

New research centre to help prevent nuclear accidents

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The new Centre for Environmental Radioactivity (CERAD) was officially opened this month, in a ceremony at Oscarsborg fortress near Oslo, the Norwegian capital.

CERAD will among other things look at the effects of radioactive radiation in combination with other pollutants. The centre's goal is to produce new knowledge and scientific methods which will contribute to protecting the environment and general health better against radiation. It also seeks to reduce uncertainty in radiation risk assessments.

"The nuclear threat scenario is a lot more challenging and complex today than at the time of the Cold War," says Per Strand, deputy head of CERAD and director of a section of The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA), at the opening seminar for CERAD.

Among the main potential threats of radioactive contamination he mentioned terror, "dirty bombs", nuclear accidents and natural radioactivity.

But despite the increased threat level, research funding and focus has oscillated.

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 [Head of CERAD, Professor Brit Salbu, and Deputy head Per Strand at Oscarsborg where the new research centre was officially opened. \(Photo: Gisle Bjørneby\)](#) [2]

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