EXCELLENCE FOR LIFE

IRE strengthens its leadership in radiopharmaceutical production with the arrival of the 30 MeV IBA cyclotron at its site

Fleurus, December 17th, 2024 – The Institute for Radioelements (IRE) announces the arrival of a 30 MeV IBA cyclotron at its Fleurus site this Tuesday, December 17th, 2024. This strategic investment marks a decisive step in IRE's commitment to expanding its production capacities and enhancing its self-sufficiency in Germanium-68 (Ge-68) production.

Control over Ge-68 production and supply Chain

With this cyclotron installation, IRE gains increased control over its production chain, particularly concerning the supply of Germanium-68 (Ge-68). This radionuclide is the raw material for producing Gallium-68 (Ga-68) generators (Galli Eo & Galli Ad), currently used in more than 30 countries for precise medical imaging via PET cameras, especially in cancer diagnosis. Ga-68 helps detect and localize tumors, thereby guiding the most personalized treatments for patients. By mastering Ge-68 production, IRE ensures not only the continuity of its supply but also the stability and flexibility needed to meet growing demand.

Towards commercial production in 2026

IRE is following an ambitious roadmap with the cyclotron integration. Key milestones remain before the first production launch, targeted for 2026. New laboratory construction, along with validation and process implementation phases, will be completed in the coming months. These steps will enable IRE to ensure maximum quality and safety in its production.

Erich Kollegger, CEO of IRE, stated: «*The arrival of the IBA cyclotron is a significant turning point in IRE's history. This project demonstrates our capacity to innovate, diversify our activities, and control the entire production chain of essential radionuclides for nuclear medicine. We are committed to meeting the growing market needs and maintaining our position as an industry leader.*"

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About IRE

The Institute for Radioelements (IRE) is a public utility foundation primarily focused on producing radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic applications in nuclear medicine. IRE is the global leader in Molybdenum-99 production, the parent isotope of metastable Technetium-99m, the most widely used isotope in nuclear medicine for various examinations (heart, bones, lungs, thyroid, brain, kidneys, etc.). Beyond its production activities, IRE contributes to environmental protection and monitoring through its IRE Lab division, offering services such as radioactivity measurement in various samples, radiological characterization of waste and contaminated materials, and consultancy and technical support in radiological and nuclear fields.

IRE ELiT, the innovation subsidiary founded in 2010, develops radiopharmaceuticals for cancer imaging and treatment. Together, IRE and IRE ELiT employ more than 270 people. More information: www.ire.eu

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