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Engagement and outreach: Bespoke activities for research promotion - NREFS project

Members: University of Bristol

Collaborators: Analytic Eye Ltd., University of Manchester, City University London, Open University, Fukushima Medical University

Funders: EPSRC, South West Nuclear Hub

Challenge



It is increasingly important to be able to demonstrate the impact of research and improve engagement with industry users and funding bodies. The publication of the NREFS (Management of Nuclear Risk Issues: Environmental, Financial and Safety) project offered the chance to engage widely with industry, government and the public on a topic that significantly impacts acceptance of nuclear technology.

Outcomes

On the release of the multi-institution NREFS project that launched the J-value technique, we organised a bespoke technical workshop and a large public lecture to discuss and promote the results.

We supported media engagement of this research in conjunction with the University press office, continuing to do so on an ongoing basis. This publication has become the most downloaded issue of *Process Safety and Environmental Protection* with over 40,000 downloads since 2017.



Professor Thomas was subsequently awarded a JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) International Fellowship, allowing collaboration with Fukushima Medical University in Japan on mitigating the effects of the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

As a result, Professor Masaharu Tsubokura visited the University and we coordinated a symposium and public lecture to mark the collaboration progress and stimulate for research activity.



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How the Hub added value

These examples show that we are able to bring together a specialist, technical audience facilitating deep discussion and collaboration with industry and government.

"The support of the Hub was vital in getting the news of this research out quickly. The Hub's facilities and help have enabled nuclear stakeholders, politicians and the public to hear, directly from the researchers or via the media coverage that followed, the important message that massive nuclear accidents like Chernobyl or Fukushima are much less harmful than almost everyone feared previously."

Professor Philip Thomas, Principal Investigator, NREFS project

Through our collaborative communications programme we are able to engage a wider specialist and public audience on research activities, as well as broader nuclear and STEM issues. This provides specialist support for promoting specific impact deliverables on research grants.

