



First commercial deliveries of I-131 based on LEU from IRE plant

Fleurus, Belgium 1st February 2021-IRE is pleased to announce that its first commercial deliveries of I-131 based on the irradiation of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) targets have started this week.

This is a major milestone in the journey to a full conversion of IRE's processes to LEU that is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

This achievement is the result of a collaborative and long-term endeavor especially between the R&D, Production, Safety, QA/QC and Regulatory teams in IRE.

IRE wants also to especially thank the FANC, the Belgian nuclear regulatory agency, which has been diligently following up the latest safety developments, and expedited the final review process to give IRE the approval leading to the first commercial production of LEU-based I-131.

"Our customers are also making efforts to accept LEU-based I-131 now or short term. This is expected to relieve the actual pressure on global I-131 supply" said Erich Kollegger, CEO of IRE.

IRE will be intensively supporting all its customers in order to make sure that they are soon in a position to accept 100% LEU based I-131 when IRE finalizes its full conversion.

These deliveries take place at a time when the global supply of the I-131 market faces repeated difficulties due to the shutdown of the HEU purification line in IRE plant since December 8th, 2021. This line is expected to restart in the second half of this month, with planned deliveries of HEU-based I-131 early March. IRE is fully mobilized to serve its customers for the interest of the patients waiting for I-131 to be available for their therapeutic needs.

IRE will keep all stakeholders updated in due time with the next steps of our conversion later this year.

About IRE – I'IRE ELiT

IRE, the Institut National des Radioéléments, is a public utility foundation whose main activity is the production of radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic applications in the area of nuclear medicine. It is a global leader in the production of Molybdenum-99, the "parent" isotope of metastable Technetium-99 and the most widely used in nuclear medicine for numerous examinations (heart, bones, lungs, thyroid, brain, kidneys, etc.).

Besides its production activities, IRE contributes via its IRE Lab entity, to protecting and monitoring the environment thanks to its many services: measurement of radioactivity in various samples, radiological characterization of contaminated waste and elements, technical consultancy and support in the radiological and nuclear fields.

IRE ELiT is the innovation subsidiary of IRE which was created in 2010 in order to develop radiopharmaceuticals used in imaging and treatment of some cancers as well as for palliative care. In 2017, IRE ELiT allocated 18% of its turnover to R&D. This percentage is steadily growing ever since the company was created. IRE and IRE ELiT employ 250 people at the moment.



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Press contact details

Bérénice Pignol

+32 471 70 62 44

berenice.pignol@ire-elit.eu