GUIDE TO RADIOISOTOPES

With the growing interest in the use of radioisotopes all over the world, the need is felt for the fullest information on their availability. It is not surprising, therefore, that one of the first tasks that has engaged IAEA's attention has been to collect such information on a world-wide basis and communicate it to all concerned. On fulfilment of this task, the Agency has recently published the first volume of an International Directory of Radioisotopes containing information on all radioisotopes which are for sale or distribution by the major suppliers in the world. *

The first volume contains complete tables of radioisotopes, including unprocessed and processed preparations, and solid radiation sources for special applications. The second volume, which will soon follow, will be devoted to the chemical ("labelled") compounds of carbon 14, hydrogen 3 (tritium), iodine 131, phosphorous 32 and sulphur 35. The information given includes not only details regarding sources of supply and prices but also the most important current physical data, such as half-lives and radiations. The important production processes are also described.

For each radioisotope, the basic information is given under the following heads: half-life, radiations, production process, activation cross section, and other activities. For all products as are commercially available, the information is listed in six categories: (a) description (e. g. processed or unprocessed) and chemical form, (b) supplier and code, (c) unit size and weight, (d) specific and total activity, (e) price, and (f) remarks. Units straight from the reactor are classified as unprocessed, in which case the chemical form of the target is given. Radioisotope preparations made from enriched targets or subjected to some processing after irradiation are classified as processed. Other groups include special sources such as solid sources manufactured for industrial or medical purposes.

The names of the suppliers are given in abbreviated form, the full names being listed in a separate section which also contains information on the range of products and services available from a supplier. The codes mentioned are those of the suppliers, and the prices quoted are as they appear in the various catalogues available from the suppliers. The names of 44 suppliers appear in the directory; in addition to the information given about these major suppliers in the world, some information is given separately about countries where production of radioisotopes has been undertaken on a small scale or planned for the near future.

In a preface to the volume, the IAEA Director General, Mr. Sterling Cole, recalls the co-operation extended by Member States in providing the required information. "It can", he says, "therefore, be rightly stated that this Directory is one of the fruits of the co-operation of nations, through the Agency, for the peaceful uses of atomic energy."

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* *International Directory of Radioisotopes: Volume I: Unprocessed and Processed Radioisotope Preparations and Special Radiation Sources. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna 1959. Price US $3.50; UK 21/- (stg.).*

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING COURSES RELATING TO ATOMIC ENERGY
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Date	*Subject and Location*	*Convening Body and / or Organizers or Sponsors*	*Address for Enquiries*
Oct. 12 - Nov. 20	Course on the Techniques of Using Radioisotopes in Industry (Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA)	Special Training Division, Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies	Dr. R.T. Overman, Chairman, Special Training Division, ORINS, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA
Oct. 14 - Dec. 18	Standard Course no. 19 (Part II) (Reactor School Harwell Didcot, Berkshire, UK)	Harwell Reactor School	Mr. J.F. Hill, Principal, Reactor School, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks., UK