

Radionuclide supply in the UK:

building a coalition to make the case for investment

Press Release

organised by:

IPEM/SOR/RCR

Monday 13 June 2022 1pm-2.30pm

On Monday 13 June 2022, the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), the Society of Radiographers (SOR), and the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) convened a roundtable discussion between like-minded organisations, charities, academics and nuclear and cancer experts to discuss the growing issue of radionuclide supply in the United Kingdom.

In recent years, the strength of the UK supply of radionuclides, which are used in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, has been called into question. This is for a variety of reasons including the UK's departure from the EU, the war in Ukraine, and the decommissioning of reactors in Europe.

Attendees of the meeting included representatives from The Regional Centre for Endocrinology and Diabetes, British Thyroid Association, Neuroendocrine Cancer, PRostate Cancer UK, Institute of Cancer Research, AXREM, Siemens, British Thyroid Foundation, Bangor University, QM Radionuclides for Health UK, King's College London, National Cancer Research Institute and the British Nuclear Medicine Society.

The meeting was convened in order to discuss the challenges facing supply, and to discuss the possibility of forming a coalition to campaign for the development and implementation of a domestic supply of radionuclides here in the UK. It was agreed that the political environment is currently ready and receptive to this issue, with the Government recently publishing its Life Sciences Vision, and imminently due to publish the 10 Year Cancer Plan.

While it is early days for this coalition, the meeting was a success and there was a general agreement to take this forward. We are keen to involve as many different stakeholders as possible moving forward. As such if your organisation is interested in contributing to discussions on this please, or anyone in your network would be interested, please contact Inflect Partners (radionuclides@inflect.co.uk) who will add you to our database and invite you to any subsequent meeting.