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FINNISH RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT KYT2014 –
STEERING GROUP'S GUIDELINES FOR 2012 RESEARCH PROJECT SEARCH

The KYT2014 research programme is based on the Nuclear Energy Act, according to which the aim of research activity is to ensure that the authorities have sufficient and comprehensive nuclear engineering expertise and other tools at their disposal as required for comparing the various ways and methods of carrying out nuclear waste management. The starting points and guidelines of the research programme are presented in its framework programme. The contents of this project search are based on the KYT2014 framework programme (<http://kyt2014.vtt.fi/>).

The main themes of the research programme are new and alternative technologies in nuclear waste management, research on the safety of nuclear waste management, and sociological studies related to nuclear waste management. Research on the safety of nuclear waste management aims at more extensive joint projects, particularly on the following research topics: 1) the safety case, 2) the capacity of buffer and filling materials and 3) the long-term integrity of the final disposal canister. One extensive multi-year coordinated project is being sought for each topic. In addition to coordinated projects, the programme seeks other topical studies on research. The Fukushima nuclear power plant accident further emphasises the importance of nuclear facility safety research and the related sociological studies.

The following assessment criteria are used when selecting projects for which funding is granted. The significance and usability of the project are assessed from the viewpoint of nuclear waste management research needs. Under such projects, we are pursuing networking with actors in the field, combined joint projects and integral entities. The educational effects of projects are assessed both in terms of training new experts and generating new expertise. The realism of the project proposal is also evaluated. In addition to these, the assessment emphasises scientific merit and profitability as proven in KYT projects or other contexts.

Projects funded under the KYT2014 programme may last one or several years. Funding may be granted for one year at a time, which means that the further financing of multi-year projects depends on how well the project has achieved the set targets.