



# DEVELOPMENT OF VVER-1000 FUEL ASSEMBLY SHIPPING SOLUTION BY FRAMATOME: PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND STATUS

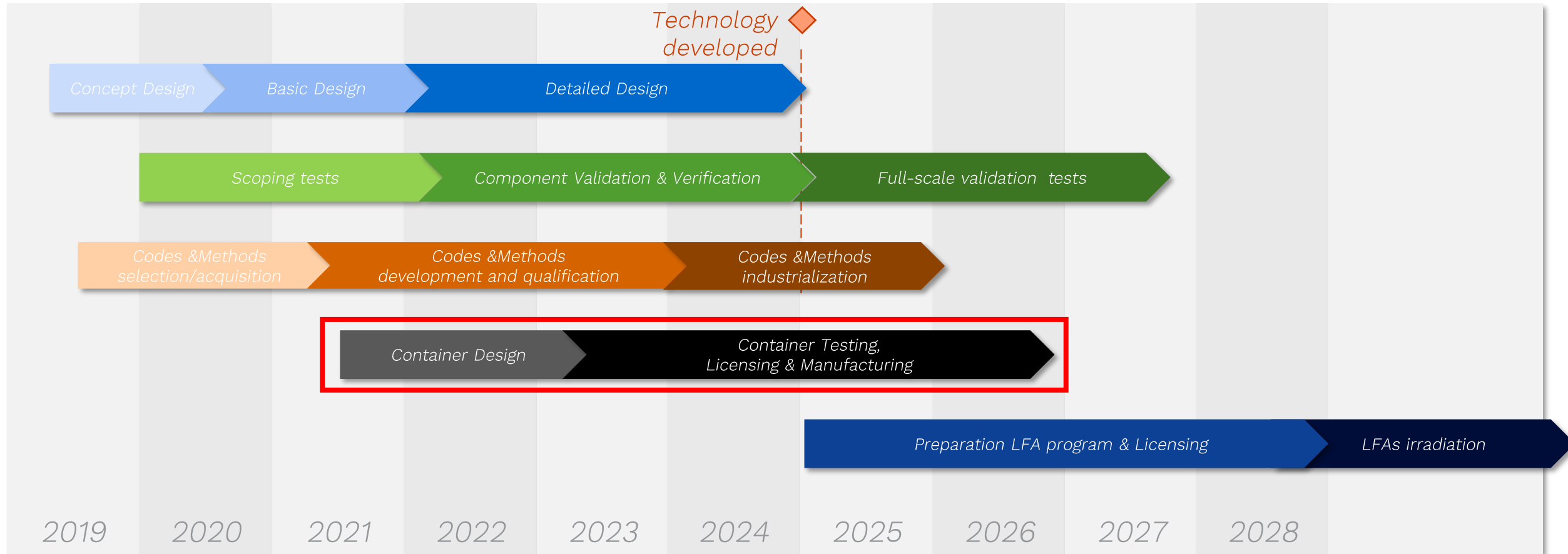
Maximilian STARK

VVER-1000 container project manager

Nessebar, September 2025

# Roadmap

## VVER-1000 Framatome own-design

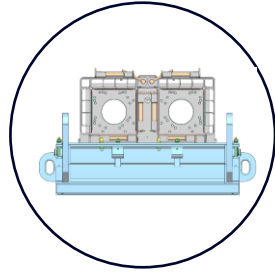


# Framatome VVER-1000 container

## Project definition

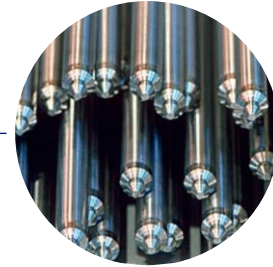
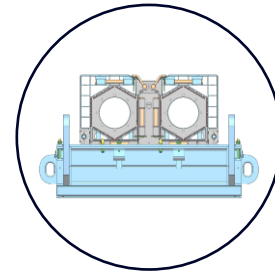
### Proven high-quality design

Modified version of the existing PWR fuel transport container ANF-18, which has demonstrated safety and reliability over the past 25 years



### IAEA Test Series for VVER

Demonstration of Robustness and Safety of the Modified Container (VVER) through FEM Calculations and IAEA Test Series with German authorities (BAM / BASE)



### IAEA licensing standard

Licensing on-going according to international standards of IAEA (SSR-6)



### European Sovereignty

Design and manufacturing supply chain fully European

# ANF-18 container

## Key numbers

2000

### Licensed for the first time

The ANF-18 container has been developed at ANF and tested (IAEA Test series) with the German authorities in 2000.

70

### Fleet of 70 ANF-18 container

Currently 58 ANF container available

- 12x new VVER container in manufacturing
- 12x VVER modification sets in manufacturing (upgrade of current ANF-18 fleet)
- 24x ANF-18 VVER container planned for VVER-1000 transports

8

### Licensed in 8 countries (IF)

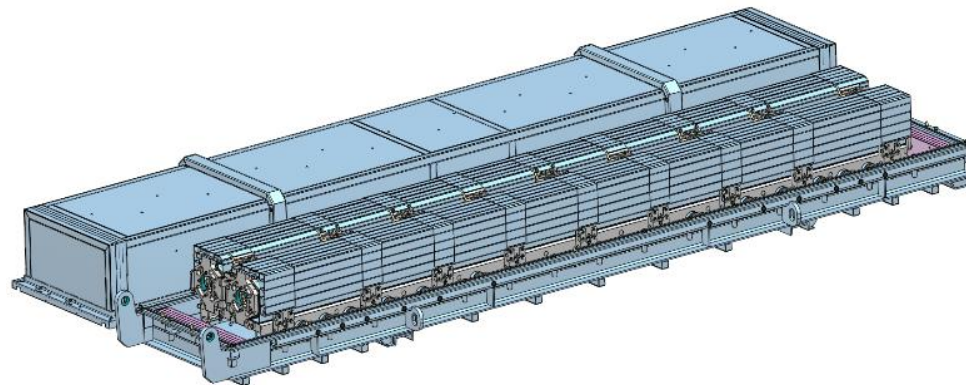
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Poland
- Spain
- France
- Netherland
- Sweden
- Finland

2

### Different type of products

Typ: 14x14; 15x15, 16x16, 17x17, 18x18 and VVER-1000

ANF-18 VVER can transport 2 VVER-1000 fuel assemblies



### Measurements:

Height: 794 mm

Width: 1.136 m

Length: 5.866 m

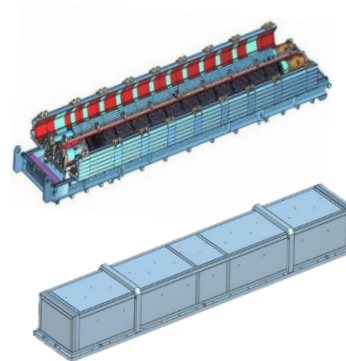
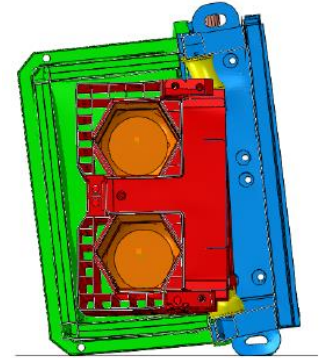
Cavity length: 4.890 m

Empty Weight: 2.860 kg

Gross Weight: 4.700 kg

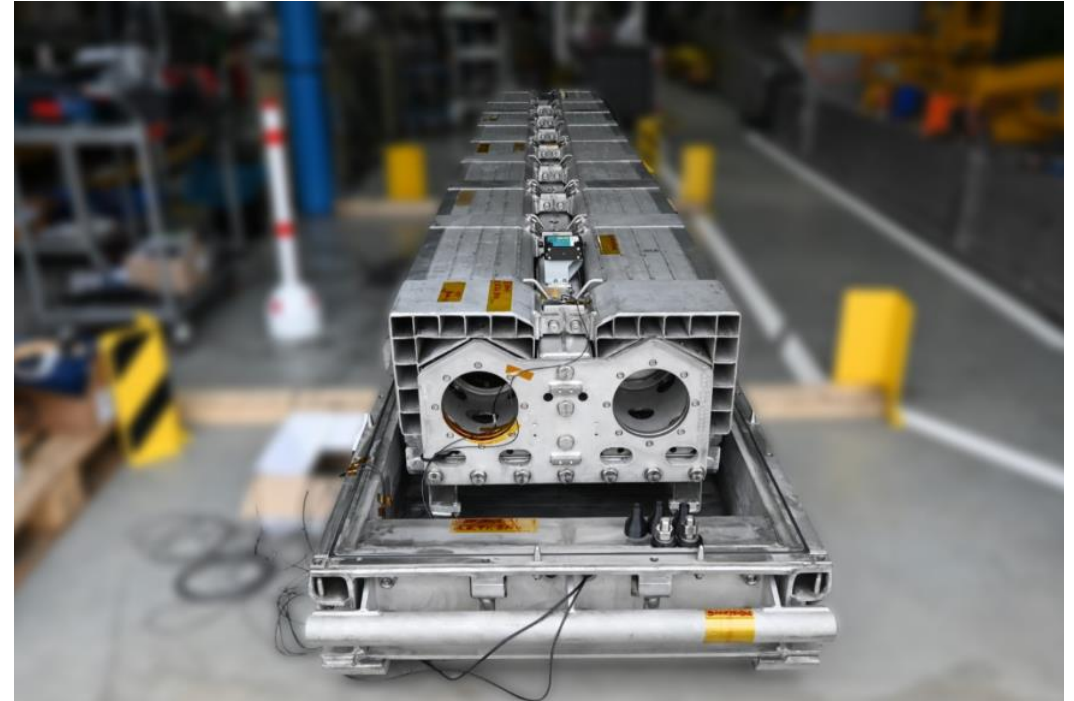
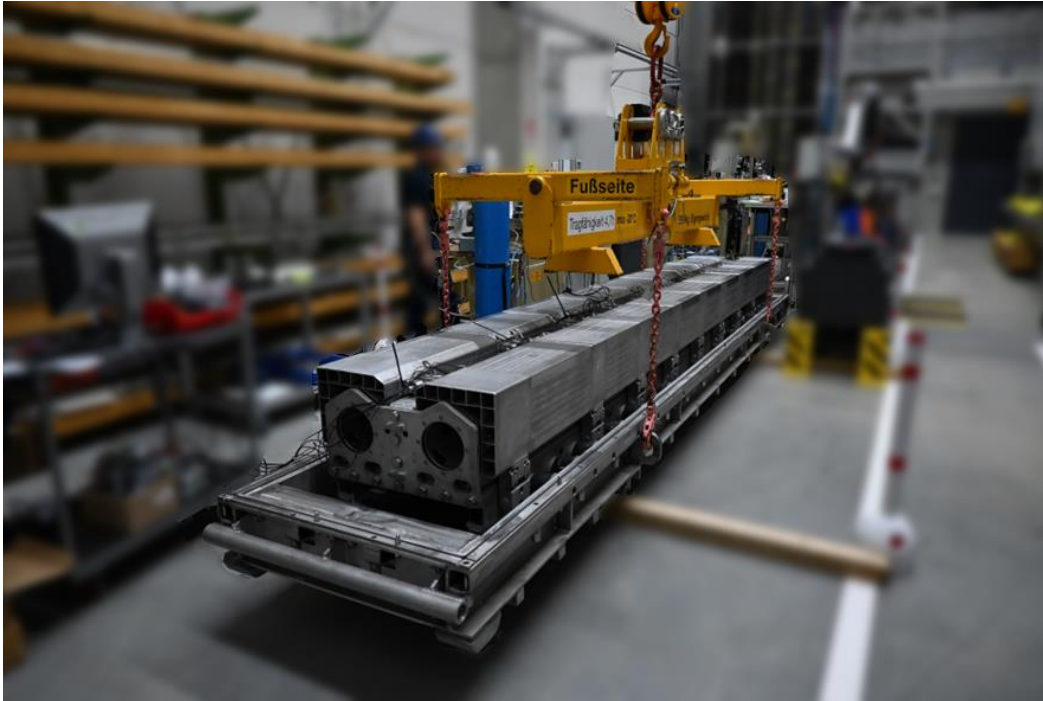
# Preparation of the IAEA test series

- Determination of the worst drop orientation
  - Set up of a complex FEM model
  - Calculation of various drop orientations
  - Evaluation of these orientations with accompanying criticality calculations
- Preparation of test series related documentation
- Manufacturing of ANF-18 VVER container
- Manufacturing of dummy FA
- Manufacturing of the counterweight
- Design and purchasing of specific handling tools & fixtures
- Design and purchasing of vacuum test chamber for helium leakage test



# Preparation of the test sample

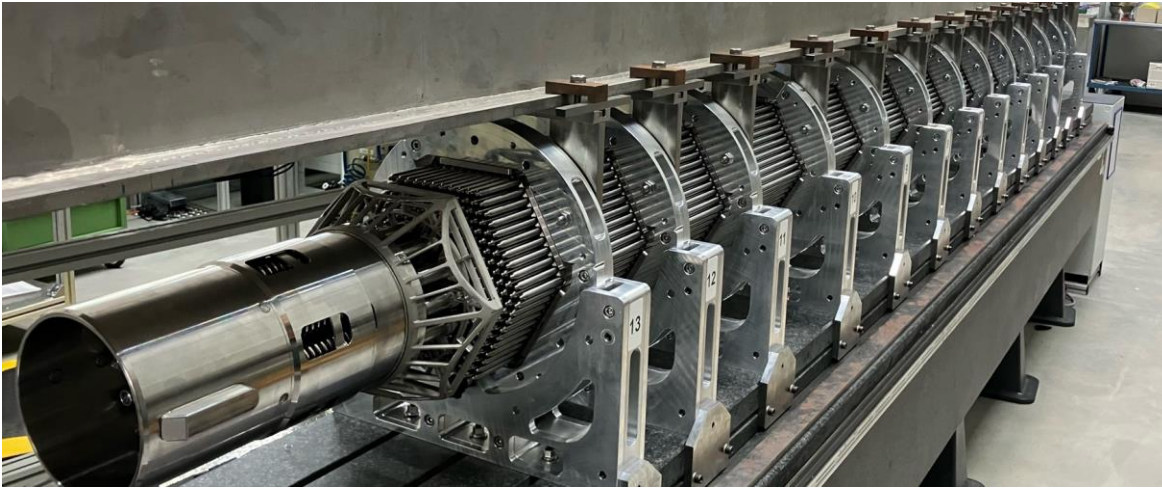
- Manufacturing of a drop test container ANF-18 VVER



- The ANF-18 VVER was manufactured based on the new design under the supervision of the German authority (BAM) and is representative of the performance of the IAEA test series.
- Together with the dummy FA and the counterweight, they form the test model, which is completely measured, inspected, and subsequently evaluated based on the criticality-relevant dimensions.

# Preparation of the test sample

- Manufacturing of a dummy fuel assembly + counterweight



- The Dummy Fuel assembly is fully representative of the VVER 1000 design and was manufactured by Framatome prototyping lab.
- The Dummy Fuel assembly was characterized to provide inputs for the counterweight manufacturing.



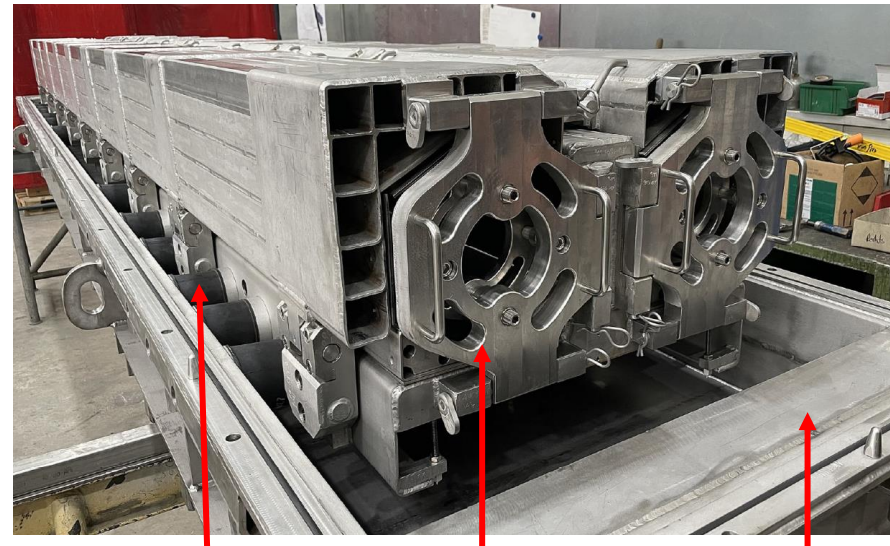
- The counterweight was calculated and designed based on the VVER-1000 design and corresponds in its essential characteristics to the design.
- Calculations regarding bending stiffness, weight, and center of gravity have been carried out.

# Transport test in real conditions

Transport testing of ANF-18 VVER for VVER 1000 own design

Before the IAEA test series, a transport load test with the ANF-18 VVER test sample was performed:

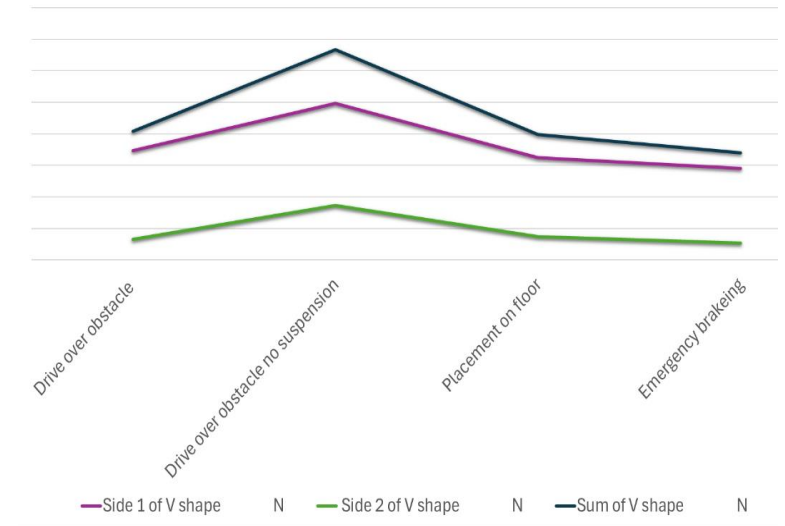
- Special load cases like speed bumpers, rolling over obstacles, suppression of truck suspension, emergency braking
- Handling load cases (crane and forklifted handling with “hard” placement on floor)



Dampers

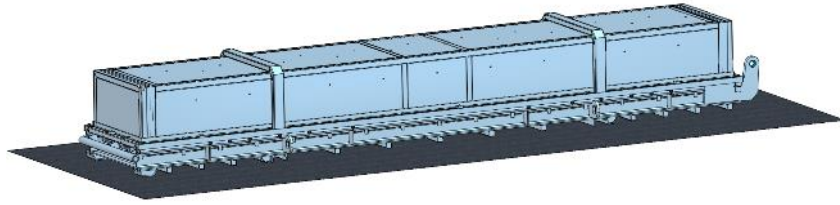
Inner structure

Outer structure

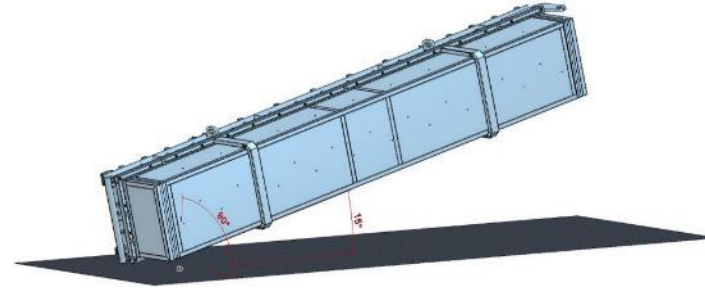


Transport load case shows excellent behavior of ANF-18 VVER for VVER 1000 own design!

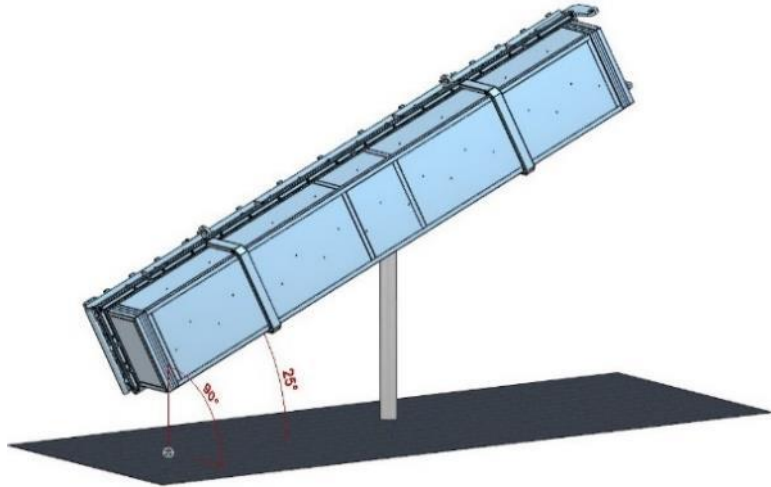
# Steps of the IAEA testing series



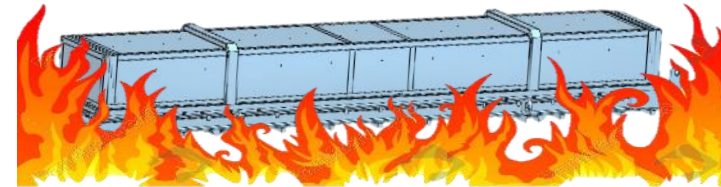
Drop of the container from 1.2 m height onto the bottom structure



Drop of the container from 9 m height onto the worst position (on the side with 15°)



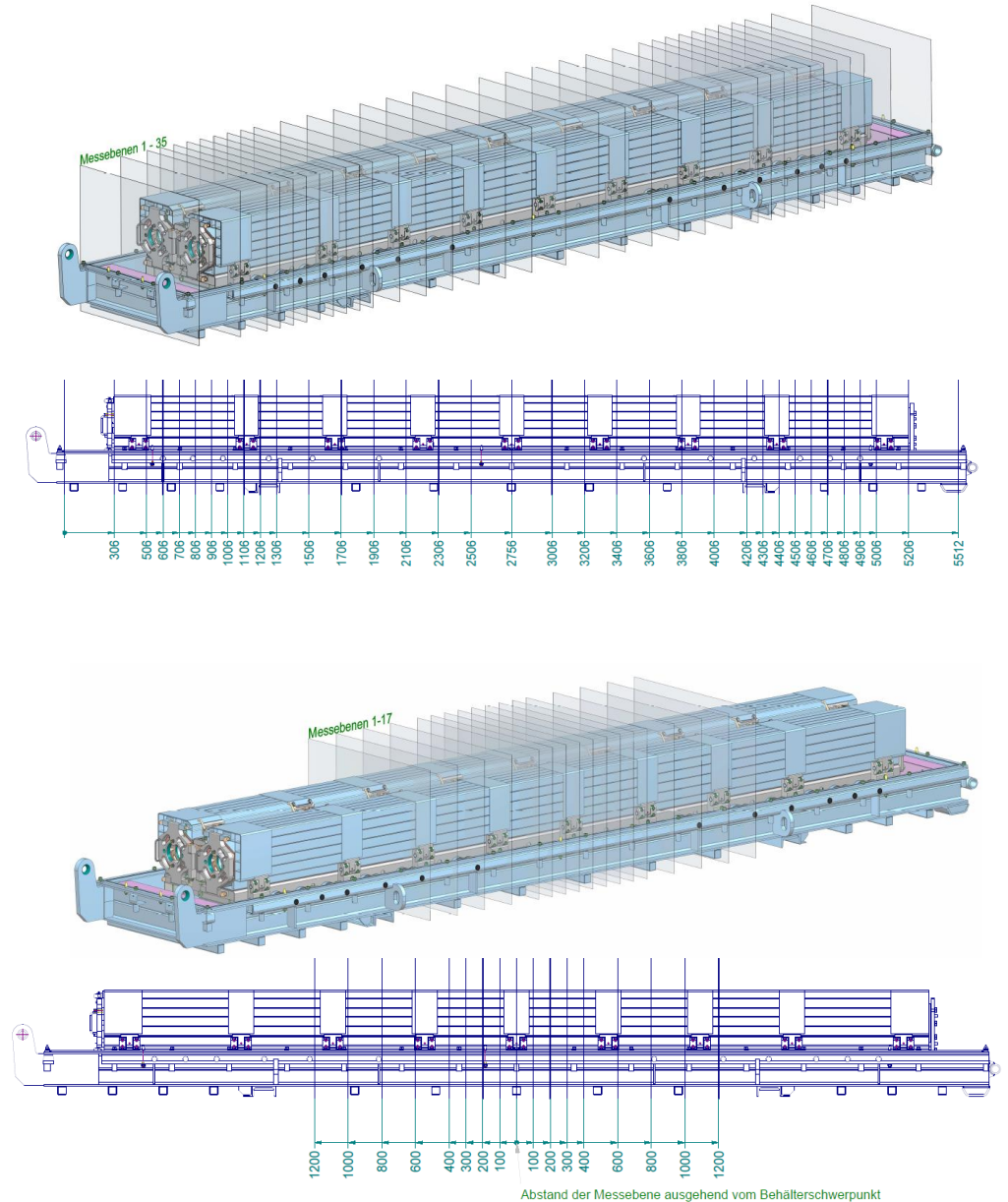
Drop of the container onto a spike on the side with 30°  $\approx$  1 m drop height



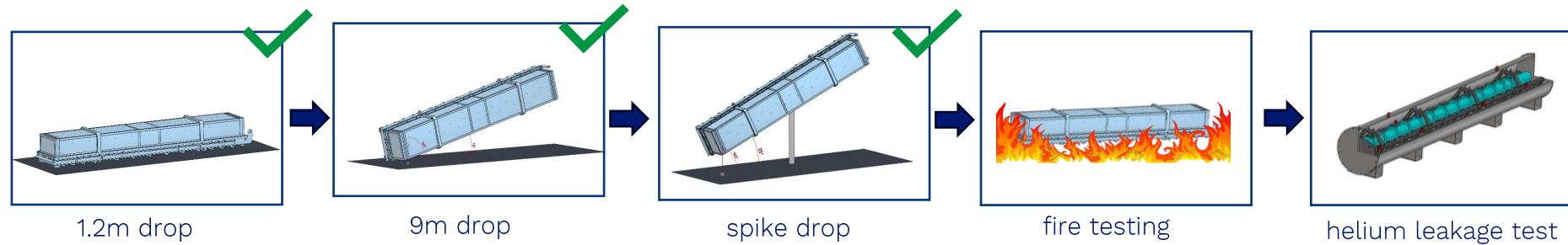
Heating test with 800 °C for 30 minutes

# IAEA test series

- Measuring of all criticality relevant dimensions before, between and after all individual tests
  - Definition of measuring concept
  - Definition of sensors, cables and planning of their instrumentation for the tests
- Definition, design and manufacturing of **handling equipment & testing equipment**
  - Set up of a handling concept
  - Design of several handling equipment to handle the container and the dummy FA during the tests
  - Test of dummy-FA regarding helium leakage
  - Puncture test of all fuel rods after the test series

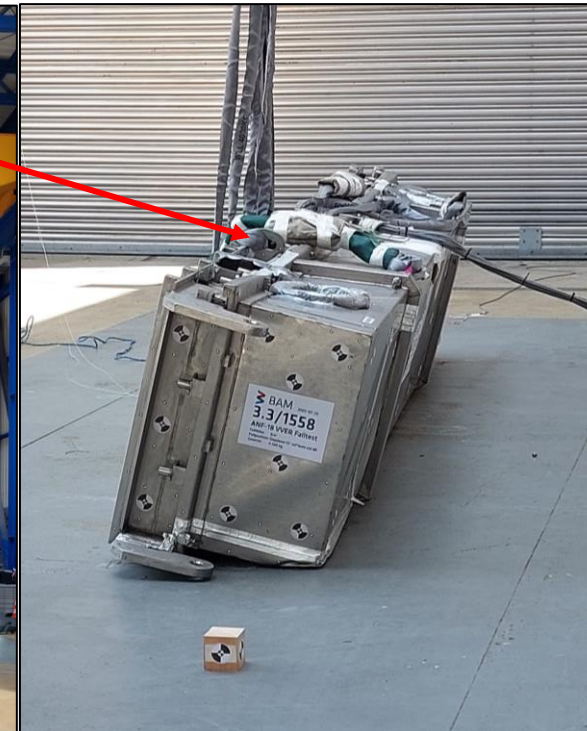
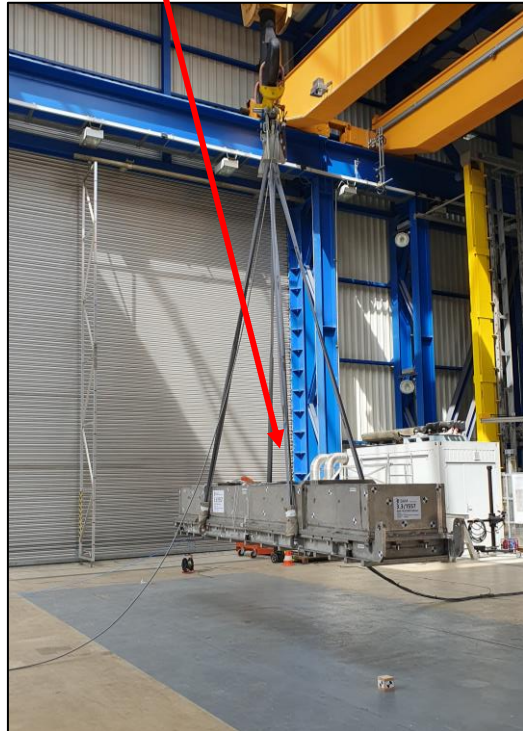
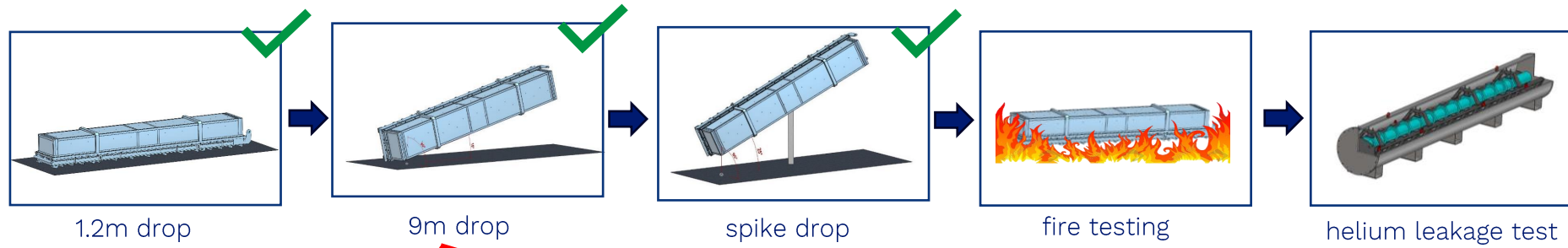


# Current Status of IAEA test series

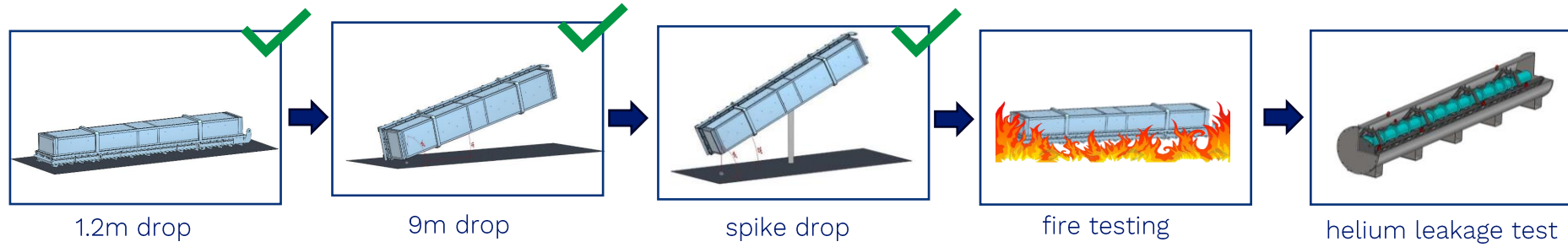


- Drop test out of **1.2-meter**, of **9-meter** and the drop on the **spike** were carried out according to plan, including the measurements and handling.
- The results are consistent with the preliminary FEM calculations, and there were no unexpected events during the drop tests.
- Next month, the heating test will be conducted on the already damaged test sample. Subsequently, the entire dummy FA will undergo a helium leak test, and for verification, all fuel rods will also be punctured and checked for helium content on supervision of German authorities.

# Current Status of IAEA test series

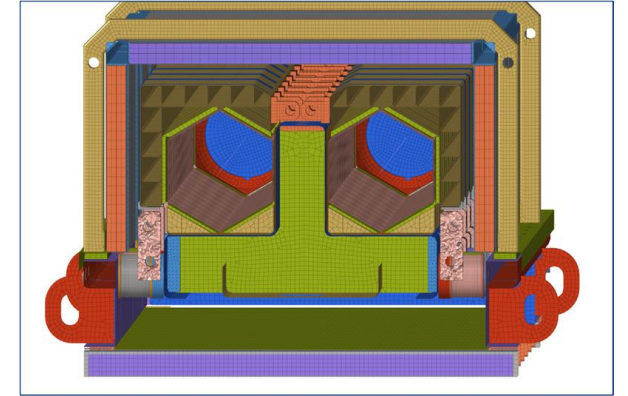


# Current Status of IAEA test series



# Next steps

- Validation of the FEM model based on the IAEA test series is necessary.
  - A detailed FE Model will be created.
  - Comparison between FE Model damage and real damage on test sample
- After the IAEA testing series, the results will be evaluated, and reports will be written:
  - Criticality analysis
  - Leak tightness analysis
  - Writing of SAR (safety analysis report)
- The SAR will be sent to the authorities to get a license, then this license must be acknowledged by transit countries.
- In parallel the upgrade of existing ANF-18 will take place & manufacturing of new ANF-18 VVER container



# Summary



Framatome 100% sovereign  
European VVER fuel

Framatome develops 100% European sovereign VVER-1000 own-design Fuel Assemblies (FA) and dedicated containers

- VVER-1000 Lead Fuel Assemblies readiness targeted for 2028
- VVER-1000 container is an upgrade of an existing PWR container
- Container IAEA tests campaign progressing well to obtain licensing.



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