



**Media release**

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## **ANSTO clinches top award for project management**

Staff from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), have been honoured with a prestigious award for project managing the decommissioning of the Moata research reactor. It was the first ever project of its type on a nuclear reactor in Australia.

ANSTO CEO Dr Adi Paterson paid tribute to the staff involved in the project, including General Manager of Engineering and Technical Services, Con Lyras, Senior Project Manager, Alec Kimber and Technical Adviser, Geoff Malone.

“The key to the success of the project was the planning,” Dr Paterson said. “All potential impacts were identified, and the work was carried out safely. I was very excited that this work was recognised for its sound project values and proud of everyone in the team.”

The Project Management Achievement Award, from the NSW division of the Australian Institute of Project Management, recognised the complexities of the project that had to be delivered safely while complying with a complex range of state, national and international requirements. It was also delivered on time and within the budget.

Moata was ANSTO’s lesser known small research and training reactor which operated for 34 years until 1995. Moata played an important role in aircraft safety. At one time it was used for around 15 per cent of all procedures involving radiography to check the structural soundness of jet engine turbine blades. The reactor was also an important tool for Australia’s uranium mining industry, providing rapid and accurate measurements of ore.

The better known HIFAR reactor, that was responsible for radiopharmaceutical production and operated safely for nearly 50 years, is under a care and maintenance regime for an extended period until it is also dismantled.

ANSTO’s award winning project pipped some other high profile finalists for the award, including projects on mines, dams and Sydney’s desalination plant. ANSTO will fly the flag for NSW at the national Project Management Achievement Awards to be announced in October.

**For ANSTO information please visit [www.ansto.gov.au](http://www.ansto.gov.au) or call (02) 9717 9208 or 0457 505 438.**