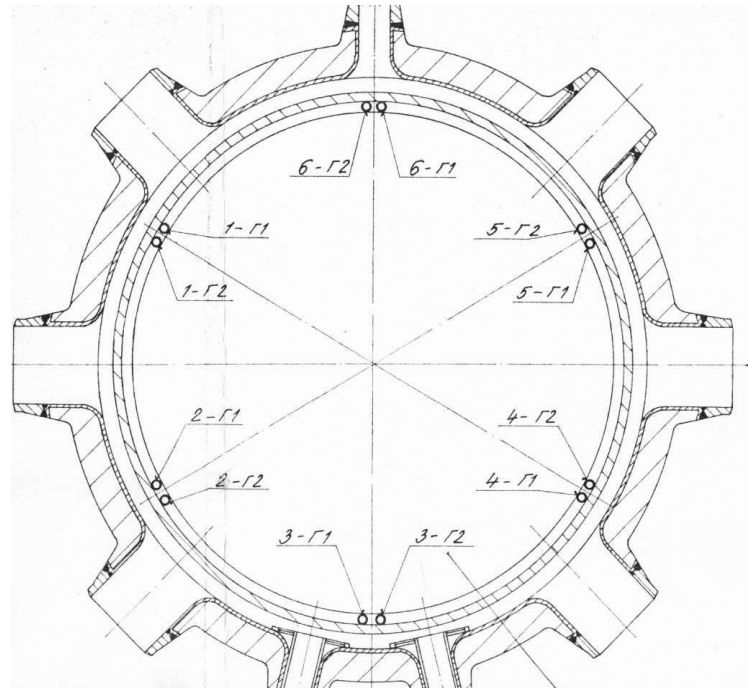
Features of the surveillance programmes

- Original programme: „Loviisa” type
- New programmes: Hungarian designed (by Hungarian research institutes)
- Inspection in hot chambers at the Paks NPP
- Evaluation by Hungarian research institutes and universities
- Independent controls:
 - Expert panel of RPV (1984 – 1995, 2003 - 2008)
 - Expert panel of Structural Integrity (2008 -)

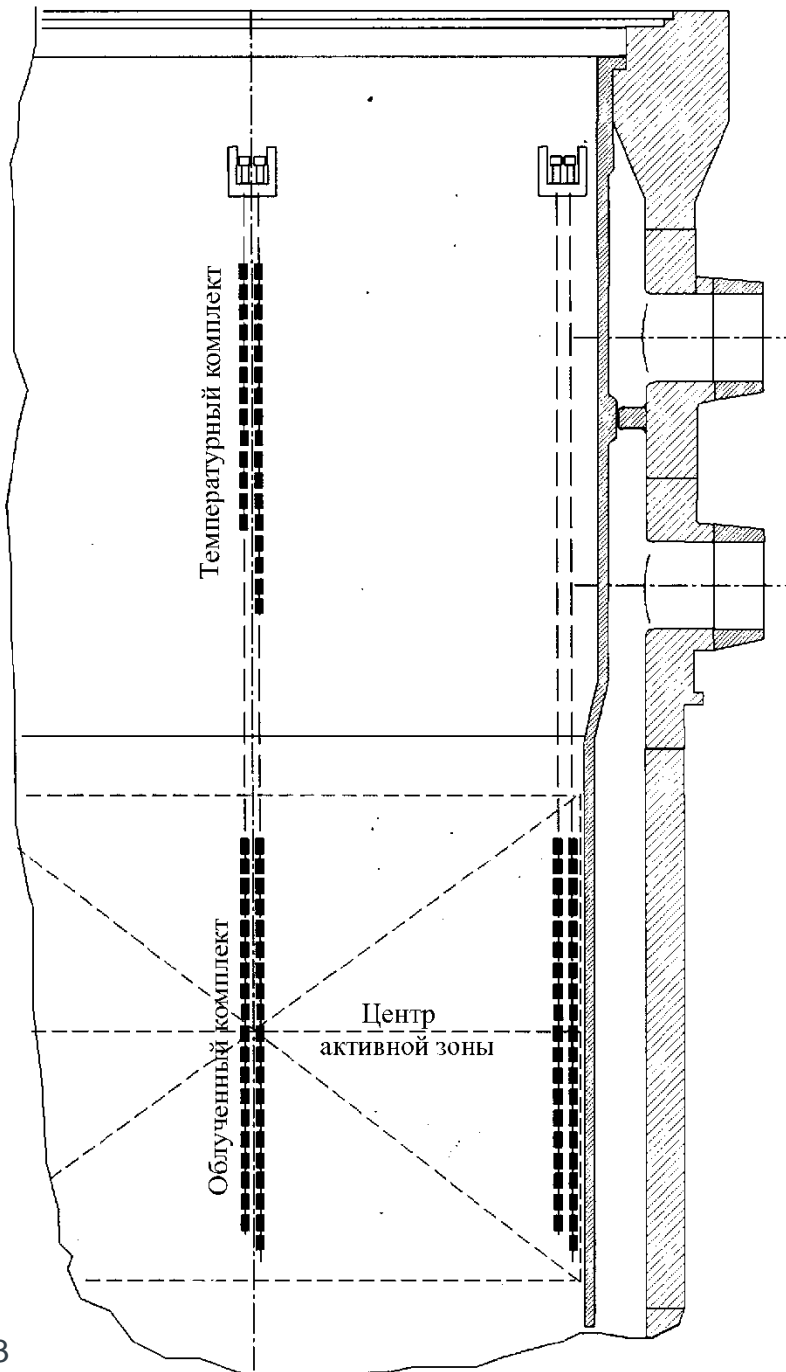
Original surveillance programme

VVER 440/213 surveillance system:

- 6 complete specimen sets were prepared at the factory (base metal, weld and HAZ material)
- 5 specimen sets were tested in the frame of the surveillance programme during the first 4 campaigns (lead factors: 12 (base metal), 16 (5/6 welding))
- serves until the original design life (30 years)



Specimens



Type of the specimens:

- tensile test specimens
- *Charpy* impact specimens
- fracture mechanics specimens [Three Point Bending (TPB/COD)]
- neutron monitors
- temperature check monitors (diamond powder)

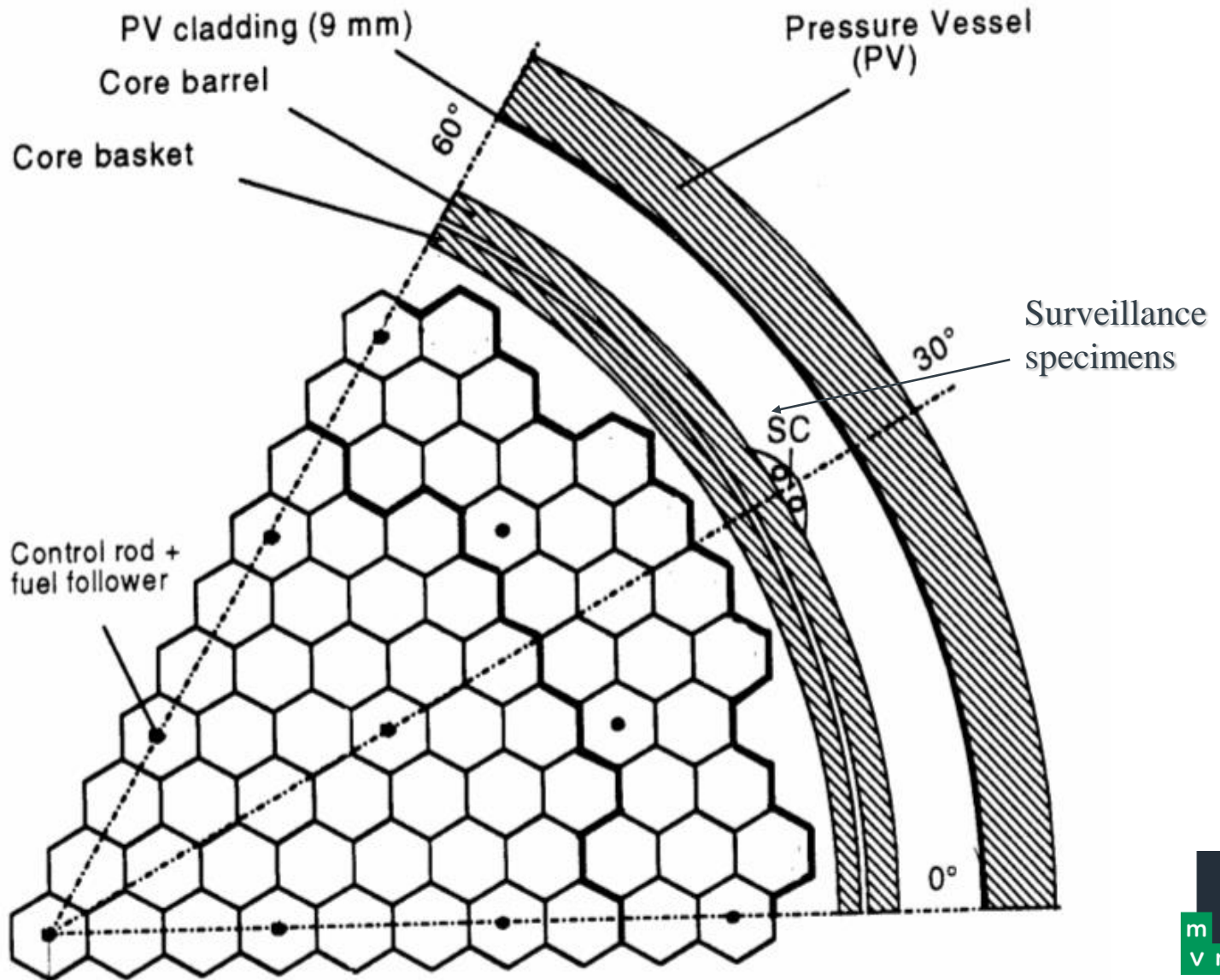
Material of the specimens:

- base material
- welding material
- heat affected zone material

Condition (heat treatment):

- same as the RPV

Surveillance test kits (VVER-440/213)

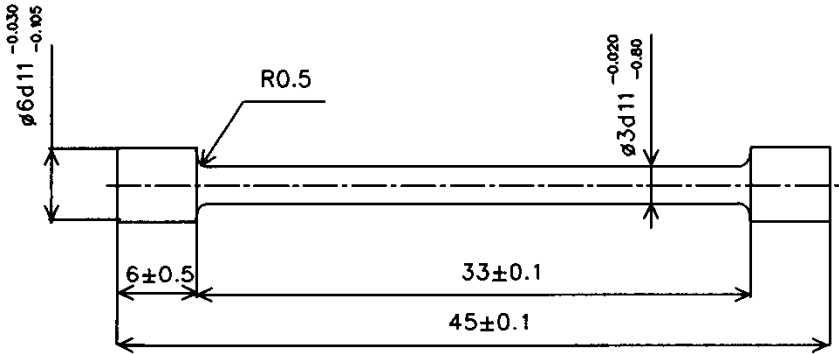


Summary of the specimens

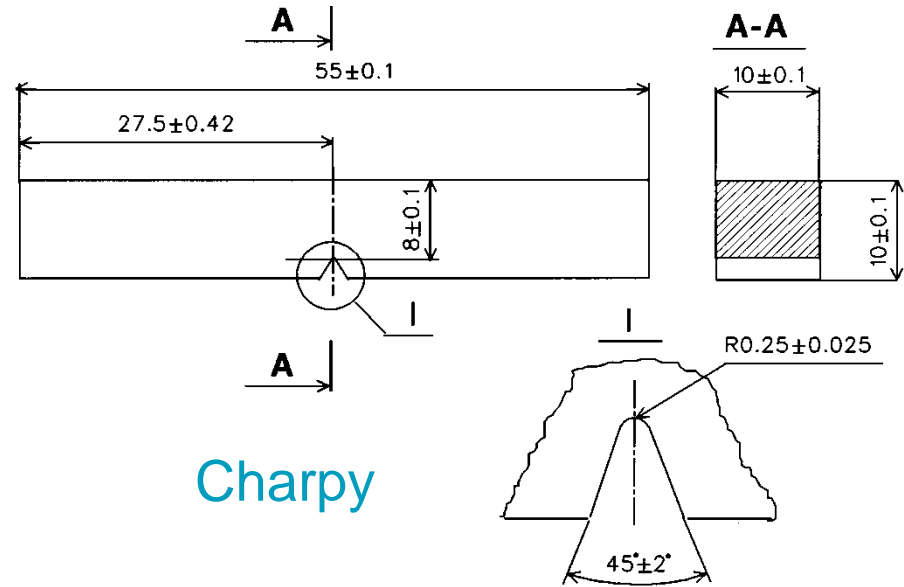
Set number		Chain number	Base metal			Weld metal			HAZ		
			Specimens			Specimens			Specimens		
			Charpy	TPB	Tensile	Charpy	TPB	Tensile	Charpy	TPB	Tensile
Opposite the core	1	1-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
		1-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6
	2	2-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
		2-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6
	3	3-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
		3-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6
	4	4-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
		4-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6
	5	5-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-
		5-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6
6	6-1	12	12	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	
	6-2	-	-	-	12	6	6	12	12	6	
Total			72	72	36	72	72	36	72	72	36
Above the core	1	1-1	12	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-
		1-2	-	-	-	6	6	6	12	6	6
	4	4-1	12	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-
		4-1	-	-	-	6	6	6	12	6	6
Total			24	12	12	24	12	12	24	12	12
Control set	1	1K	18	15	6	18	15	6	18	15	6
	2	2K	18	15	6	18	15	6	18	15	6
Total			36	30	12	36	30	12	36	30	12
In all			132	126	60	132	126	60	132	126	60



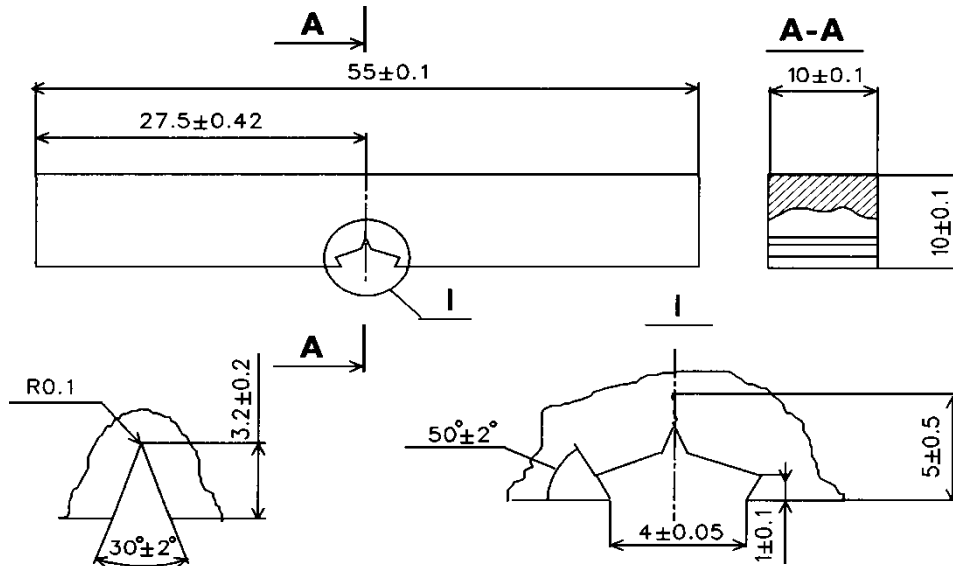
Geometry of the specimens



Tensile



Charpy

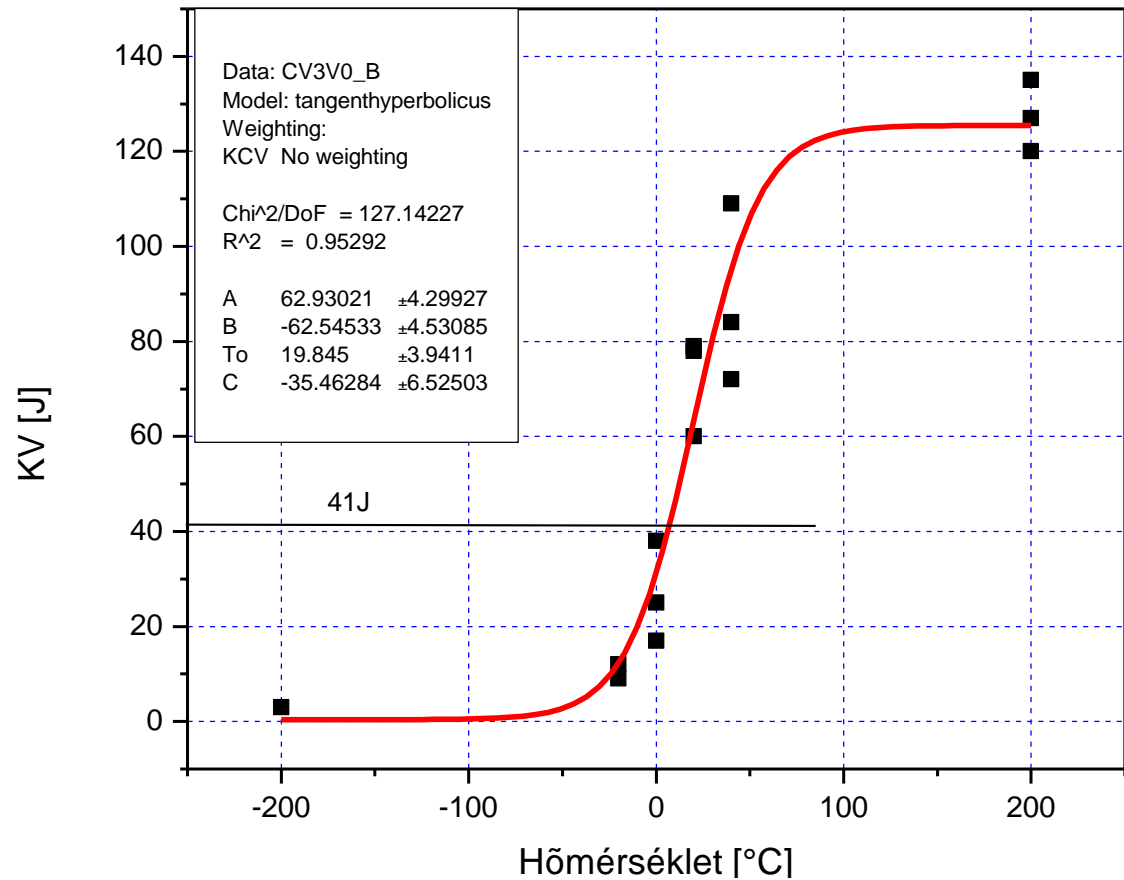


Bending
(fracture mechanics)

Specimen examination (example)

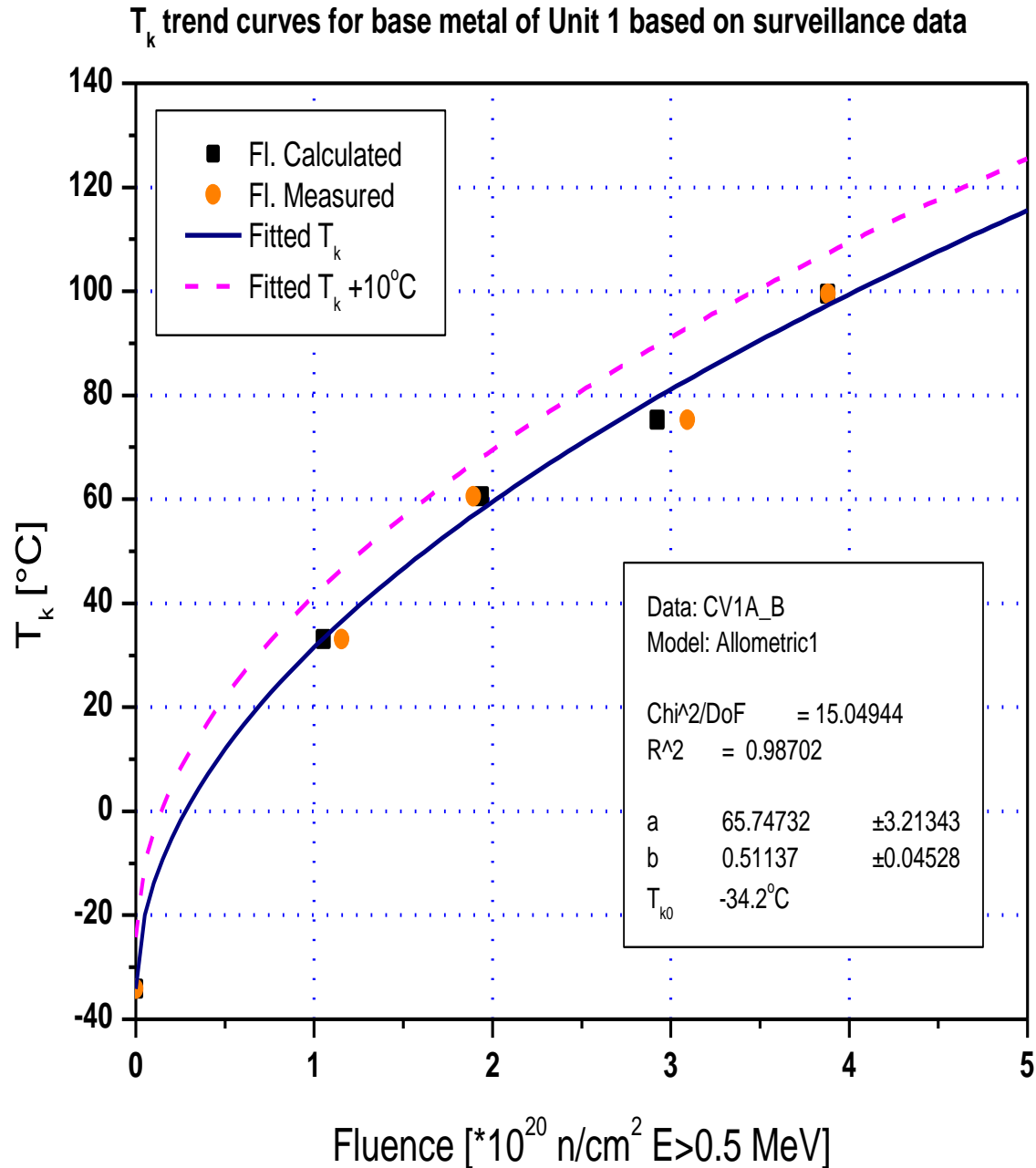
$$KV = A + B \cdot th \left[\frac{T - T_0}{C} \right], \quad [J]$$

A, B, C, T_0 = constants
 T = examination temperature



Typical tangent hyperbolic fitting and marking of the criterion 41 J

Trend curve for base metal, Unit 1









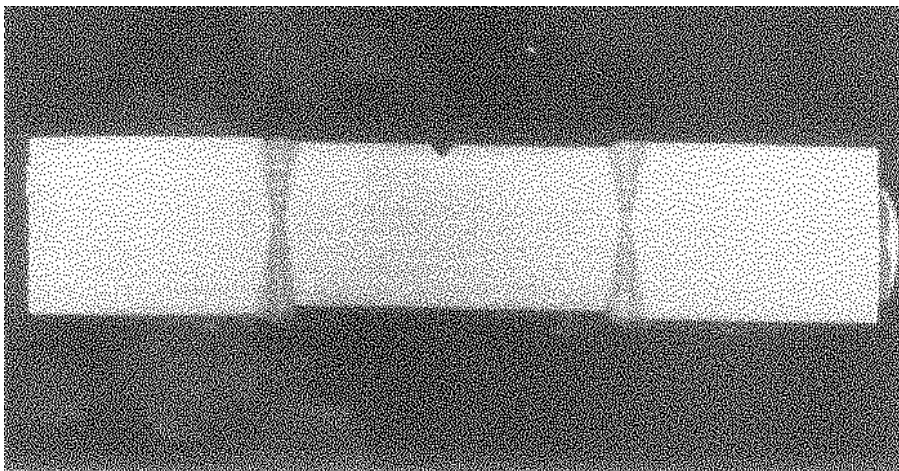
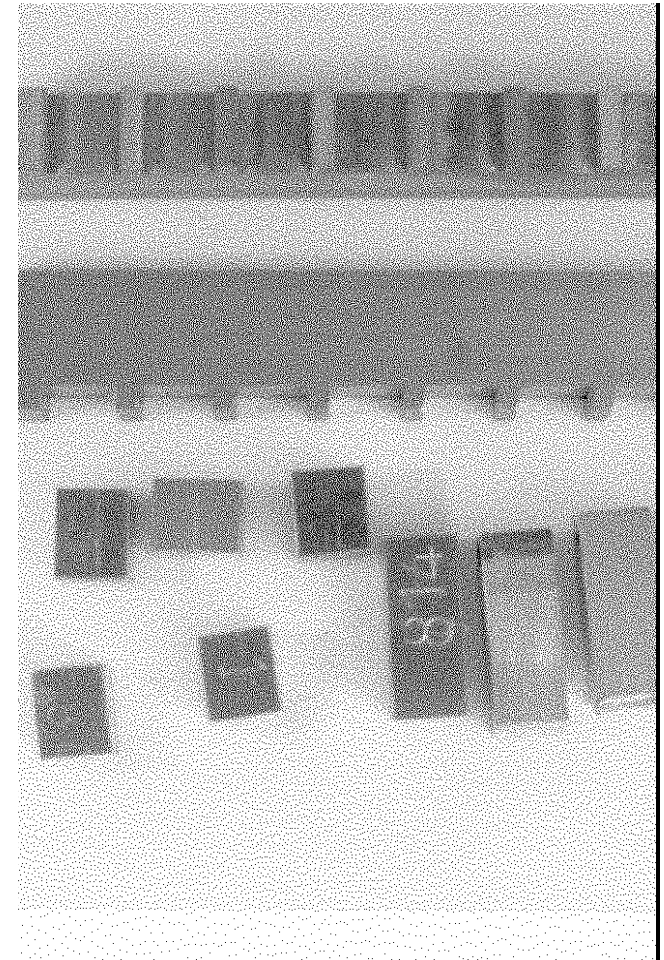
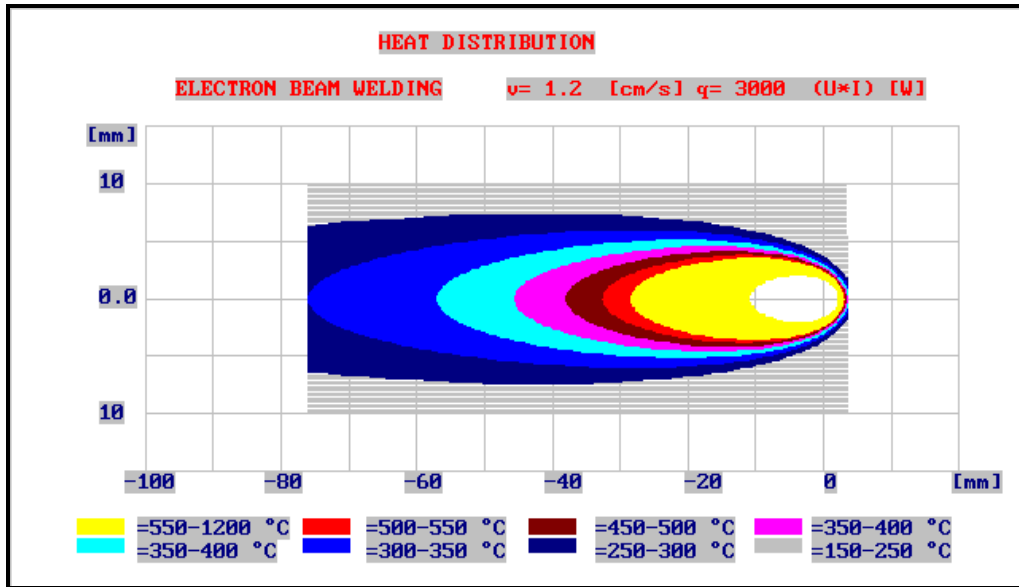




New surveillance programme No.1 (1991- 2012)

- Goal:
 - Monitoring the RPV condition after the original programme (for comparison)
 - Eliminate the gaps of the original programme
- Placing in the empty channels
- Materials:
 - Using original surveillance (15Ch2MFA), reconstituted impact specimens
 - Non-original RPV material (15Ch2MFA)
 - IAEA reference material (JRQ)
- Irradiation term: 4 (5) years

Reconstitution of Charpy impact specimens



New surveillance programme No. 2 (2013 - 2030)

■ Goal:

- Continuous monitoring the RPV condition for the extended life (50 years)
- Results comparison to the original and NSP-1 programmes
- Application of ASTM E-185-09a and ASTM E-2215-08 standards

■ Materials:


- Using original surveillance (15Ch2MFA), reconstituted impact specimens
- Greifswald cladding specimen

New surveillance programme – 2 withdrawal plan

UNIT	CAMPAIN	LOADING	WITHDRAWAL	CHAIN ID.
1.	29-32.	2011	2015	4G1E, 4G2E
	29-36.	2011	2018	5G1E, 5G2E
	29-44.	2011	~2027	6G1E, 6G2E
2.	28-31.	2012	2016	4G1F, 4G2F
	28-35.	2012	2020	5G1F, 5G2F
	28-43.	2012	~2028	6G1F, 6G2F
3.	29-32.	2013	2018	4G1G, 4G2G
	29-36.	2013	2022	5G1G, 5G2G
	29-44.	2013	~2029	6G1G, 6G2G
4.	28-31.	2014	2017	4G1H, 4G2H
	28-35.	2014	2021	5G1H, 5G2H
	28-43.	2014	~2030	6G1H, 6G2H

**Research programme for
RPV internals:
TLAA due to void swelling
and IASSC**

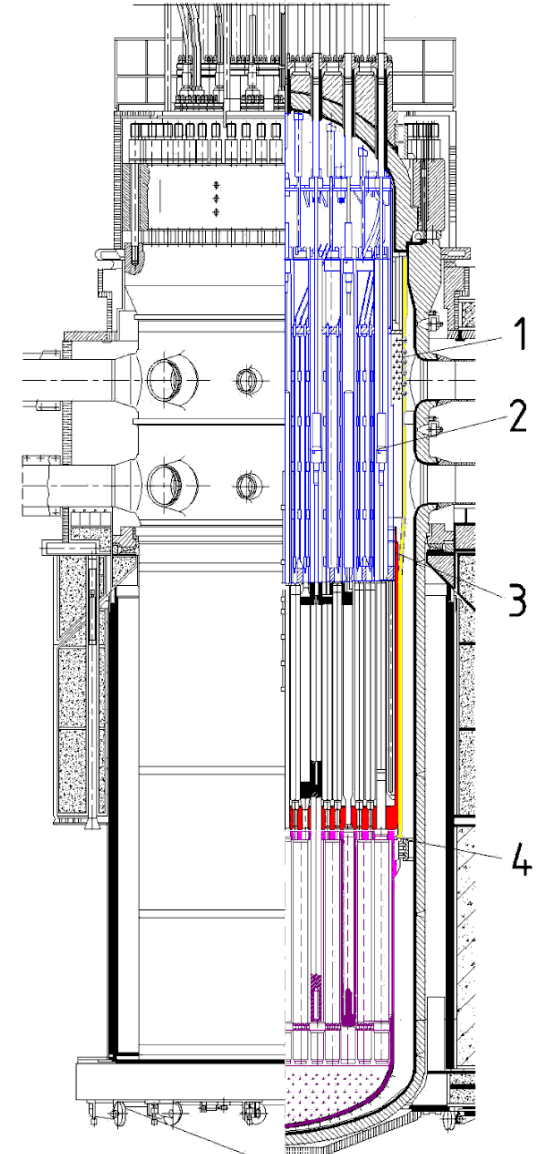
RPV Internals research for LTO (TLAA)

Degradation mechanisms (<i>due to irradiation</i>)	Material, Locations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ void swelling;▪ IASCC;▪ loss of fracture toughness;▪ H₂ and He generation radiation induced segregation;▪ stress relaxation (creep);	<p>Materials: 08Ch18N10T (VVER stainless steel, similar to AISI 321)</p> <p>Locations: RPV internals: (core basket, baffle and former plates, baffle-to-former bolts)</p> 

Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (1)

Current situation based on the previous TLAA:

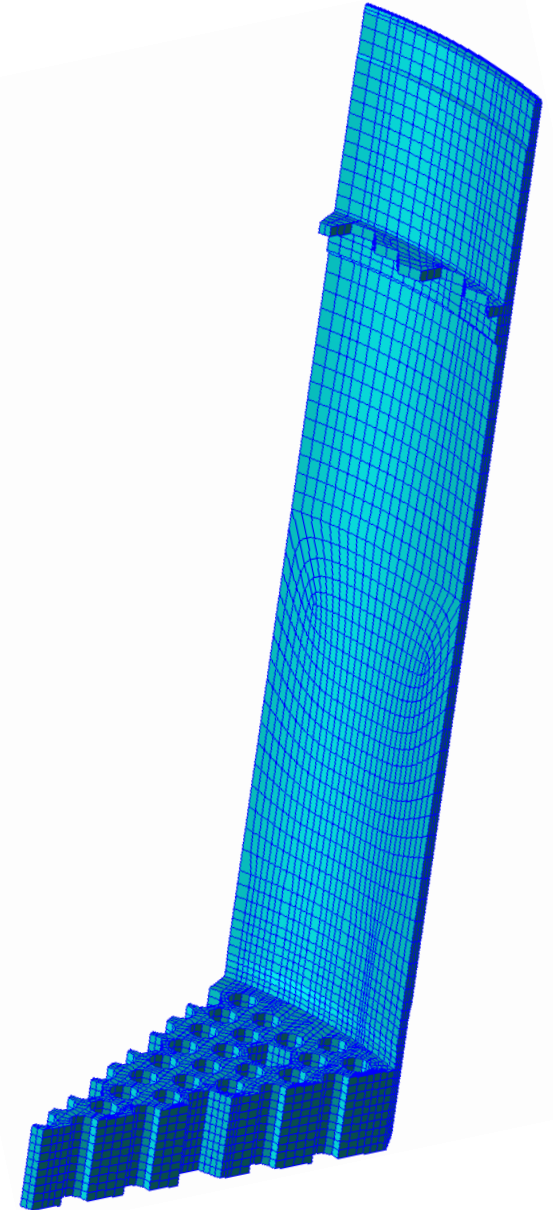
- Local environmental influences (neutron and gamma irradiation, temperature) can lead to **void swelling degradation of reactor pressure vessel internal components**, which later may result in a local geometric change and deformation constrain
- In individual structural elements cannot be excluded the appearance of **stress corrosion cracks during the LTO period**
- For **irradiation-assisted stress corrosion**, **critical location** can be the baffle-to-former bolts of the basket
- Potential corrosion cracks in the bolts and deformation constrain due to the void swelling in extreme cases may **lead to the damage of thread part and loss of bolts.**



Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (2)

Goals of the new TLAA:

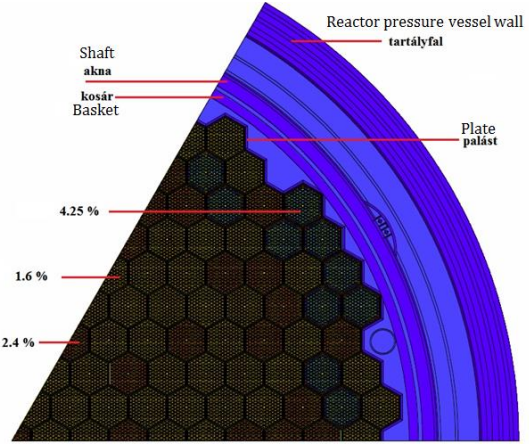
- Make a **more realistic estimation of the expected damage** with eliminating the unnecessary conservatism
- The **actual irradiation temperature of the baffle-to-former bolts, the baffle plate, and basket plate will be determined**, taking into account real gamma heating and local flow conditions. **It is assumed that knowing the real irradiation temperature can be significantly reduced the previously estimated void swelling level of the components.**
- Use more precisely **finite element calculation**



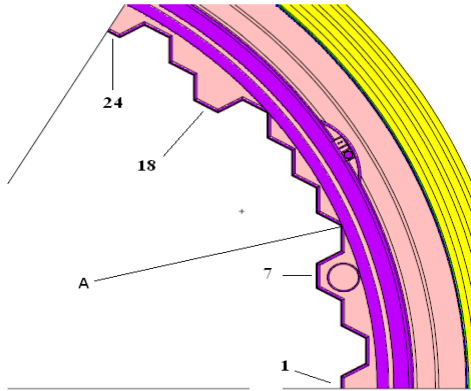
Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (3)

Main tasks to be performed:

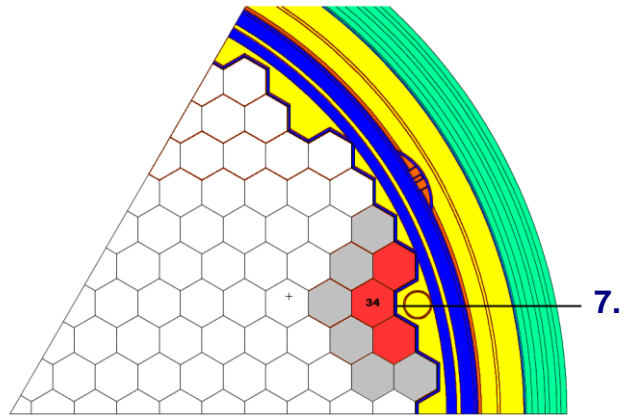
- reactor - physics calculation:** 3D transport calculations for the fast neutron and gamma radiation;
 - irradiation load calculation → determine the radiation load in dpa to the internal elements of the reactor.
- calculations for damage and gamma heating:** based on reactor-physics calculations (neutron flux and spectrum data) follow the neutron and gamma processes inside the construction materials;



The horizontal cross-section of the model



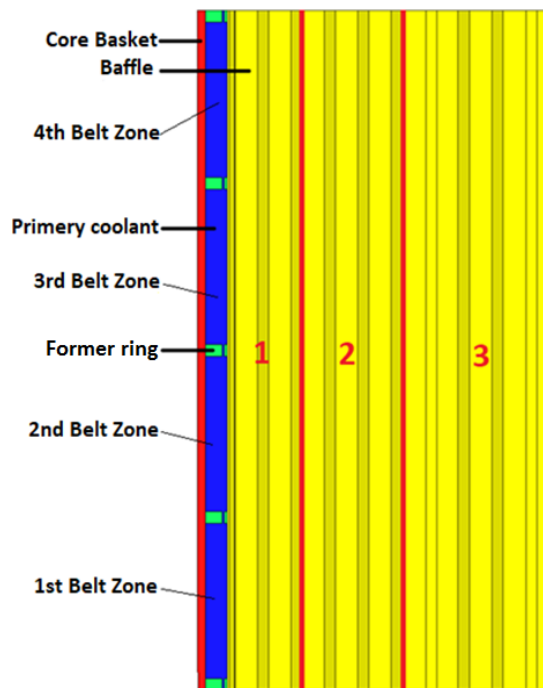
Numbering of sheets of baffle plate



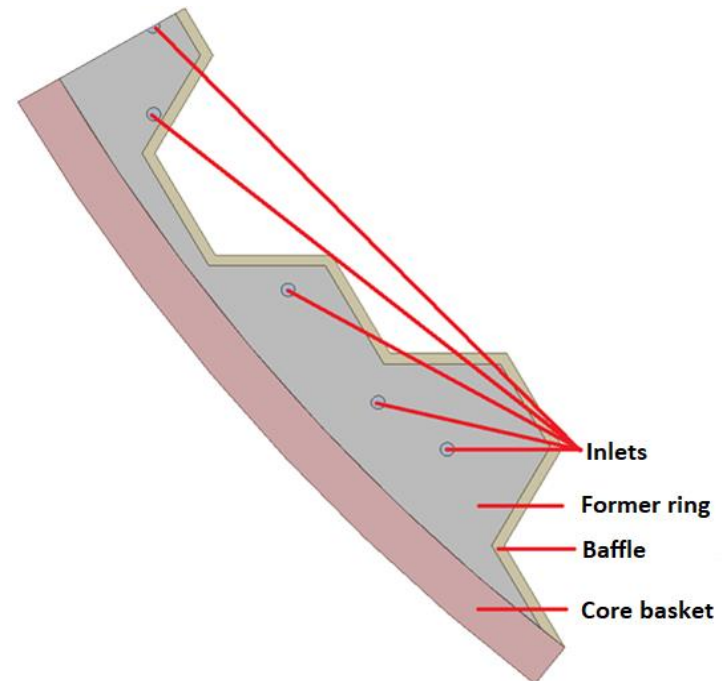
In red: cassettes providing ~95% of the heat generation on sheet 7.

Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (4)

- **CFD calculations:** heat and flow analysis to determine the characteristic irradiation temperature of the reactor vessel internals for the swelling analysis. The purpose of the model is to refine the irradiance temperature by calculating the boundary conditions, considering gamma heat sources.



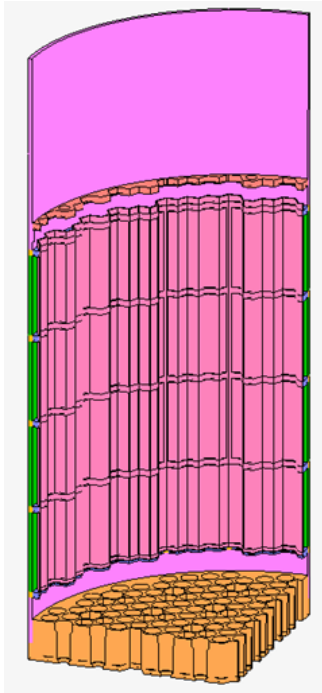
Side view of the examined area



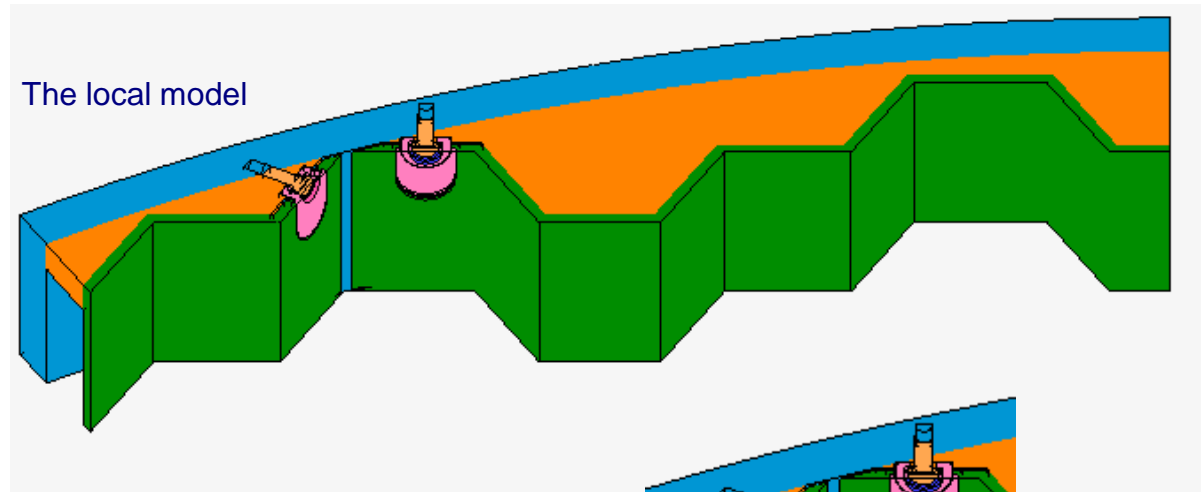
Geometric model in bottom view

Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (5)

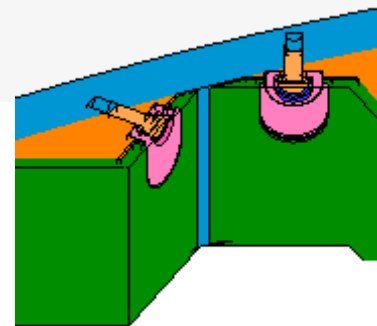
- **FE modelling and swelling:** the FE models use at the life extension CUF calculation act as base models, and extend so that swelling could be taken into account within the Msc. Marc code. In addition the models are expand and specify in the regions expected high rate of swelling.



Global model of the basket



Region of the core shroud basket bolts in the FE model



Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (6)

- **Swelling calculation:** based on the available three swelling models

Classical VVER model $S_0 = c_D D^n \exp[-r(T_{irr} - T_{max})^2],$

D – radiation load [dpa],

T_{irr} – radiation temperature [°C],

$T_{max} = 470^\circ C,$

$n = 1,88,$

$c_D = 1,035 \cdot 10^{-4},$

$r = 1,5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ } ^\circ C^{-2}.$

Kalchenko mode^[1] $S_0 = (0,25 - 0,022 \ln k) \cdot \varphi(D - 103 + 0,1T - 2,6 \ln k) \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(T - 690 - 15,5 \ln k)^2}{2 \cdot (12,3 - 1,9 \ln k)^2}\right)$

D – radiation load [dpa],

T_{irr} – radiation temperature [°C],

k – radiation dose rate [dpa/s],

$\varphi(x) = x, \text{ if } x > 0, \text{ otherwise: } 0.$

[1] A.S. Kalchenko, V.V. Bryk, N.P. Lazarevó, I.M. Neklyudov, V.N. Voyevodin, F.A. Garner, Prediction of swelling of 18Cr10NiTi austenitic steel over a wide range of displacement rates, Journal of Nuclear Materials, 399 (2010), 114 – 121

Reactor internal structures: New TLAA (7)

- **Void swelling calculation:** based on the available three swelling models

VERLIFE model^[2]

$$S = S_0 f_1(\sigma_{eff}) \cdot f_2(\alpha_p), \text{ where}$$

$$S_0 = c F^{nv} \exp[-r(T_{irr} - T_m)^2],$$

F – radiation load [dpa],

T_{irr} – radiation temperature [°C],

$$T_m = 470^\circ C,$$

$$nv = 1,88,$$

$$c = 2,588 \cdot 10^{-4},$$

$$r = 1,825 \cdot 10^{-4} C^{-2};$$

$$f_1(\sigma_{eff}) = 1 + P \cdot \sigma_{eff},$$

$$\sigma_{eff} = (1 - \eta_1)\sigma_m + \eta_1 \cdot \sigma_{eq},$$

$$P = 5,4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ 1/MPa},$$

$$\eta_1 = 0,15,$$

$\sigma_m = (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 + \sigma_3)/3$ hydrostatic stress,

σ_{eq} – Mises's equivalent stress;

$$f_2(\alpha_p) = \exp(-\eta_2 \alpha_p),$$

$$\eta_2 = 8,75.$$

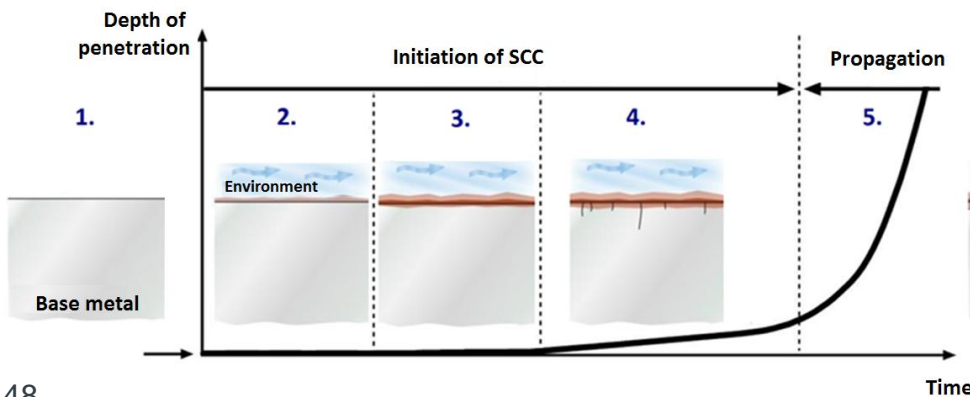
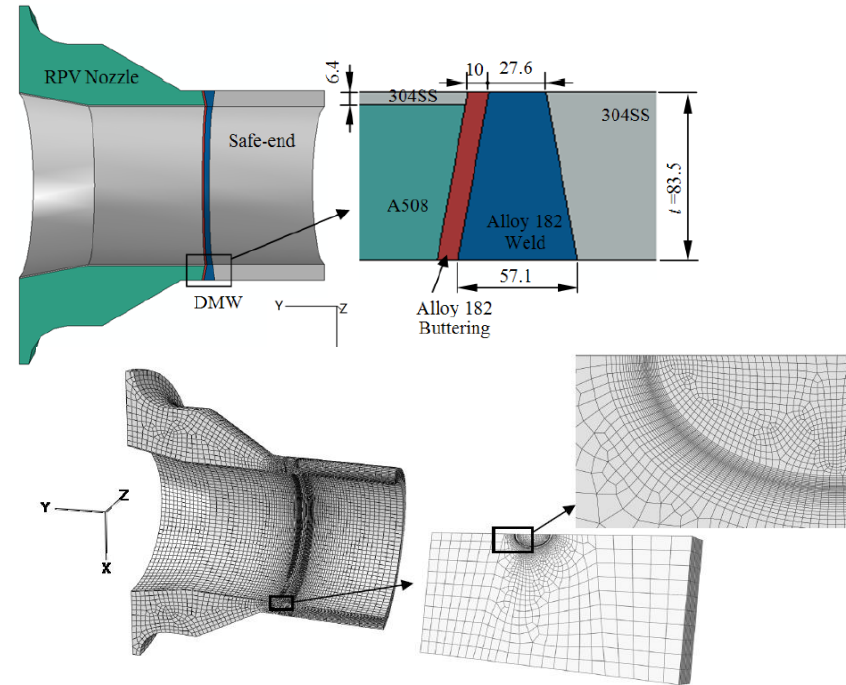
[2] Guidelines for Integrity and Lifetime Assessment of Components and Piping in WWER Nuclear Power Plant (VERLIFE), Appendices A-F (2014)

**Other research programmes
for Stress Corrosion
Cracking of primary coolant
pressure boundary**

Prediction possibilities of stress corrosion crack initiation and its propagation

The project (2018-2021) focuses on the following topics:

- For primary circuit materials (dissimilar metal welds and baffle-to-former bolts due to high irradiation) study the new methods and results concerning
 - stress corrosion cracking (initiation) and crack propagation,
 - modelling and testing of SCC.
- Perform finite element analyses for the application of fracture models and for the determination of proposed parameters for analysis.



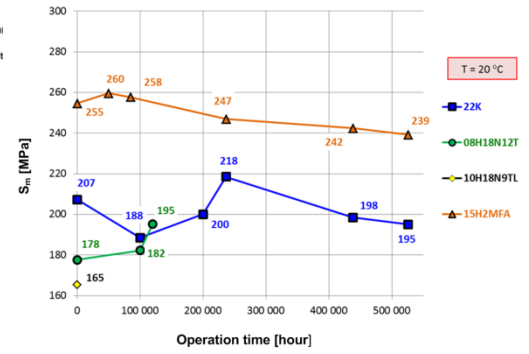
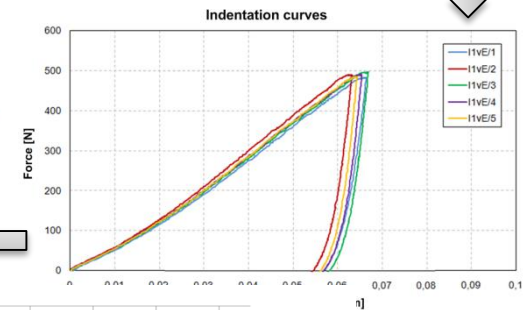
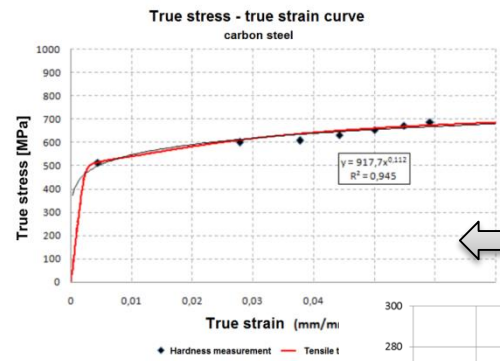
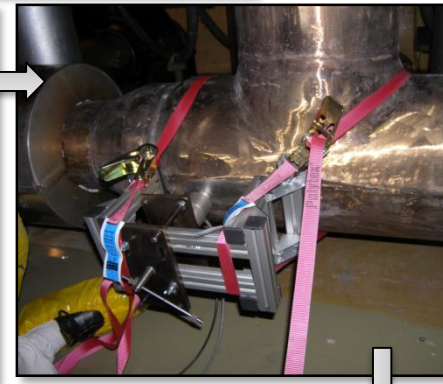
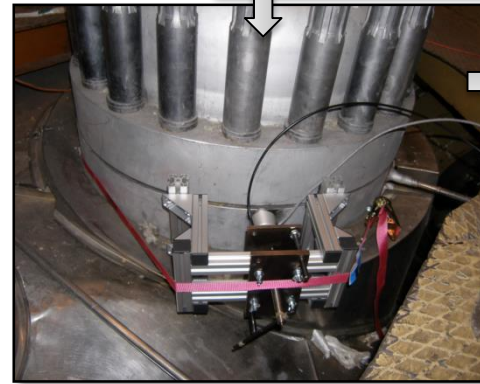
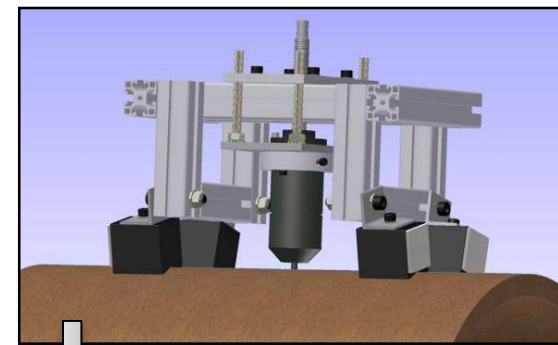
- Collect and determine by tests the specific material characteristics required for the applied model calculations.
- A method is developed for transferring test results to real size and complex geometry.

**Research programme for
verifying the material
properties of the primary
circuit materials**

Instrumented indentation test of the primary pressure boundary components

For the most typical materials made of the Class 1 components (15Ch2MFA, 22K, 08Ch18N10T, 08Ch18N12T) to perform local instrumented indentation tests and evaluating the results in order:

- to control the **material properties during LTO period** (yield strength and tensile strength),
- to compare the **strength values with the applied ones in the current ASME BPVC III based calculations** (complete re-design was performed in advance the plant entered into LTO period).



**Other R&D activities:
cooperation with EPRI, IAEA and
European Union**

EPRI cooperation

- Extension of EPRI Material Degradation Matrix (MDM) with VVER materials;
- Expert opinion of RPV internals TLAA methodology and criteria document (later results)
- Examination of steel samples exposed to high radiation
- *Outside the primary pressure boundary locations:
Adaption and application of the EPRI Erosion Corrosion programme (CHEKWORKS)*

Participation in the IAEA IGALL programme

Degradation mechanisms + ageing effects



PWR

BWR

CANDU



IGALL

Catalogue of generic AMPs and TLAAs

- Collection of „proven“ AMPs*
- 9 attributes of AMPs
- Collection of typical TLAAs*
- i, ii, iii solutions of TLAAs
- AMR tables - Identification of relevant AMPs and TLAAs for safety SSCs



OPERATORS

REGULATORS

DESIGNERS

NEWCOMERS

capacity building



R&D cooperation with EU

- NUGENIA (**NU**clear **GEN**eration II & III **Ass**ociation)
(International non-profit association)
- NUGENIA Hungarian members are MVM Paks Nuclear Power Plant Ltd., Bay Applied Research Ltd., MTA EK. The organization includes and carries out SNETP, NULIFE and SARNET programmes and their results.
- The results of R&D programmes contribute to work out the technical-scientific basis of the Paks NPP AMPs.

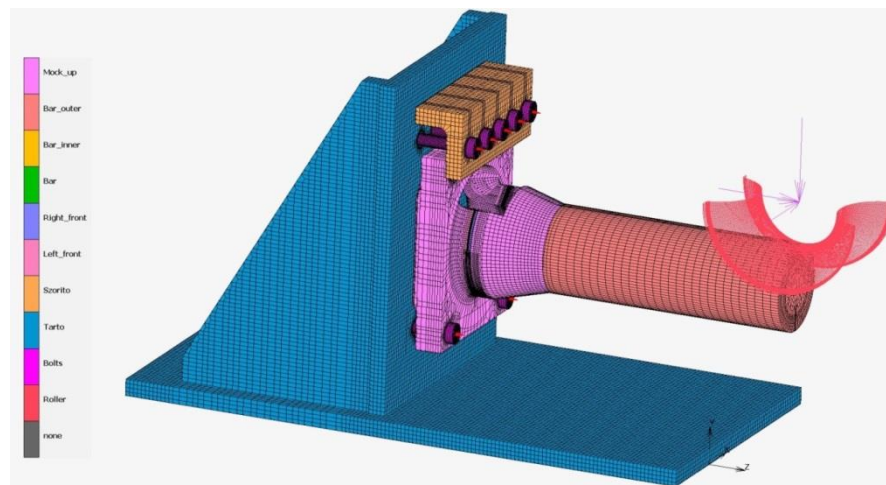


Example: ATLAS programme

ATLAS: Advanced Structural Integrity Assessment Tools for Safe Long Term Operation

Hungarian contribution:

- Simulation-based design of experiments on medium-sized mock-up
- Deeper understanding of damage phenomena. Better understanding of the transferability issues, real constraint conditions, WRS effect on crack initiation and ductile tearing, especially under loading from accident conditions.
- Analysis of main coolant pipe nozzle of RPV (VVER-440)

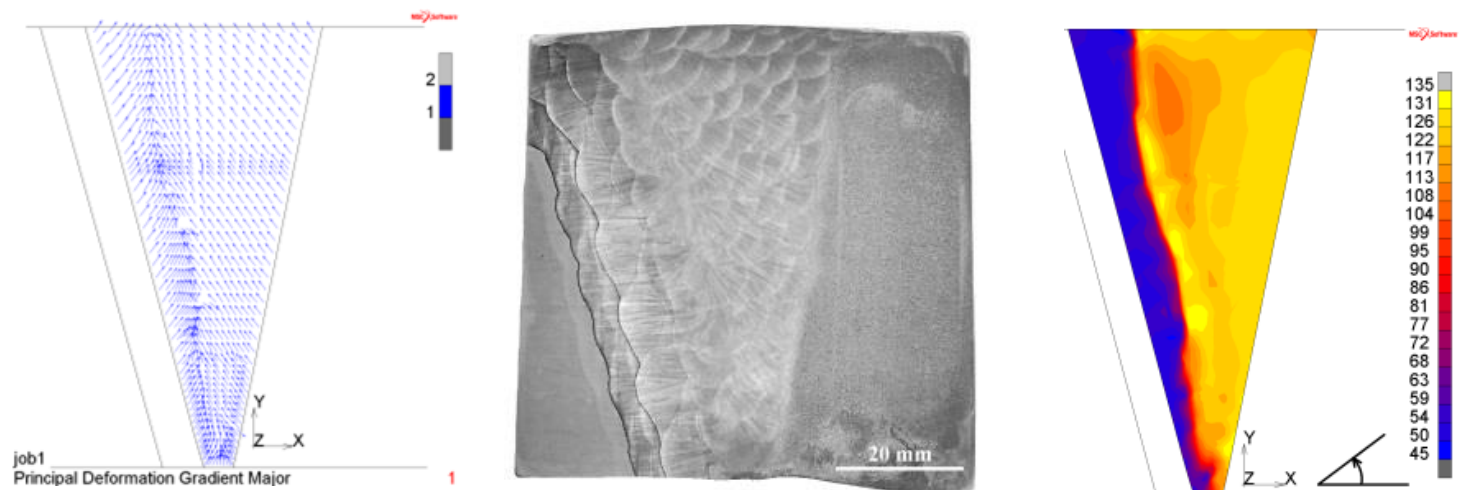


Example: ADVISE programme

ADVISE - Advanced Inspection of Complex Structures. ADVISE aims to advance the ultrasonic inspection of complex structured materials, for which conventional ultrasonic techniques suffer from severe performance limitations due to the micro and/or macro-structure

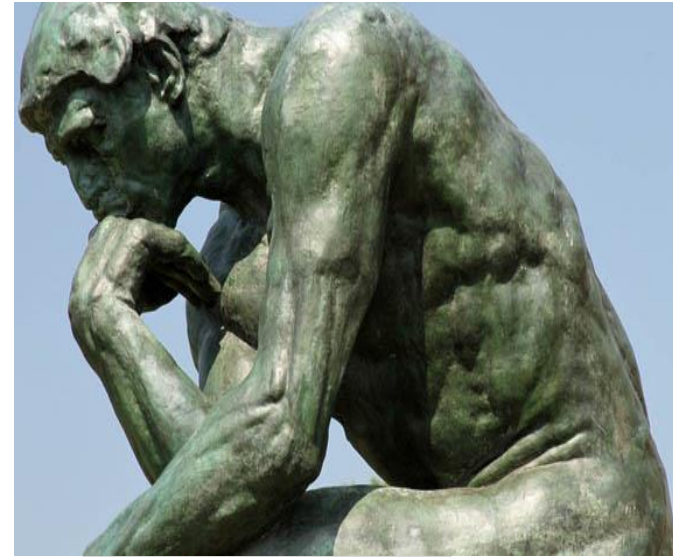
Hungarian contribution:

- Develop 3D simulation models to predict the weld formation, including maps of stiffness orientation and grain size; provide maps in parametric form and simplified numerical 3D method that will be suitable for inversion methods
- to integrate the components developed in the preceding WPs to carry out the transfer from the laboratories involved to the actual application in the field



Summary

- Technical basis of LTO at MVM Paks NPP is established:
 - Ageing management
 - Time Limited Aging Analyses (TLAAs)
- The plant has gained the extended licenses for the next 20 years
- Research needs are identified for the safe LTO
- Hungary joined to a couple of international programmes in the field of ageing management (e.g. EPRI, IAEA, EU)



English: [Rodin's *The Thinker*](#)
at the [Musée Rodin](#)
Français: [Le Penseur](#) dans le
[Musée Rodin](#).



Thank you for your attention!