

Fabrice Raynal

Fabrice Raynal (aged 58) has been the director of the Agence ITER France since 1 November 2023. Appointed by the Minister of Ecological & Inclusive Transition, the Minister of Economy & Finance, and the Minister of Higher Education & Research, he takes over from the former director, Eric Kraus.

On the heels of his engineering studies at the engineering school of Saint-Etienne in France and the prestigious University known as Portsmouth Polytechnic in the UK, Fabrice Raynal decided to join the ranks of the nuclear submarine community in 1992. He was hired at TechniAtome to supervise operations on nuclear steam supply systems for propulsion, before moving into the engineering field several years later, notably representing France in the call for tender to build a replacement research reactor in Australia.

In 2003, he became part of the management team at the CEA's Defence Applications Division. Seconded to the French Navy, he managed the nuclear technical section in Brest where the submarine base for the Strategic Oceanic Force is located. This demanding position called for an operational approach with a strategic vision to serve the interests of France.

In 2007, his professional journey naturally led him to becoming branch head of the R&D Defence Division at the CEA centre located in Cadarache. This is where the nuclear boilers for France's submarines and the Charles-de-Gaulle aircraft carrier first originated, as well as being home to the RES test reactor project launched more than fifty years later. Within the nuclear propulsion management team, Fabrice Raynal was made project manager in charge of contract monitoring and operations, before leading the naval nuclear propulsion unit from 2015 to 2021.

He was then named deputy director of naval propulsion systems in January 2022. His role involved ensuring these systems always met the high industrial safety, nuclear safety and availability levels in compliance with the regulations and the needs of experimental programmes.

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