FOREWORD

This annual report summarises the research activities of ITN during 2000 and includes also details of management resources. The evolution of human resources, publications and budget during the last five years is given.

The research activity is presented for each sector (Reactor, Department of Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, Chemistry, and Physics) and the scientific output (publications and communications to Conferences) is grouped under the following areas:

- Nuclear Engineering (2 groups)
- Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (DPRSN)
- Environmental Sciences (3 groups)
- Inorganic Chemistry, Radiochemistry and Radiopharmacy (3 groups)
- Cultural Heritage and Sciences (1 group)
- New Materials and Compounds (3 groups)
- Industrial Technologies (2 groups)

A few words are due to understand the actual situation of ITN by comparing ITN in 1995 with ITN in 2000. In fact, many changes have occurred in the last five years. The **Department of Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety** is in ITN since October 1998, the **Radiosterilization Unit** has been put operational under the ITN authority, the uranium stored in ITN is under ITN administration, **the reactor spent fuel** has been sent to USA, the **reactor team** has been reinforced.
A reorganisation was carried out in the administrative services (personnel and account services) with the introduction of **new technologies**, leading to an increase of the quality and efficiency of the services with a significant reduction of costs.

The budget of ITN in 1995 was PTE 800×10^6 and in 2000 PTE $1{,}852\times10^6$. Taking into account the inflation rate, there was a substantial increase of the budget, about 100% in real terms. However, the percentage of **the budget spent in personnel in 2000** (excluding the research projects income of PTE 385×10^6) **is high**, 75%. The budget has been essentially for personnel, running costs and maintenance and infrastructures modernisation. The research projects are mainly funded, through open competition, by the National Science Foundation.

In 2001 the modernisation of infrastructures will continue with the construction of the **Library**, **Auditorium** and the **Laboratory for low background measurements** in the DPRSN, the completion of **the renewal of the communications network** and the introduction, in the administration services, of the **new rules** of the Contabilistic System.

The statute of ITN is not yet established. The new laws that regulate the State Laboratories were only partially implemented. However, ITN was pioneer in the creation of the Scientific Council, of the International Advisory Board and in the organisation of the scientific annual reports.

ITN is, in the Ministry of Science and Technology, a **Centre of Excellence** equipped **with National infrastructures** oriented to deliver **specialised services** and **Education and Training** in the fields where its expertise is unique in Portugal.

ITN should also be an active centre to **train scientists** to represent the interests of Portugal in specialised agencies like IAEA, OECD/NEA, IEA, Euratom/ European Commission.

The recent role of ITN in the **depleted uranium matter** is already known. In this case ITN has shown its competence to give answers in a timely fashion, as it had done previously in other cases. ITN can then justify the claim for increases in budget and personnel that it needs to boost some of its activities, and fulfill its mission.

Finally, regarding the **research career**, the procedures for **the opening** of ten positions of Principal Researcher, one of Auxiliary Researcher and two of Coordinator Researchers are underway. **Two areas** were considered **prioritary** by the Directive Board: Nuclear Physics and Engineering, and Radiological Protection, Environment Radioactivity and Nuclear Safety.

The Directive Board