

— almost all German scientists working in the United States, including Nobel laureates Wolfgang Ketterle and Herbert Kroemer.

Japan's fast-breeder reactor gets green light

Japan should aim to commercialize its prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor by 2050, says a panel convened by the

country's Atomic Energy Commission.

The Monju reactor in Tsuruga, central Japan, has been shut down since 1995, when it began leaking liquid sodium just a few months after it started to operate. Japan plans to restart the fast-breeder reactor, which produces more fissile material than it consumes, in 2008.

Officials in Japan's cabinet office argue that the reactor is now safe, and that the target date will motivate researchers to

accelerate research and development.

Many of the country's nuclear power plants will need to be replaced by 2050, and the Monju reactor, which it is hoped will be more cost-effective, could help to make replacements more affordable, the atomic-energy panel reported on 29 September.

Meanwhile, France's Atomic Energy Commission has reaffirmed that it is interested in jointly using the Monju reactor, according to a Japanese government official.

Cassini gets close to Saturn's battered satellite

It looks like the strangest moon in the Solar System. When the Cassini probe passed just 500 kilometres above Saturn's satellite Hyperion on 26 September, it revealed a landscape covered in deep craters with sharp rims (see picture).

"The surface looks weird," says Tilmann Denk, a planetary scientist at the Free University in Berlin. "It looks so different from anything we've seen before, like a sponge you would use in your bathtub."

Hyperion has an unusual elongated shape, being 360 kilometres long but just 250 kilometres wide, and it tumbles around Saturn chaotically. Because other objects of a similar size are much more spherical, astronomers think that Hyperion may be a fragment of a larger object that was smashed apart by a collision.



Correction

Magnets and equipment supplied by Oxford Instruments, as described in "Fatal attraction" (*Nature* 436, 624–625; 2005), are used for nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy not magnetic resonance imaging, as stated in the article. The world's first superconducting magnet was also made three years after the company's foundation, not beforehand.

Clarification

In our News story on using fMRI lie detection to uncover criminals (*Nature* 437, 457; 2005), we stated that Daniel Langleben and his colleagues could detect lies from truth with 99% accuracy. We wish to clarify that this was the accuracy for individual tests — the more likely average success rate for practical purposes is about 88%.