

The National Value of the CNF

The Canadian Neutron Facility is a key component of a revitalized national materials research infrastructure for the 21st century. The future competitiveness and standard of living of all nations in the emerging global economy will increasingly depend on scientific progress and technological innovation. In particular, national competitiveness will be closely linked to the innovative capabilities of nations in information technologies, biotechnologies and advanced materials. The OECD nations have identified the development of new materials, and supporting process technologies, as a strategic priority for the 21st century.

An intense neutron source is essential to Canada's CANDU nuclear industry, both nationally and in the international marketplace. And it is a key part of the essential suite of materials probes and test facilities on which an advanced industrial economy must rely for enhanced productivity. Only with a complete set of these facilities can Canada meet the challenges that confront a wide range of industries.

The role of NRC, as the Government of Canada's lead science and technology agency, is to ensure that the materials research infrastructure is in place, and operated to meet stakeholder needs.

The role of AECL, as a federal Crown corporation and leader of Canada's nuclear industry, is to ensure that key research and product development facilities are available to support existing customers, and to continue to evolve its CANDU and research reactor products. AECL's goals are to remain competitive in the global marketplace, and to ensure that CANDU technology is available to Canada in the future, when the need for new and environmentally-sound electricity generation arises.

