



ALES

Actinide- lanthanide separation

Otto-Matti Hiltunen & Risto Koivula
Ion Exchange for Nuclear Waste Treatment and Recycling
University of Helsinki, Department of chemistry

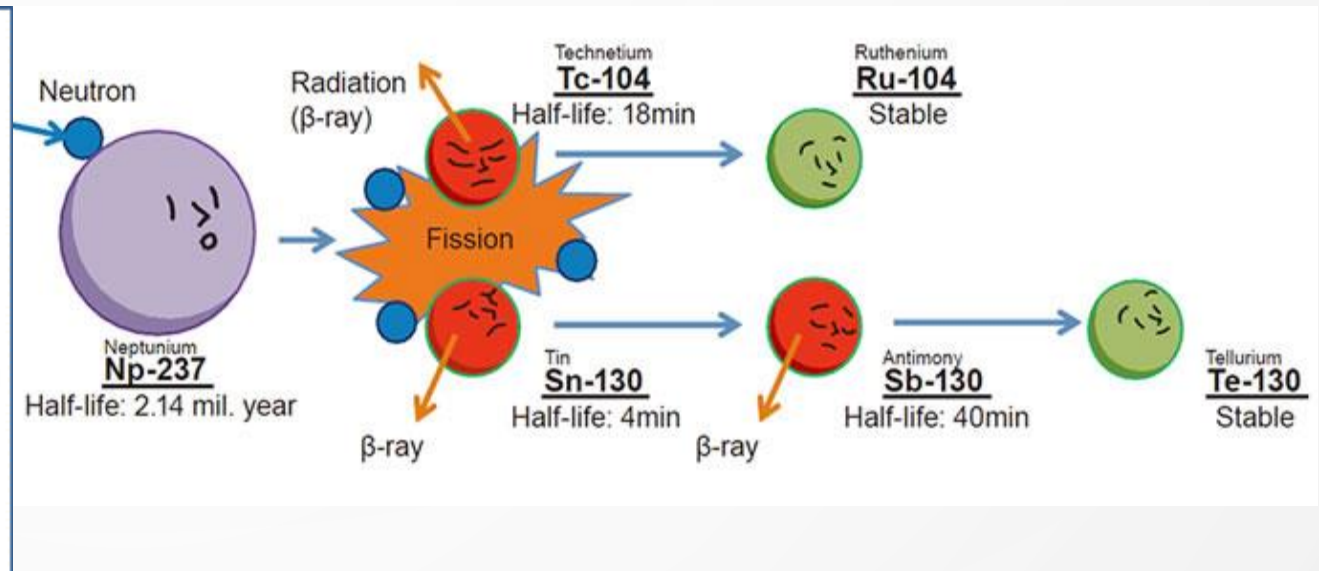
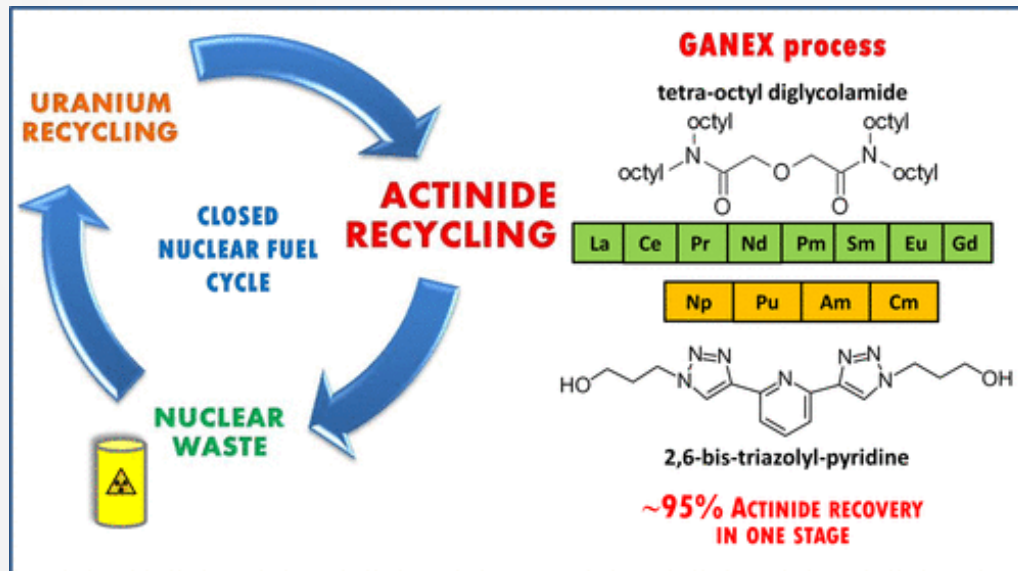


Ales

Actinide lanthanide separation

Nuclear Waste Management Technologies (3.2.1 Framework Programme)

- How the world is developing with alternative nuclear waste management technologies
- Train experts available for authorities for rational decision making
 - Ph.D. for Advanced Fuel Cycle / Partitioning and Transmutation (P&T) area





SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION (SPE) MATERIALS FOR PARTITIONING PROCESS

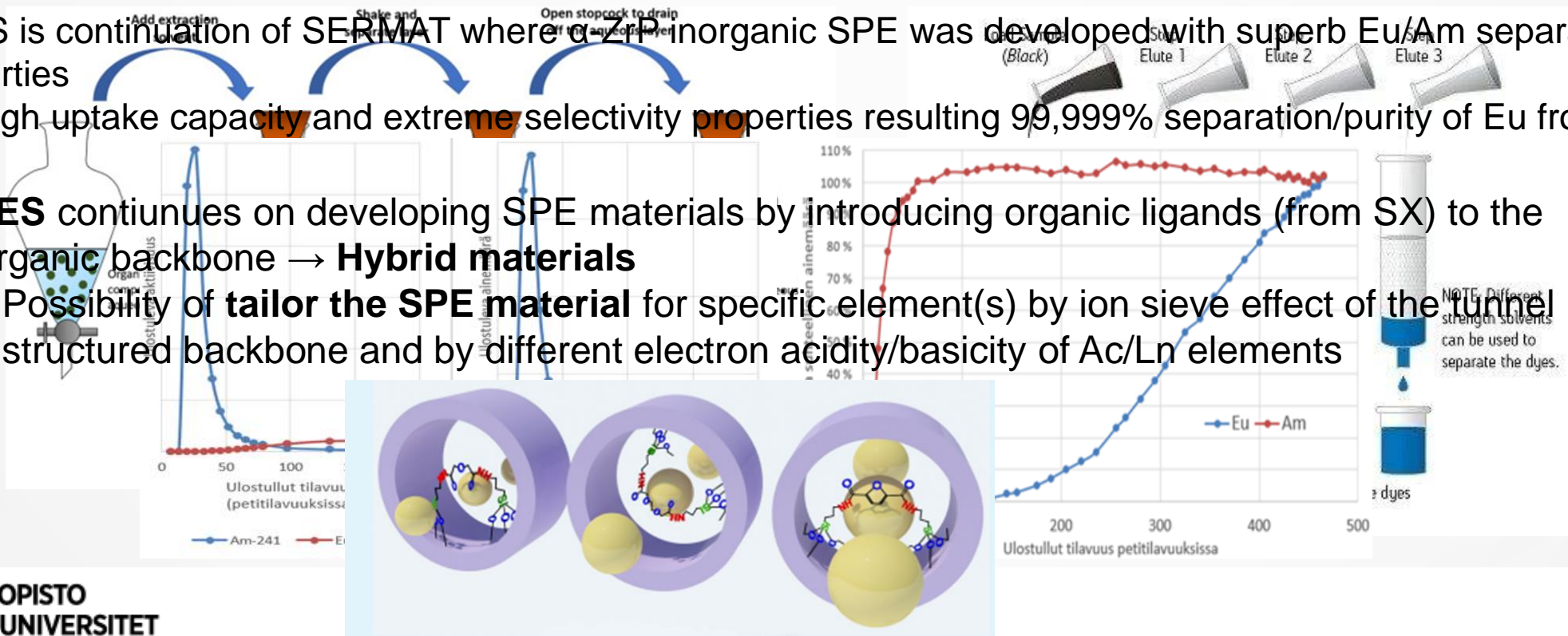
- Solid phase extraction materials have potential to outperform existing technology (SX)
 - Robust, simple, cost efficient, less hazardous

ALES is continuation of SERMAT where a ZrP inorganic SPE was developed with superb Eu/Am separation properties

- High uptake capacity and extreme selectivity properties resulting 99,999% separation/purity of Eu from Am

ALES continues on developing SPE materials by introducing organic ligands (from SX) to the inorganic backbone → **Hybrid materials**

- Possibility of **tailor the SPE material** for specific element(s) by ion sieve effect of the tunnel structured backbone and by different electron acidity/basicity of Ac/Ln elements





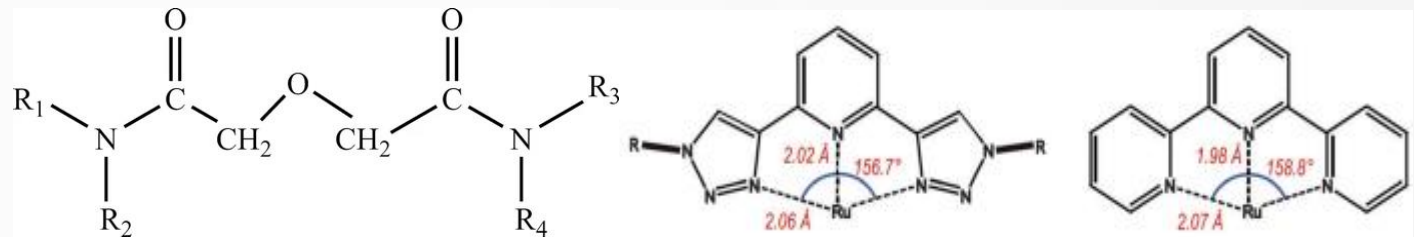
TAILORED HYBRIDS

Metal oxides as backbone

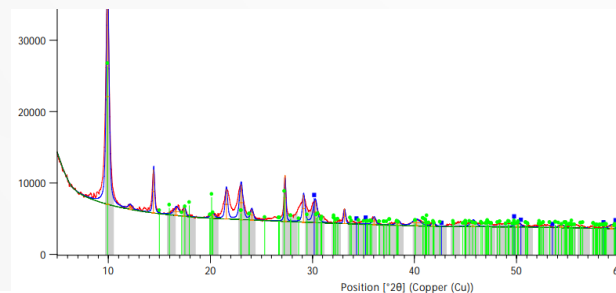
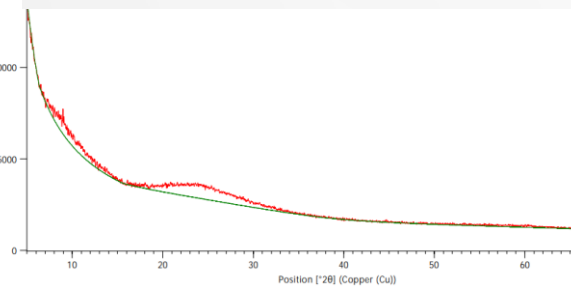
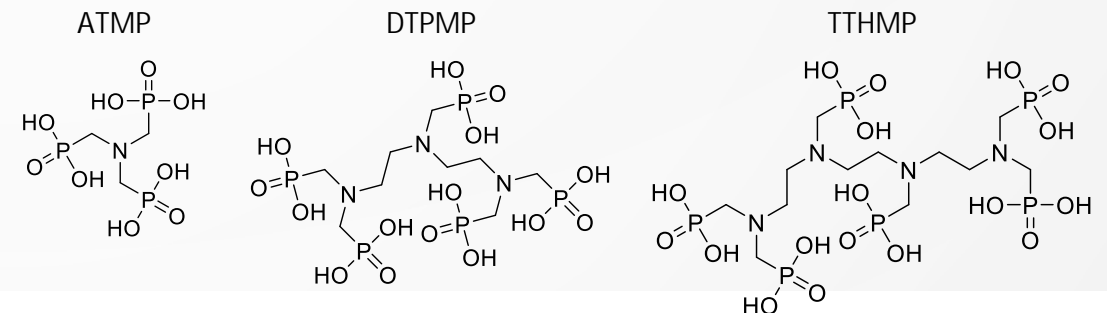
- High chemical, mechanical, thermal and radiolytic tolerance
 - TiO₂, SnO₂, ZrO₂
 - Variation of tunnel size
 - 5 to 20 nm → sieve effect
 - Crystallinity
 - Via chemical and physical means
 - Intensifies sieve effect

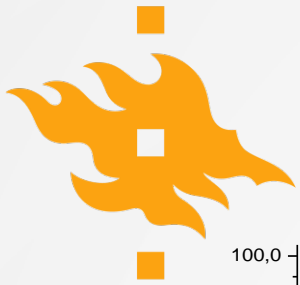
Organic ligands similar to SX method

- Variation on electron acidity/basicity
 - Oxygen (Ln) or nitrogen (Ac) rich ligands

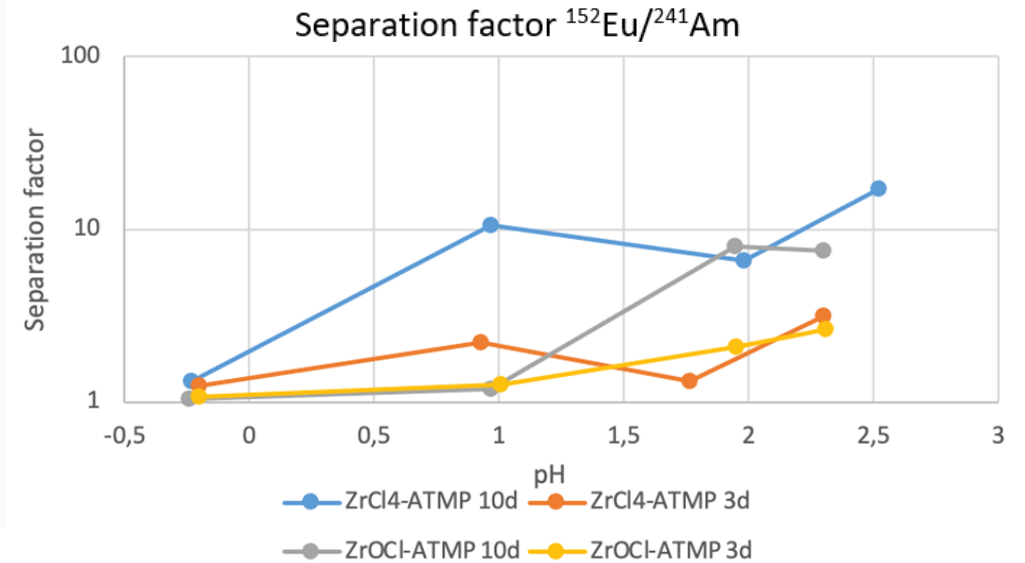
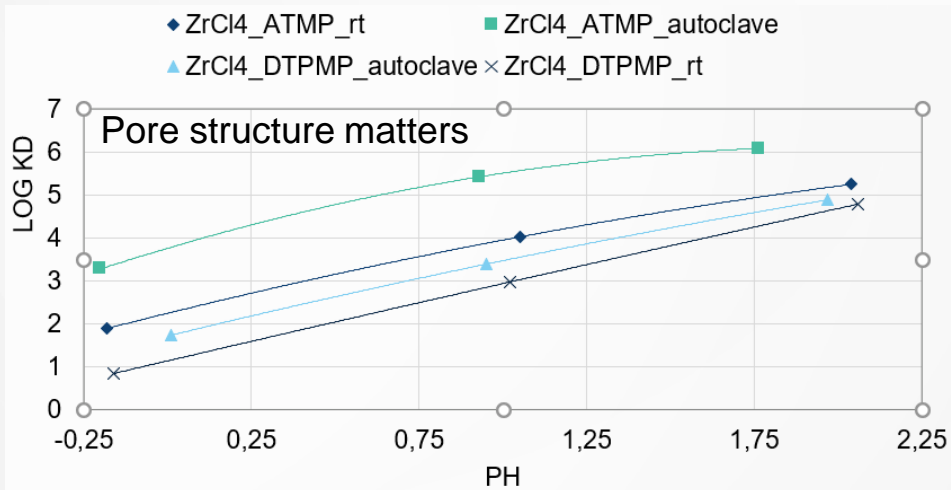
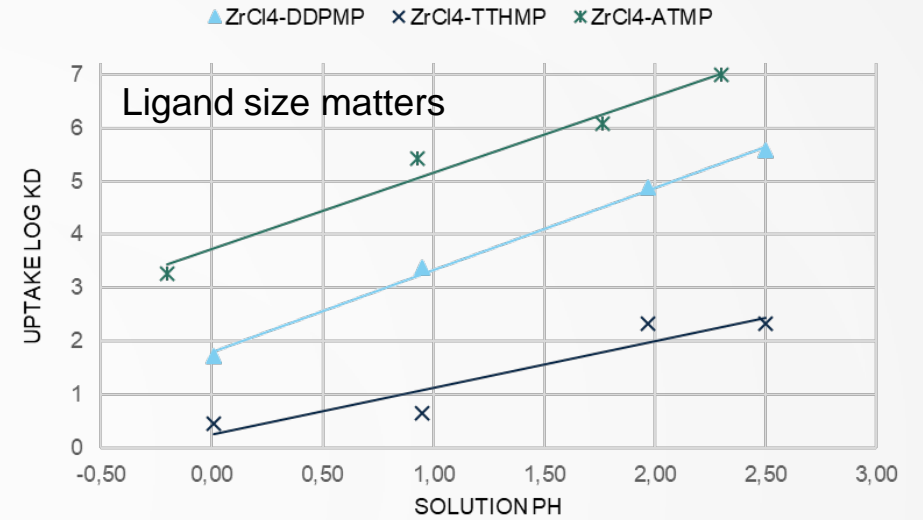
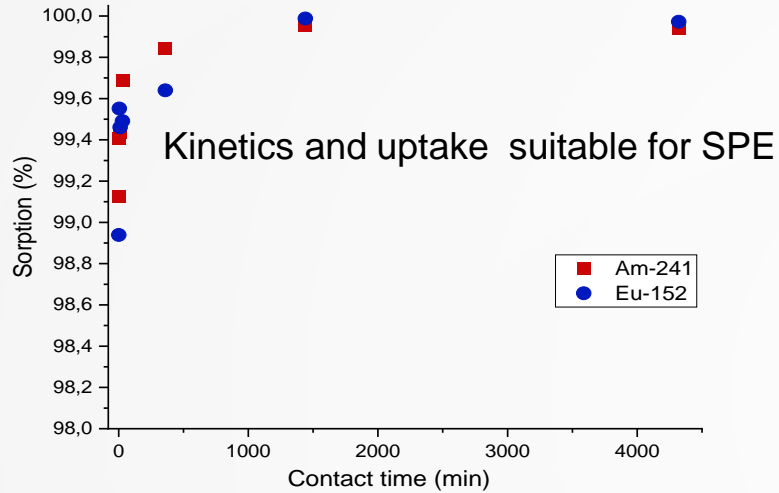


- Variation on ligand length/conformation





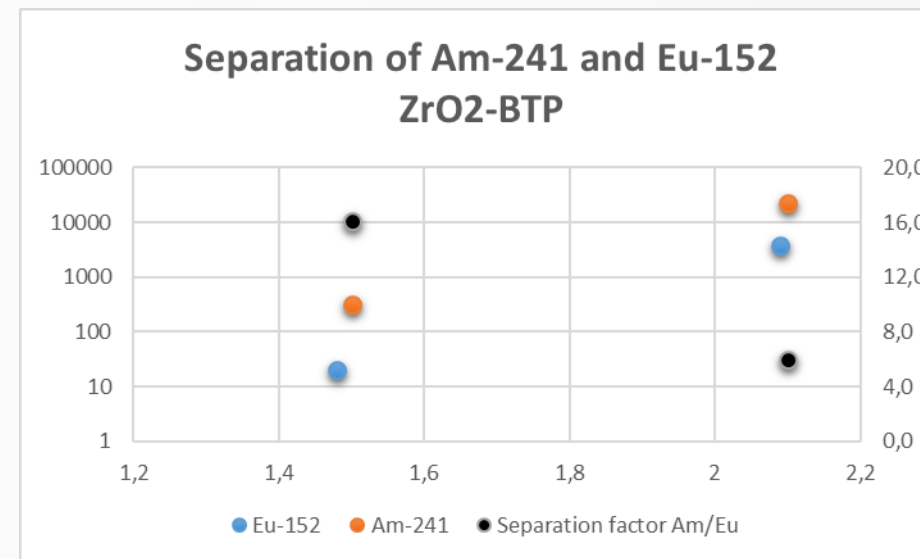
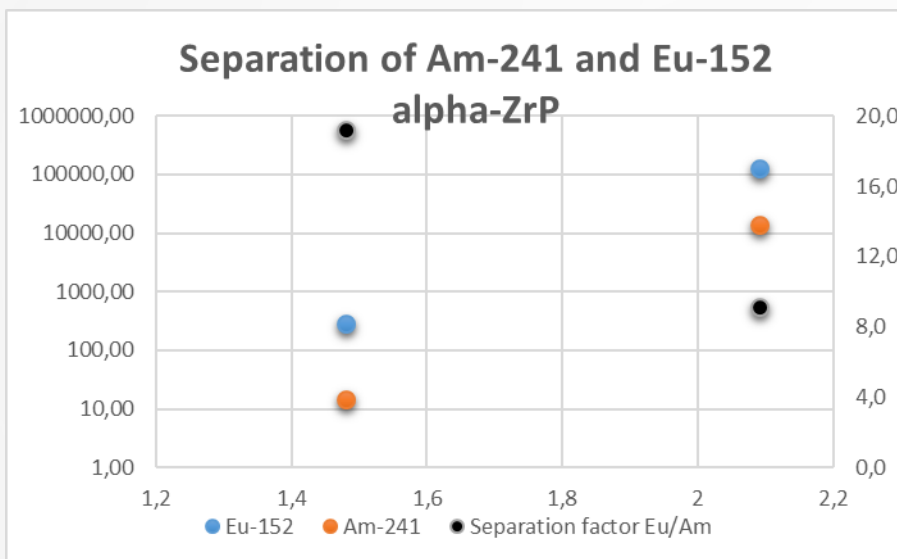
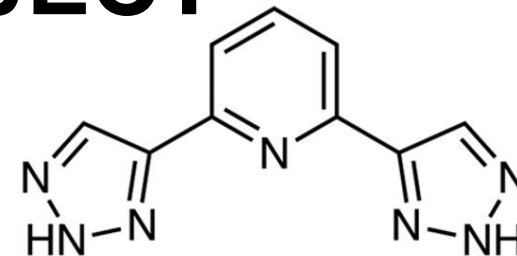
TAILORED HYBRIDS





MAIN RESULTS OF ALES PROJECT

- The hypothesis of the project application were proved to be right
Tailoring was successful and hybrid favoring Am was synthesized
– first time reported for SPE-material



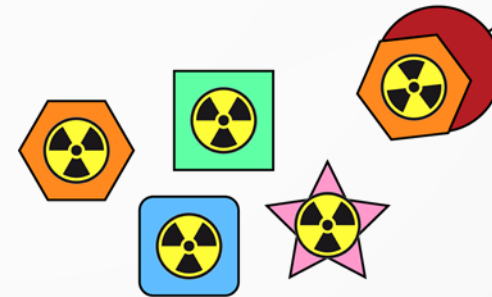
- Doctoral education (PhD) in the field of P&T (partitioning and transmutation) - separation techniques → **Expert** in the field of Advanced nuclear fuel cycle



THANK YOU!



Selective sorbents



RESEARCH GROUP

ION EXCHANGE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE
TREATMENT AND RECYCLING

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/researchgroups/ion-exchange-for-nuclear-waste-treatment-and-recycling>