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Brazil and Argentina launch joint nanotech centre



Nanotechnology could help make cheaper water filtration systems

Carla Almeida
12 December 2005
Source: SciDev.Net

[RIO DE JANEIRO] Argentina and Brazil have launched a new, virtual nanotechnology centre that will coordinate research done in both countries.

Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Néstor Kirchner, president of Argentina, signed the document to establish the Argentinean-Brazilian Nanotechnology Centre in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, on 30 November.

The new centre will follow the example of the Argentinean-Brazilian Biotechnology Centre, a success for the last two decades. It will operate virtually, bringing together nanotechnology research from groups working in Brazil and Argentina.

Using the science infrastructure of each country, the researchers intend to develop joint projects, raise human resources capacity, create interchange grants for researchers and organise activities.

The centre's overall aim is to help the two countries become more competitive internationally.

"The scientific exchange between Brazil and Argentina already exists in nanoscience," says José Albuquerque

de Castro, a researcher at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and a scientific consultant at the new centre.

"What we expect now is effective interaction with the industry. The entrepreneurs have to be informed of what we are producing in order to invest more in research and development," he adds.

The centre's first activity was a seminar held in Buenos Aires on 28-29 November, before its official opening. The next meeting will take place in Brazil in March 2006.

Nanotechnology is a field of research that concerns itself with creating tiny technologies, invisible to the human eye.

Many believe it promises to offer cheaper, more reliable solutions to problems faced in developing countries. Examples include cheaper, more efficient water filtration systems and improved systems from drug-delivery (see SciDev.Net's [Quick Guide to Nanotechnology](#)).

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China and Brazil have launched three jointly developed satellites and two more are under development, with the PRC funding 70 per cent of the costs while Brazil is expected to cover the remainder 30 per cent.⁵³ Brazil's major aviation and arms manufacturing company ENBRAER and China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II) have jointly developed a medium transport turbojet aircraft.⁵⁴ If Brazil was to go nuclear, it is quite unlikely that Argentina, a country that possesses nuclear reactors for civilian use, will not follow suit and acquire its own devices. Other countries such as Chile and Venezuela could easily start their own nuclear weapons programme. This would be a nightmare scenario for Brazil and one that it would want to avoid. Launch of feasibility studies for the construction of a fourth NPP, under the responsibility of NA-SA; Design, execution and commissioning of a CAREM-25 SMR under the responsibility of CNEA (currently under construction). Sources: In total, Argentina operates five research reactors, one in each nuclear research centre and two at public national universities. Sources: National Atomic Energy Commission, Bariloche Atomic Centre, <https://www.cab.cnea.gov.ar/>. Constituyentes Atomic Centre, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/cnea/cac>. Ezeiza Atomic Centre, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/cnea/cab>. Joint Declaration Concerning the Creation of the Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Energy Application Agency (ABAEN). Brazil. 2001. On December 1, 2020, the RDIF, the Gamaleya Center (Sputnik V developer), AstraZeneca and Russia's R-Pharm company signed an agreement on developing and launching a program of clinical trials for the combination between the shots. The RDIF data shows that 16 countries around the world officially registered Sputnik V: Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Argentina, Bolivia, Algeria, Palestine, Venezuela, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Hungary, the UAE, Iran, Guinea, Tunisia and Armenia. The Sputnik V registration process is also underway in the European Union and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Argentina-Brazil relationship is both close and historical, and encompasses the economy, trade, culture, education, and tourism. From war and rivalry to friendship and alliance, this complex relationship has spanned more than two centuries. The countries also share a system of government, both being federal republics with a presidential system. Rio de Janeiro was the first capital to recognize Argentinian independence, whereas Buenos Aires was the first government to recognize Brazil's China and Argentina have resumed plans to work together on outer space exploration in a sign of the Asian nation's growing influence in the administration of President Alberto Fernandez. The two countries will cooperate in the development of ships and other instruments for space exploration, as well as land infrastructure to launch and control space missions and satellites, according to an agreement published in Argentina's official gazette on Friday. The deal has been in effect since July 24, according to the publication, which says all space exploration shall have peaceful intention. A Forei