



Inaugural JRC Annual Lecture Brussels, 28 October 2009

The Joint Research Centre: 50 years in the making
Dr Roland Schenkel, Director-General, JRC



Supporting legislation, serving society

50 years of the JRC

Treaties of Rome – 25 March 1957

1959: Ispra site (Italy)



1960: Geel (Belgium)



1961: Petten (Netherlands)



1964: Karlsruhe (Germany)



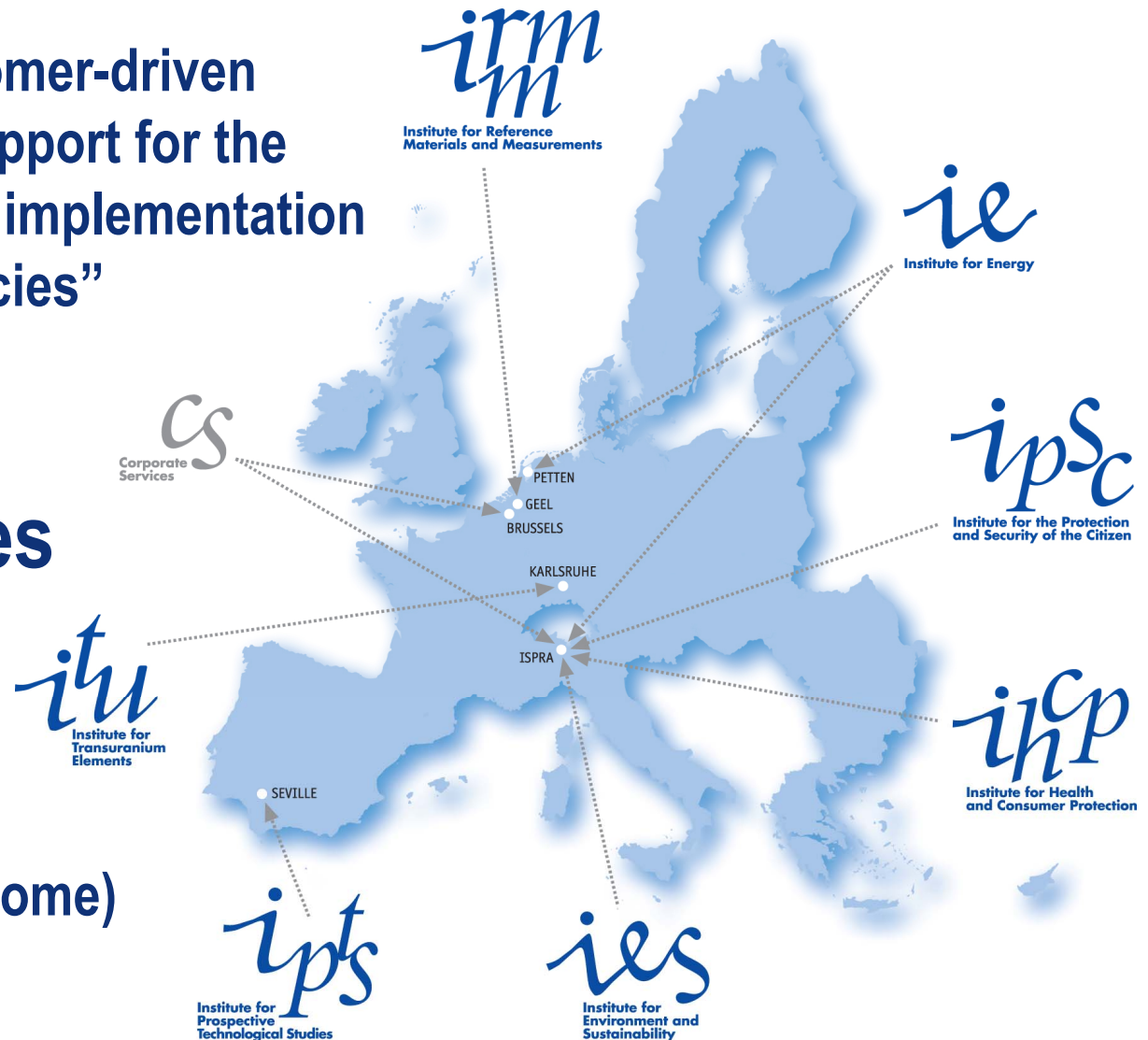
1994: Seville (Spain)



Mission: “to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies”

7 Institutes in 5 Member States

~ 2 750 staff
~ €330 M/y budget
(+ €40 M/y competitive income)



Providing tangible results



- Enhancing reactor safety
- Fighting pollution
- Effective controls via remote sensing
- Building early warning systems
- Sound advice on chemical risks
- Preventing nuclear trafficking
- Safe and secure structures
- Better testing for safer food
- Fuelling the hydrogen economy
- Responding to natural disasters
- Providing quality assurance tools to EU-27 laboratories
- Monitoring companies' R&D spending



Key challenges ahead

- **Climate change: mitigation and adaptation**
- **Competitiveness and sustainable growth**
- **A low greenhouse gas emission economy**
- **Sustainable management of natural resources**
- **Food safety and consumer protection**
- **Security, both internal and global**
- **Scientific reference function and standardisation across core areas**



Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Robust Science for Policy Making

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