# Press Release

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## AIT APPOINTED FIRST "IAEA COLLABORATING CENTER" IN CYBER SECURITY FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY

AIT and IAEA signed agreement for four-year program to build awareness and competencies around cybersecurity for nuclear safety in member states.

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have now strengthened their multi-year close cooperation in the area of developing technologies, processes and tools to protect digital systems, as well as conducting specialized training and education courses on computer security for industrial control systems, at a ceremony. On May 10, at the AIT headquarters in Vienna, Lydie Evrard, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, Managing Director AIT Anton Plimon, and Helmut Leopold, Head of Center for Digital Safety & Security signed a four-year program to build awareness and competencies around computer security for nuclear safety in IAEA Member States. Subsequently, the IAEA appointed the AIT as the world's first **IAEA COLLABORATING CENTRE** "for Information and Computer Security for Nuclear Security".

Building on the cyber security core competencies established at the AIT in the field of control systems for critical infrastructures, the AIT was thus appointed as the IAEA's official security partner. Within the framework of a specially designed program, the AIT will thus make an important contribution to increasing cyber security for critical infrastructures worldwide over the next four years. In addition to the special knowledge of the AIT Cyber Security Experts, the AIT Cyber Range, one of the most modern cyber security training environments, will be used.

"The IAEA's efforts to promote and strengthen cybersecurity in the nuclear field will be significantly supported by the agreement with AIT," said Lydie Evrard during the signing ceremony in Vienna. "AIT's expertise and state-of-the-art facilities will enable high-quality educational courses and simulation training around computer security, which can have a significant impact on capacity building and research and development activities."

**Anton Plimon**, AIT Managing Director: "We are delighted about the excellent collaboration with the IAEA and the future cooperation, which will benefit all parties involved and the site extraordinarily."

**Helmut Leopold**, Head of AIT Center for Digital Safety & Security emphasized that the appointment as IAEA Collaborating Centre is a great honor and a unique selling point for AIT: "We are thus making a concrete contribution to qualification and competence transfer in the field of cyber security." After the ceremony, Helmut Leopold led the IAEA delegation on a short tour through important future-oriented research areas of the AIT Center for Digital Safety & Security such as the Photonics & Quantum Communication Laboratory and the new AIT Cyber Range - Training Center.

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## AIT Cyber Range - Training Center opened at the AIT main site

In the course of the ceremony, the new AIT Cyber Range - Training Center was officially presented and opened. This is a flexible IT simulation environment for cyber security training. In the AIT Cyber Range, IT infrastructures and communication processes can be realistically simulated and the detection and defense of a wide range of cyber attacks can be trained. The AIT Cyber Range thus enables individually simulated extreme situations to be trained even in critical infrastructures where "real" tests in the real world are not possible for security or cost reasons. A particular feature of the AIT Cyber Range platform is that it can be flexibly and easily tailored to the individual requirements of training partners worldwide via secure cloud services.

The week before the ceremony, the new AIT Cyber Range Training Center successfully hosted a multi-day training session for IAEA members from South America, some of whom were present on site and others remotely connected.

**Paul Smith**, head of the AIT Cyber Range, introduced the new training center to the visitors:
"With the "Cyber Range - Training Center" now newly established at our headquarters location, we will have even more possibilities in the future to design and offer training courses in a short way and with quick involvement of our cyber security experts."

The news report on the ceremony can be found on the IAEA website here.

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