The Dalton Nuclear Institute at The University of Manchester held a two-day workshop for the TRASNUSAFE project which brought together a range of nuclear industry and healthcare experts, from across the UK and European Union, to advise on the training needs for safety culture in the nuclear sector.

The Manchester workshop, following on from one held the previous week in Madrid and the fourth in a series held under the FP7 Euratom Research Programme funded project TRASNUSAFE, was tasked with obtaining advice on topics such as: learning outcomes, prospective clients, specific training topics and on course design and delivery.

Thirty experts in radiation protection, nuclear safety and safety culture from across the nuclear industry and healthcare sector gathered at the Dalton Nuclear Institute to provide expert advice. The University of Manchester is the UK partner in the project and is providing expertise on training needs analysis and training development in the area of nuclear safety culture.

The event was well supported by senior UK and European representatives with high quality presentations made which identified good and bad practice and strategic presentations providing examples of approaches for safety culture, which are being adopted where the safety of workers and the public are especially a concern.

In his summing up the chairman, Professor Peter Storey of The University of Manchester, claimed: “The workshop proved to be very effective in sharing knowledge and expertise and has given us engagement with key user groups in the nuclear industry, medical sector and professional bodies that can help steer the project.”

The potential users will have a crucial role, and ultimately will be the target clients for the training that will be developed over the next 18 months. The workshop concluded with a clear steer on each of the topics and drew some additional conclusions on how a safety culture programme should be implemented within organisations wishing to bring about improvements.

Structured feedback produced in a report will be placed on the TRASNUSAFE website, along with the presentations, and will also provide the input for the last of the workshops to be held in February in Slovenia.

Additional quotes;
Professor Jon Billowes (Dalton Nuclear Institute Project Leader) – “This excellent workshop of high quality speakers has helped advance our thinking on how safety culture training should be developed and implemented. The training itself must be employer driven and should be seen as an integral part of a company initiative to improve safety culture.”

Michael Stephens (Medical Research Council) - “Accidents are the visible symptoms of the disease of poor management. Effective safety management is about treating the disease not the symptoms. Effective leadership at all levels is the way in which companies can immunise themselves against this disease.”
Note to Editors:

About Dalton Nuclear Institute at The University of Manchester:

The University of Manchester is one of the premier nuclear research and higher learning universities and the Dalton Nuclear Institute provides the focus for the Manchester’s capabilities across the full range of nuclear science, policy and engineering. Manchester is the UK’s largest single campus university and is ranked in the top three for research power. www.manchester.ac.uk/dalton.

About the TRASNUSAFFE project:

The objective of this project is to design, develop and test two relevant training schemes on Nuclear Safety Culture with a European environment, based on a specific evaluation of the training needs.