

Dounreay Materials Test Reactor



Dounreay Materials Test Reactor (DMTR)

Manager:	Charlie Fowler
Completion date:	2015
Cost:	£15M
Supported by:	Doosan Babcock Energy Ltd, NDSL Ltd

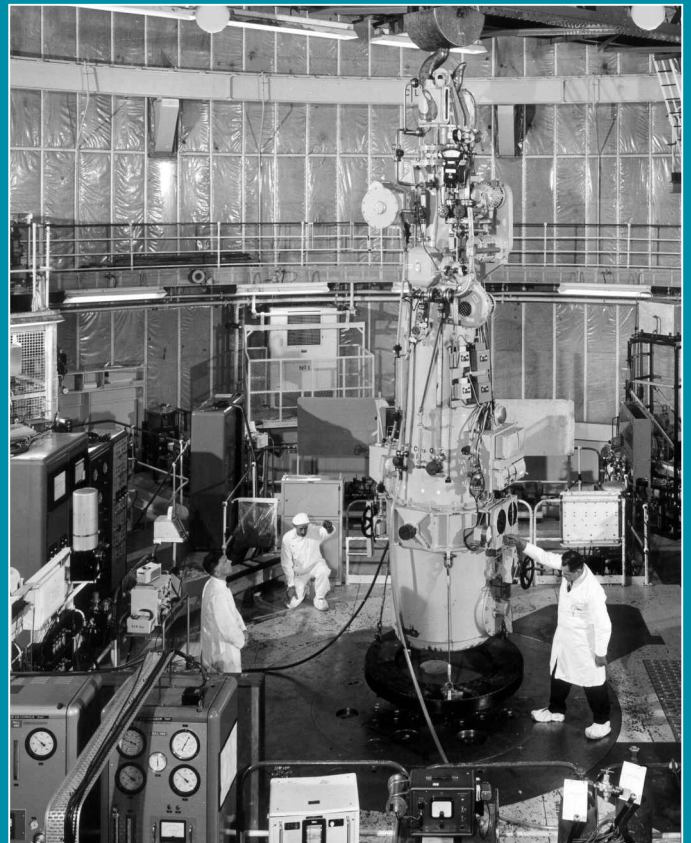
Completion date and cost are current estimates, subject to NDA approval

Dounreay's Materials Test Reactor was the first operational reactor in Scotland. It was constructed to test the effect of nuclear irradiation on different materials. It was built between 1955 and 1958, and commenced operations in 1958.

The reactor was contained in a steel pressure vessel, 21.2m in diameter and 22.7m in height. It used enriched uranium fuel clad in aluminium, and the coolant was heavy water.

The reactor was served by a number of ancillary buildings, including a seawater pump house, a fuel pond, an active handling bay and administrative offices.

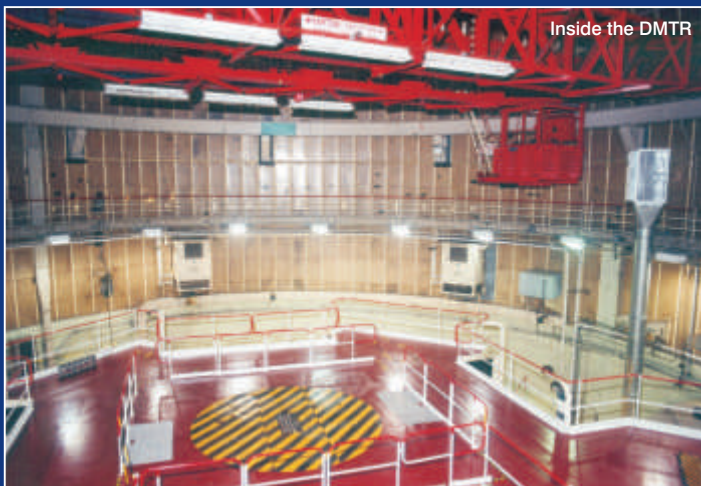
DMTR was shut down in 1969. The fuel pond continued to be used to store irradiated fuel elements, and in the 1980s and 1990s was used in support of the reprocessing of research reactor fuel elements.



Decommissioning milestones:

- **1969** – stage 1 decommissioning began.
- **1971** – stage 1 decommissioning completed.
- **1971** – DMTR put into passive care and maintenance programme.
- **1996** – part final stage decommissioning began.
- **2003** – part final stage decommissioning completed.
- **2005** – adjacent administration building demolished.
- **2007** – fuel pond cleaned up and emptied.

The reactor is now in a care and maintenance programme pending final decommissioning. It is scheduled for demolition in 2015.



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