

IAEA LABORATORIES IN SEIBERSDORF



1 On 28 September 1959, the first IAEA Director General, William Sterling Cole, inaugurated the construction project on the first IAEA laboratory in Seibersdorf by pouring the initial load of concrete into the laboratory's foundations. The laboratory officially came into operation in January 1962.



2 In 2012, the IAEA commemorated 50 years of dedicated support provided to Member States through the laboratories of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications (NA laboratories) in Seibersdorf. The IAEA's Director General, Yukiya Amano, opened the celebration with a ribbon cutting ceremony for a laboratory exhibit on display for the occasion.



3 When the IAEA laboratory in Seibersdorf first opened in 1962, it had fewer than 40 staff members. A year later, in November 1963, ten international participants were welcomed to its first training course that focused on the bioassay of radionuclides.



4 Today, the NA laboratories host nearly 100 scientists, technicians, fellows, scientific visitors, interns and students from around the world. Additionally, training courses in all areas of the laboratories' work are held in Seibersdorf each year, with 440 trainees participating in 2013.

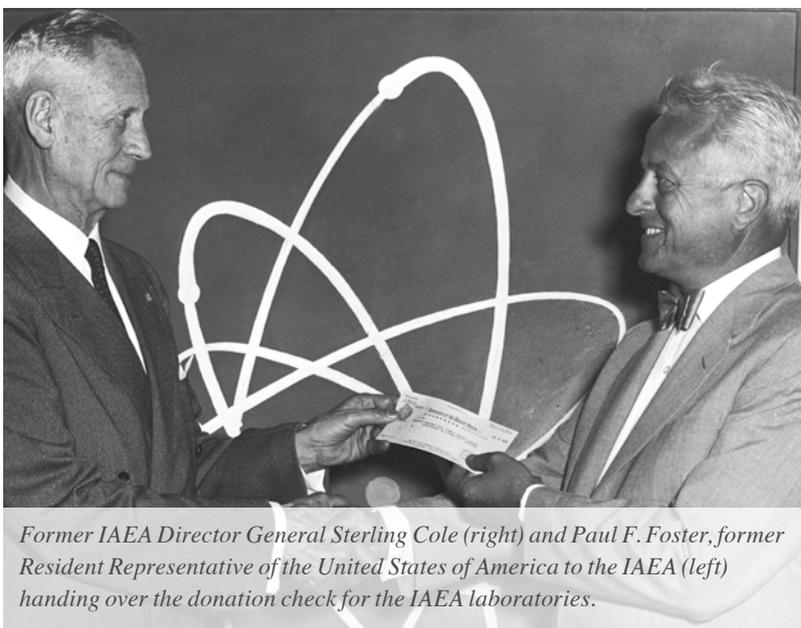
SEIBERSDORF: THEN AND NOW



5 In the first phase of construction, the total space of the IAEA laboratory building in Seibersdorf was only 1736 m². The original space only contained one laboratory, which distributed information on radioactive isotope reference sources to IAEA Member State laboratories and their medical facilities. This information was used to calibrate radiation measuring instruments using radioisotopes in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.



6 The IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf have since expanded to around 21 000 m² and now house the Safeguards Analytical Laboratories and eight NA laboratories. The NA laboratories respond to Member States' needs in areas such as food and agriculture, human health, environmental monitoring and the use of nuclear analytical instruments.



Former IAEA Director General Sterling Cole (right) and Paul F. Foster, former Resident Representative of the United States of America to the IAEA (left) handing over the donation check for the IAEA laboratories.

7 Support from IAEA Member States has been a critical factor in the success of the laboratories in Seibersdorf. The laboratories were built on land provided by the Austrian Atomic Energy Research Company, the forerunner of today's Austrian Institute of Technology, while construction was made possible through a donation of US \$600 000 by the United States.



8 In 2013, the IAEA's Director General, Yukiya Amano, once again called upon Member States to provide their support to the NA Laboratories and assist in the modernization of the laboratories to be carried out under the ReNuAL project that was approved by the IAEA General Conference in September 2012.

Text: IAEA Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications; Photos: IAEA