

National Centre for Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation

CASE STUDY: SAFEGUARDS & NON-PROLIFERATION

Maintaining global nuclear peace and stability

In 1970, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into force to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament.

International Nuclear Safeguards

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based at the UN headquarters in Vienna, is responsible for monitoring global NPT compliance through its system of International Nuclear Safeguards. The objective of Nuclear Safeguards is to deter the spread of nuclear weapons by the early detection of the misuse of nuclear material or technology.

The IAEA maintains its effectiveness in combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in part due to technical support from member states.

IAEA Member State Support Programmes (MSSPs) help the Agency strengthen global nuclear verification. For more than 40 years, MSSPs have supported the IAEA's nuclear verification mission through financial contributions, training, technology transfer, and expert collaboration in many different forms.

The UK's role

The UK makes up one of 23 IAEA Member State Support Programmes (MSSPs). NNL, on behalf of the UK government, manage the UK's technical contribution to its MSSP, ensuring coordinated and effective deployment of national capabilities to support the IAEA in keeping pace with the latest developments in the nuclear field.

NNL works with supply chain partners across the UK to deliver a portfolio of vital support activities. From training of IAEA inspectors to the development of statistical models, from analytical services, provided by the UK's two IAEA accredited analysis labs, to the provision of Cost Free Experts (CFEs) to the IAEA, NNL manages the delivery of a wide range of important programmes.

New and advanced technologies

With the need to rapidly decarbonise global energy systems to tackle climate change, the deployment of new and advanced nuclear technology across a wider range of countries will make the IAEA's task of detecting and deterring the misuse of nuclear technology even more challenging.

As a mature nuclear nation with a long history of nuclear activities, the UK is in the perfect position to leverage its sovereign capabilities to support the IAEA in this mission.

NNL, as the national technical authority for nuclear fission, uses its network of technical partners to leverage and exercise UK capability to underpin this important mission.

More Information

[The United Kingdom Support Programme to IAEA Safeguards: 2016-2021](#)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

[ISPO | International Safeguards Project Office \(bnl.gov\)](#)

[IAEA Safeguards Overview | IAEA](#)