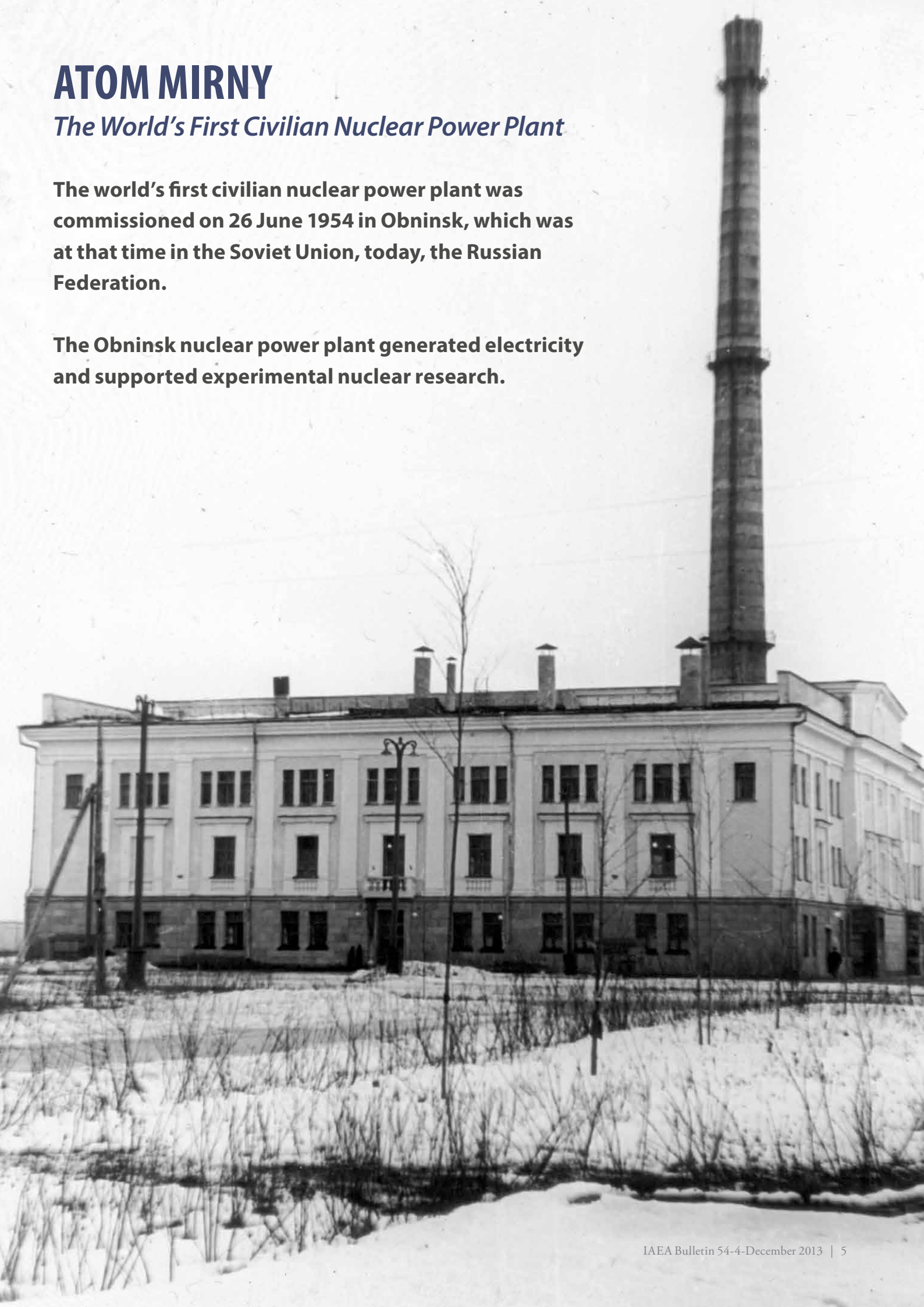


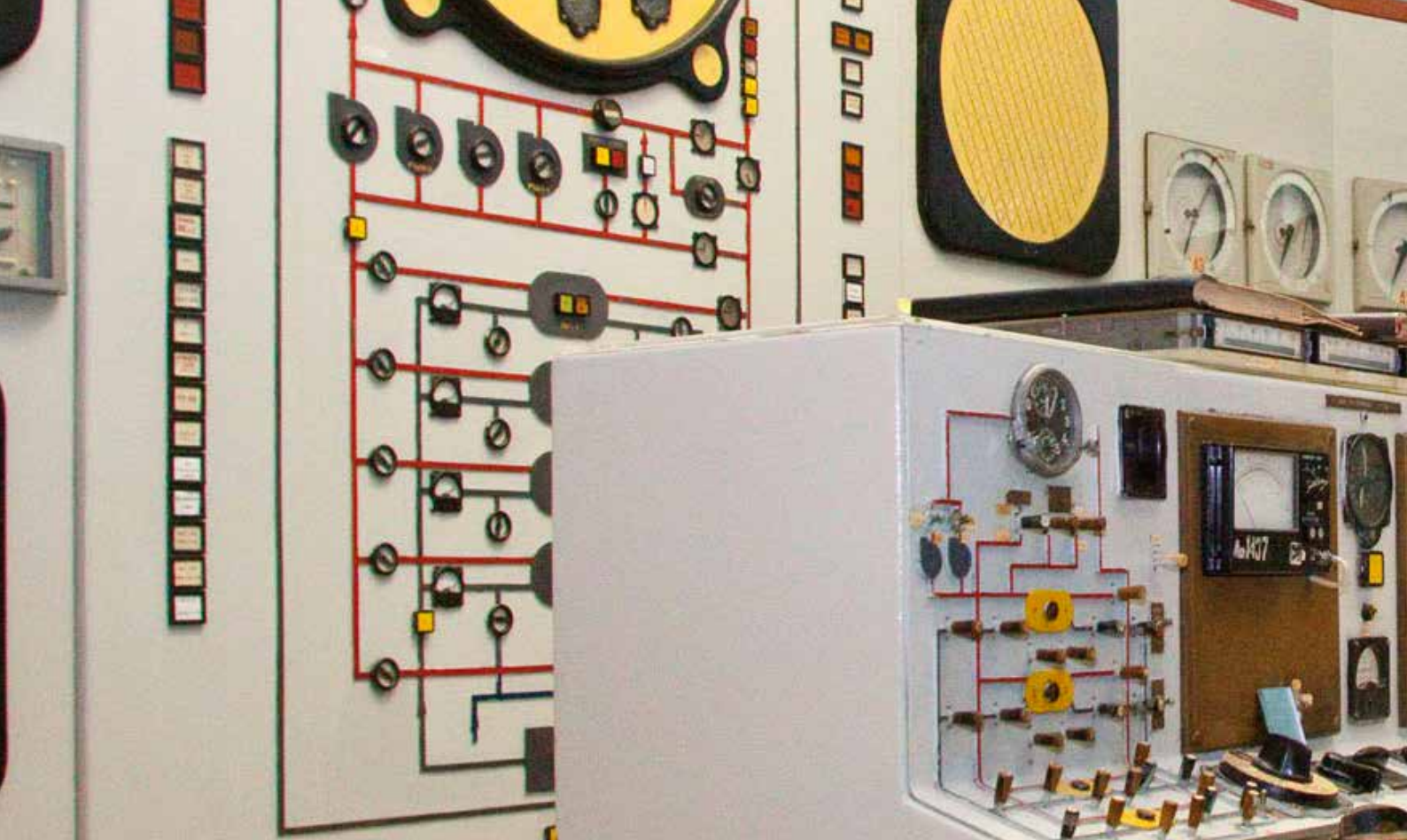
ATOM MIRNY

The World's First Civilian Nuclear Power Plant

The world's first civilian nuclear power plant was commissioned on 26 June 1954 in Obninsk, which was at that time in the Soviet Union, today, the Russian Federation.

The Obninsk nuclear power plant generated electricity and supported experimental nuclear research.





The name AM-1 is derived from the Russian phrase Атом Мирный , pronounced 'Atom Mirny' or 'Peaceful Atom'. Its reactor, which was controlled from the main control room, had a net capacity of 5 MW. In this photo, the operator is monitoring the status of the 18 fuel rods.



A celebrity in itself, the world's first civilian nuclear power plant at Obninsk received many eminent visitors, such as the cosmonaut, Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin (left), who piloted the Vostok 1 on the world's first space flight in 1961.



The Obninsk nuclear power plant operated without incident for 48 years. In September 2002, the last fuel subassembly was unloaded, when the Obninsk nuclear power plant set another first: it became the first nuclear power plant to be decommissioned in Russia.



Text: Peter Kaiser & Michael Madsen, IAEA Division of Public Information; Photos: Federal State Unitary Enterprise "State Scientific Centre of the Russian Federation – Institute for Physics and Power Engineering named after A. I. Leypunsky"