



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Swiss Federal Nuclear
Safety Inspectorate ENSI

The **Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate ENSI** operates its **Regulatory Safety Research** programme in order to support its supervisory activities. The programme covers **reactor safety, radiation protection and waste disposal**. It comprises about 35-40 projects and a budget of about 6.5 million US-\$ per year.

ENSI's research strategy adopted in 2013 defines **objectives and criteria for research projects**. Several of them directly or indirectly refer to the competence and independence of expertise ENSI needs to fulfil its duties:

- 1. Maintaining and enhancing skills:** Every research project is followed by (at least) one ENSI employee. Specific training, especially masters' dissertations and doctoral theses, constitutes a criterion for assessing research projects.
- 2. Practical application for oversight activities** is the paramount criterion for ENSI's support of projects. Researchers working on such issues acquire skills that they may also use when working for the regulator at a later point in time.
- 3. Independent expertise:** ENSI gives preference to research projects of institutions whose employees are unlikely to be involved in conflicts of interest, if later expert work for ENSI is an option.
- 4. International networking:** ENSI's international integration into specialist networks is achieved by international research projects like benchmarks. ENSI's oversight activities benefit substantially from such projects. They allow to improve not only the methods used (codes etc.), but also the capabilities of the experts, be they internal or external.

The Swiss regulator's research strategy and its links to competent and independent expertise

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ENSI's Research Strategy

ENSI's research strategy is available on the internet, complemented by a form for submitting proposals for research projects:
www.ensi.ch/en

Coordinating the research programme

Based on the strategy, ENSI compiles a research plan annually, each comprising the next four years. Hence all existing projects and possible new research topics are reviewed once a year, enabling ENSI to prioritise research projects and to include strategic aspects like future expertise based on a comprehensive picture.

