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MOLYBDENUM-99 TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Status of NTP's Conversion Programme

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ABSTRACT

The SAFARI-1 research reactor and NTP ⁹⁹Mo production facilities at Pelindaba continue to produce and distribute significant quantities of ⁹⁹Mo for the world nuclear medicine market. Since commencing the development of an LEU based ⁹⁹Mo production process in early 2007 and the achievement of the first successful large scale LEU ⁹⁹Mo production in 2010, NTP has continued, together with its customers, with efforts to fully convert from HEU to LEU. Significant progress has been made in the past year with NTP's conversion efforts.

The economics of the ⁹⁹Mo supply chain continue to remain cause for concern with the critically important ^{99m}Tc isotope continuing to be significantly undervalued. Added to this, the ongoing direct and indirect subsidization of the Mo-99 production and supply chain continue to add uncertainty to the longer term sustainability of the industry.

As early as 2010, NTP together with its long standing supply partners have implemented a realistic strategy to ensure reliable supply of ⁹⁹Mo post 2016 and long term sustainability of the SPECT-based nuclear medicine.

This presentation provides a status update on the conversion programme at NTP.