

## **ESA - Agenda item 15: Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

At the occasion of the ESA Ministerial Council in November last year, participating States decided to add a new component, ENDURE, to ESA's main technology programme, the General Support Technology Programme (GSTP).

ENDURE stands for "European Devices Using Radioisotope Energy" and it aims at implementing activities to fulfil the overall objective of delivering an end-to-end European operational capability for Radioisotope Power Systems for space applications by the end of this decade.

Building on preparatory activities specifically for processing Am-241 from nuclear waste, activities which have already been presented to this committee on several occasions, the new component focuses initially on two key technology aspects, which are the fuel production and encapsulation, and the radioisotope power system development.

The ESA safety policy on the use of nuclear power sources, which implements the guidance provided in the 2009 Safety Framework, and which was presented and discussed in 2019 in the frame of the Working Group on the use of Nuclear Power Sources, applies to these activities.

We are looking forward to the occasions provided by the Working Group to share relevant information in accordance with its work plan, including information to the implementation of the guidance provided in Safety Framework for these activities.