

Condensed Matter Research with Neutrons and Muons
Spallation Neutron Source Division

**Neutronic and Nuclear Post-Test Analysis
of MEGAPIE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary	7
Introduction	11
Part I: MEGAPIE neutronic and nuclear post-test analysis	15
1. MEGAPIE description, operation and measurement program	17
1.1 Target description	17
1.2 SINQ facility	20
1.3 MEGAPIE irradiation history	23
1.4 Operating conditions	26
1.5 Neutronic and nuclear measurement program	29
2. Modeling	31
2.1 Modeling tools and procedure	31
2.2 Geometry definition	31
2.3 Materials definition	37
2.4 Source definition	39
2.5 Physics parameters	40
2.5.1 FLUKA	40
2.5.2 MCNPX	41
2.6 Evolution codes	42
2.6.1 ORIHET 3	43
2.6.2 CINDER'90	43
3. Inner neutron flux measurements	45
3.1 Neutron detector description	45
3.2 Systematic error reduction	47
3.3 Modelling of the target	47
3.4 Experimental results	50
3.5 Flux monitor analysis	54
3.6 A simplified model of the target	59
3.7 A modified source description	61
3.8 Conclusions	61
4. Outer neutron flux measurements	63
4.1 Introduction	63
4.2 The neutron flux in SINQ	63
4.3 The activation method	67
4.4 NAA measurement	69
4.5 Measurements at the beam lines	73
4.5.1 NEUTRA	74
4.5.2 ICON	74
4.5.3 EIGER	76
4.6 Results	79
4.6.1 Systematic corrections	79

4.6.2 Uncertainties	81
4.6.3 Thermal neutron fluxes	81
4.6.4 Epithermal neutron fluxes	84
4.6.5 Fast neutrons	85
4.6.6 Calculation of radionuclide production rates at NAA	87
4.7 Neutron spectrum measurement with a Bonner Sphere System	93
4.8 Conclusions	94
 5. Delayed neutrons measurements	97
5.1 Introduction and objectives	97
5.2 Estimation of the DN flux	97
5.2.1 A simplified geometrical model	97
5.3 Measurement of the DN flux	99
5.3.1 Experimental setup and method	99
5.3.2 Efficiency measurement and calculation	101
5.3.3 Interpretation of the data	105
5.4 Conclusions	108
 6. Gas production and release	109
6.1 Introduction	109
6.2 MEGAPIE cover gas system	111
6.3 CGS operation	112
6.4 Fresh gas sampling	115
6.4.1 Sampling factor	117
6.5 Decayed gas sampling	118
6.6 Gamma spectroscopy measurement and analysis	118
6.6.1 Fresh gas sampling	118
6.6.2 Decayed gas sampling	122
6.7 Mass spectroscopy	122
6.8 Calculations	123
6.9 Light nuclei	130
6.9.1 SNT calculations	131
6.9.2 MCNPX and FLUKA calculations	131
6.9.3 Pressure build up calculations	132
6.10 Interpretation of the results	135
6.10.1 Gas sampling	135
6.10.2 Pressure build up	135
 PART II: Activity calculations	137
 7. Calculations of target activation	139
7.1 Introduction	139
7.2 Calculation methods	140
7.2.1 FLUKA and MCNPX	140
7.2.2 SNT	140
7.3 Code validation	141
7.4 Activation of LBE and of the lower structure	144
7.4.1 FLUKA and MCNPX	144
7.4.2 SNT	152
7.4.3 Uncertainties in the calculations	157
7.5 Decay heat in LBE and dose rates	158

7.6 Effect of impurities in the LBE	158
7.6.1 FLUKA	158
7.6.2 MCNPX	160
7.6.3 SNT	161
8. Conclusions and recommendations	165
8.1 Neutronic performance	165
8.1.1 Main results	165
8.1.2 Recommendations and points requiring further analysis	166
8.2 Delayed neutrons	166
8.2.1 Main results	166
8.2.2 Recommendations and points requiring further analysis	167
8.3 Gas production	167
8.3.1 Main results	167
8.3.2 Recommendations and points requiring further analysis	167
8.4 Target activation calculations	168
8.4.1 Main results	168
8.4.2 Recommendations and points requiring further analysis	168
Annex A. FLUKA results	169
Annex B. MCNPX results	177
Annex C. SNT results	205
Annex D. Code comparison	248
Annex E. Acronyms	251
Acknowledgments	252
References	253