



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

PRESS INFORMATION

Brussels, 29 August 2008

In our press release dated 25 August, we informed the public about the consequences resulting from the shutdown of the research reactor HFR at Petten, The Netherlands. We, AIPES, as the trade association gathering the major actors of the nuclear medicine industry in Europe, remain committed to providing regular and more detailed updates over this matter, which could seriously impact patient access to radiopharmaceutical products.

There are only three approved potential reactors for nuclear medicine in Europe and a handful of medical isotope reactors in the world. The reactors provide irradiation for activation of stable isotopes for therapy and for Mo99/Tc99. The technetium Tc99 is used for most nuclear medicine diagnostic applications. One of them, the HFR, is the primary source of Mo99, the parent isotope of Tc99m in Europe. Last week, the HFR reactor operator, NRG, notified the industry of a problem with its High Flux Reactor (HFR) in Petten. NRG reported that the reactor will remain down for approximately one month.

Among the three approved potential reactors for nuclear medicine in Europe, the BR2 in Belgium and the reactor Osiris in Saclay were undergoing planned maintenance phase, when the HFR reactor stopped its production.

In these critical circumstances, AIPES, together with its members, is looking worldwide for all possible solutions, in accordance with the regulatory obligations, to limit the shortage duration in the supply of radioisotopes. Discussions with reactor operators in Canada, Czech Republic and South Africa, suppliers, authorities and governments are currently ongoing. Requests have been made to restart the other reactors in Europe as soon as possible, in compliance with the safety rules. Nevertheless once a reactor is operational, it still needs a cycle of 11 days before Technetium 99 generators can be delivered in hospitals.

Based on current Mo99 availability commitments, AIPES expects that the majority of the industry technetium Tc99m generators will be delivered through Friday, August 29.

For the first week of September we expect a very significant reduction in availability of Mo99 and of technetium Tc99 generators. We are in close communications with the European Society of Nuclear Medicine to ensure the least discomfort for the patients.

These projections could change if Mo99 supply availability from the other reactors is greater than anticipated.

We will regularly communicate on our ability to provide hospitals with the adequate products to all stakeholders involved, from general public to governmental institutions.



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About AIPES

AIPES (Association of Imaging Producers & Equipment Suppliers) brings the major pharmaceutical laboratories in nuclear medicine together with the major producers of medical equipments for this area of medicine, both multinationals and local medium size companies.

Associating drugs using short-life radionuclides, that, once injected into the patient, enable 3D imaging, using state-of-the-art cameras, nuclear medicine tracks important pathologies such as cancer and heart or brain dysfunction.

The defense and promotion of the actors in this highly regulated discipline requires an integrated organization such as AIPES.

In addition to its role as lobbyist to the European institutions for positive treatment of diagnostic imaging procedures at the European Commission, both in respect to reimbursement and regulatory constraints; its role as provider of a forum for addressing specific radio-pharmaceutical issues similar to CORAR in the US, and its role as an industrial partner to the European Association of Nuclear Medicine and any other European medical society that could help in the promotion of diagnostic imaging, AIPES has as its goal, to communicate to the public the medical potential and the latest technical developments in the field of nuclear medicine.

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