



Association of Imaging Producers & Equipment Suppliers
(European Industrial Association for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Healthcare)

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On August 21st, the operator of the research reactor HFR at Petten, The Netherlands, announced that the reactor must be shutdown for at least 4 weeks (cfr the press releases on the website of the operator, NRG). This event, although relatively minor by itself, has a very large impact on the current supply of basic material for medical purposes, as the two other European reactors are currently undergoing scheduled maintenance. The HFR reactor is a major one of the only 6 reactors capable of supplying the radionuclides needed for diagnostic and therapeutic uses in hospitals worldwide.

AIPES, the European association of producers of medical imaging material and equipment, draws the attention on the consequences of this event on the day-to-day operation of diagnostic departments in hospitals worldwide.

During 3 to 4 weeks, no irradiation tool will be available in Europe for producing medical isotopes both for diagnostic exams and therapy procedures.

AIPES members will make all possible efforts to reduce the risks associated with this unprecedented supply crisis in Europe. It urges the competent authorities to take all the necessary actions to minimize as much as possible the consequences for public health.

Again, this situation highlights the urgent need for a European strategy in order to compensate the ageing of reactors dedicated to medical purpose.

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