

Framatome and BBF achieve testing milestone for medical sterilization transport system

August 10, 2021 – Framatome recently completed the factory acceptance test of an advanced transport system for BBF Sterilisationsservice GmbH's sterilization facility in Kernen, Germany. The self-conveyor transport system ensures medical products to be sterilized move carefully in containers through the irradiation process. The system is based on walking-beam technology and represents the first time that technology will be used in the process of sterilizing medical products and pharmaceuticals.

“Achieving this important milestone under our new [Framatome Healthcare](#) brand, with our customer, [BBF Sterilisationsservice GmbH](#), demonstrates our commitment to design and implement systems that operate in high dose hazard environments from sectors beyond nuclear power generation,” said Francois Gauché, director of Framatome Healthcare. “Our innovative technologies, engineering capabilities, safety knowledge and experience in handling radioactive sources deliver value to our customers as we expand our support to sterilization and medical facilities.”

Framatome developed the innovative walking-beam technology to address the specific requirements of sterilization facilities worldwide. This transport system opens up a previously unattained level of flexibility for BBF. The transport system has two levels, each with a load-bearing capacity of up to one metric ton. The transport system can convey mixed loads, recirculate containers within the irradiation room and perform empty runs.

The Framatome I&C team, working with BBF, will install and commission the new transport system in summer 2021. This work is part of a contract BBF awarded Framatome in late 2019 for the delivery and installation of an advanced transport system and several facility upgrades.

BBF specializes in the sterilization of medical products and pharmaceuticals using a cobalt (Co60) source and builds on decades of experience in the European sterilization market.

Framatome Healthcare is committed to developing medical products and services for the healthcare industry. Its team supports the value chain for the radioisotopes used in radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic imaging and therapeutic purposes and supplies special alloys for the development of surgical implants and prostheses. The company also possesses a wide knowledge in design, layout, and modernization of complex facilities with irradiation sources such as sterilization facilities, essential for the use of medical materials (gamma irradiation). Collectively, these efforts advance cancer-fighting treatments and the medical applications of nuclear technology.

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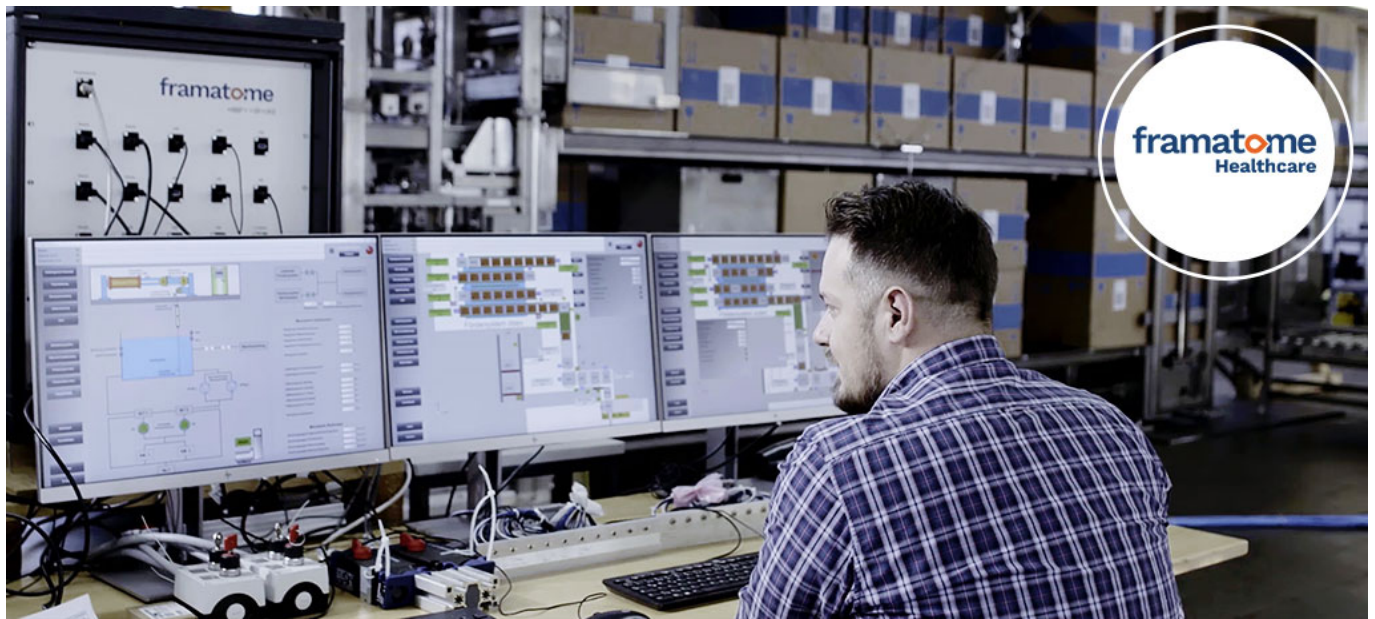
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Walking beam transport system in a test facility

About BBF

BBF is a service provider for packaging, testing and sterilization of medical devices and pharmaceuticals with over 50 years of experience in the field of gamma irradiation with Cobalt 60. Visit us at <https://www.sterixpert> and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

About Framatome

Framatome is an international leader in nuclear energy recognized for its innovative solutions and value added technologies for the global nuclear fleet. With worldwide expertise and a proven track record for reliability and performance, the company designs, services and installs components, fuel, and instrumentation and control systems for nuclear power plants. Its more than 14,000 employees work every day to help Framatome's customers supply ever cleaner, safer and more economical low-carbon energy. Visit us at: www.framatome.com, and follow us on Twitter: [@Framatome](#) and LinkedIn: [Framatome](#). Framatome is owned by the EDF Group (75.5%), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI – 19.5%) and Assystem (5%).

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