Laurent Cortella

Biography

After his master's degree in nuclear physics and engineering, Laurent Cortella had an initial 5 years' experience in material sciences research, obtaining a PhD in this speciality, and another 5 years in radiological protection at French Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA). In 2002, the CEA gave him the opportunity to be available as head of facilities management and research engineer at ARC-Nucléart, Grenoble, France, were he operates since that time.*

He is in charge of research and services of irradiation for remedial conservation of cultural heritage (biocidal treatments against pest and consolidation with radio-curable resin of the most weakened objects made of porous material). Thanks to those techniques, he worked on the conservation of many thousands of artefacts.

Beside nuclear techniques for heritage, he has been involved in many problematics of organic materials preservation, from museums or churches historic collections to archaeological waterlogged wooden artefacts, which gave him the opportunity to develop a cross disciplinary expertise. He also intervenes in advising as well as carrying out cultural heritage treatments in France and abroad, "from excavation to the museum", always trying to make the link in a pragmatic way between the research and the implementation of the available techniques.

As responsible of an intermediate scale irradiation facility, he also provides custom irradiation service for research and industry in link with R&D programs or for radiation resistance qualification tests for instance.

** ARC-Nucléart is both a laboratory and a workshop for cultural heritage preservation, dependent of the CEA, the French Ministry of Culture, and the Grenoble City. It operates many technical facilities, the main one being a ^{60}Co pool irradiator.*