



Visit of
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JRC-IRMM, Geel, Belgium

IRMM – Confidence in measurements®



The Joint Research Centre

The mission of the JRC is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies. As a service of the European Commission, the JRC functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

The JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements

The Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) is one of the seven institutes of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The JRC-IRMM was founded in 1957 under the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community and started operation in 1960 under the name of the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurements (CBNM) in Geel, Belgium. In 1993 it was renamed to reflect the new mission of the institute, which covers a wide range of measurement problems from food safety to environmental pollution.

Today the JRC-IRMM is one of the world's leading reference material producers, expert adviser in food safety and quality as well as a valued provider of reference measurement data.

Mission and objectives

The mission of the JRC-IRMM is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies.

The prime objective of the JRC-IRMM is to build confidence in the comparability of measurements by the production and dissemination of internationally accepted quality assurance tools, including validated methods, reference materials, reference measurements, interlaboratory comparisons and training.

JRC-IRMM has six core areas of competence:

- reference materials
- food analysis
- bioanalysis
- chemical reference measurements
- radionuclide metrology
- neutron physics



Some key figures

The JRC employs around 2750 staff from across the EU, and has an annual budget of around €330 million from the EU's research budget.

JRC-IRMM employs about 340 staff, and is funded mainly by the JRC budget from the European Commission Framework Programmes. In addition, JRC-IRMM earns income from the sales of reference materials, from participating in projects of the European Commission Framework Programmes and from work performed for customers, including other Directorates-General.



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