



# Calibration of novel transfer standards with new $^{222}\text{Rn}$ emanation sources

## EMPIR 19ENV01 traceRadon

*This project 19ENV01 traceRadon has received funding from the EMPIR programme co-financed by the Participating States and from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. 19ENV01 traceRadon denotes the EMPIR project reference.*

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ICRM 2023





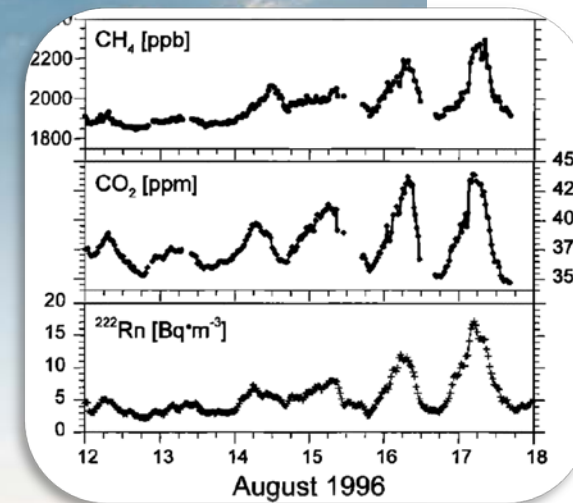
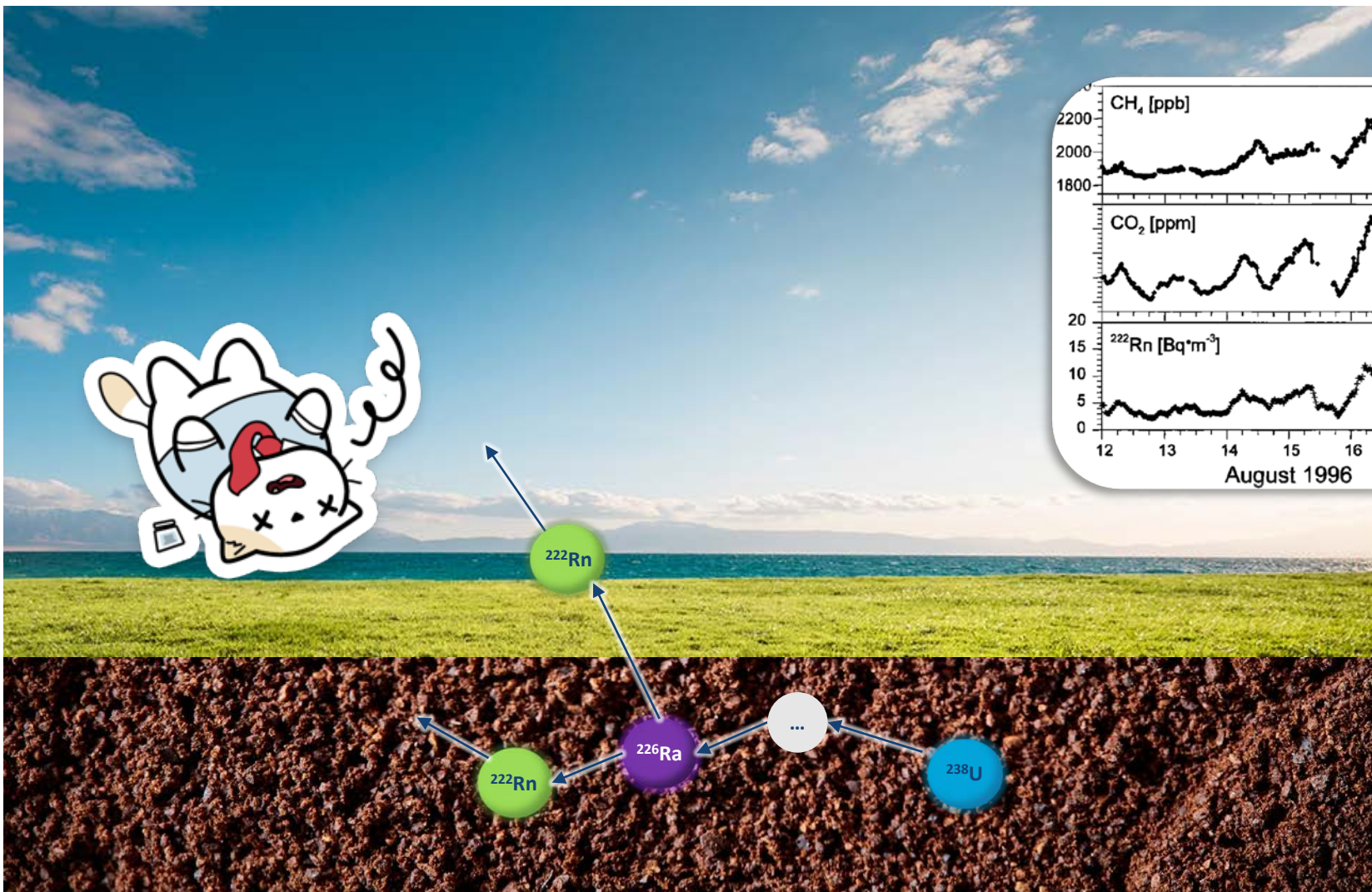
# Introduction

The traceRadon project



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# Radon ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ )



*Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* **104** (1999) 1998JD100064

# The traceRadon project



Provide traceability to the SI system in the range of  $1 \text{ Bq/m}^3 - 100 \text{ Bq/m}^3$



☺ Measurement range

☹ Traceability to the SI system





# Transfer Standards and calibration source

ARMON, ANSTO and IRSD

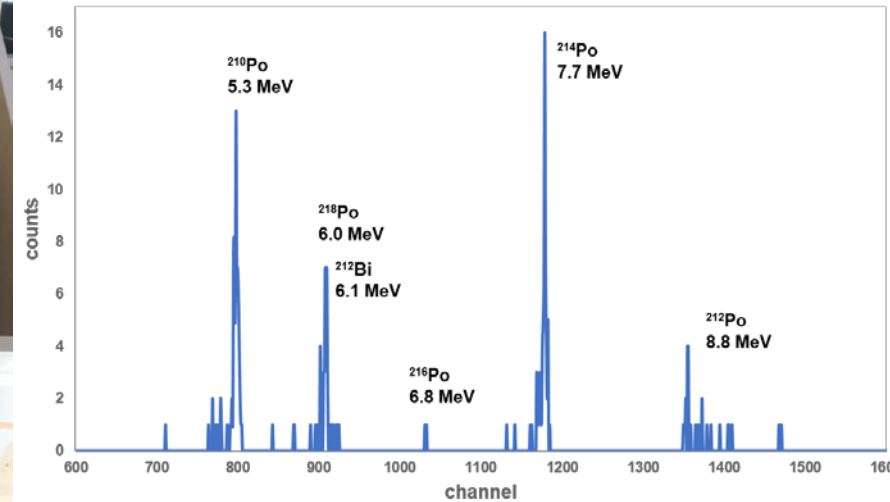
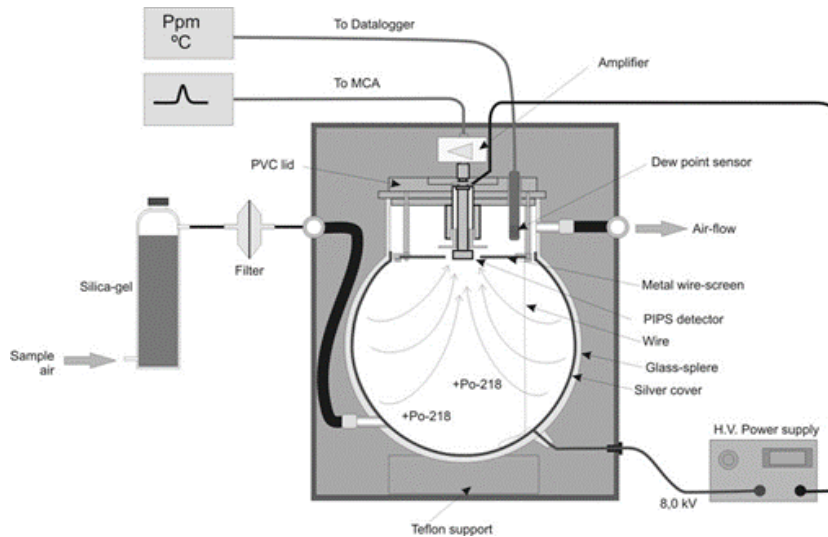


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# The Atmospheric Radon MONitor (ARMON)



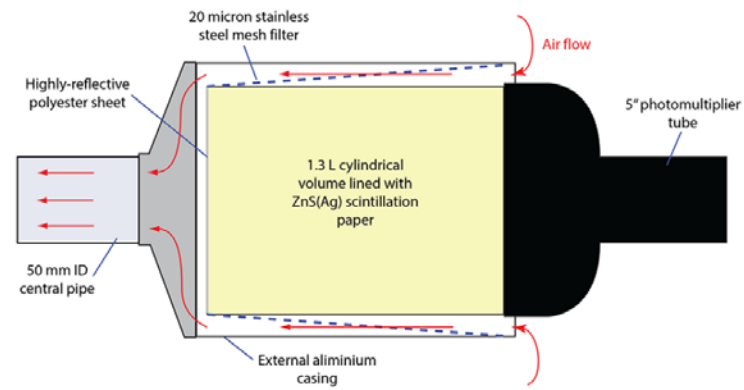
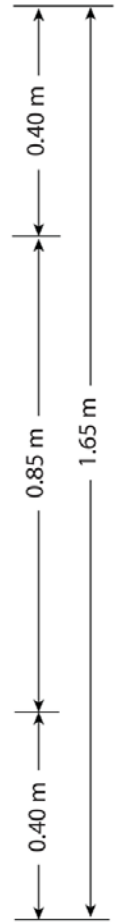
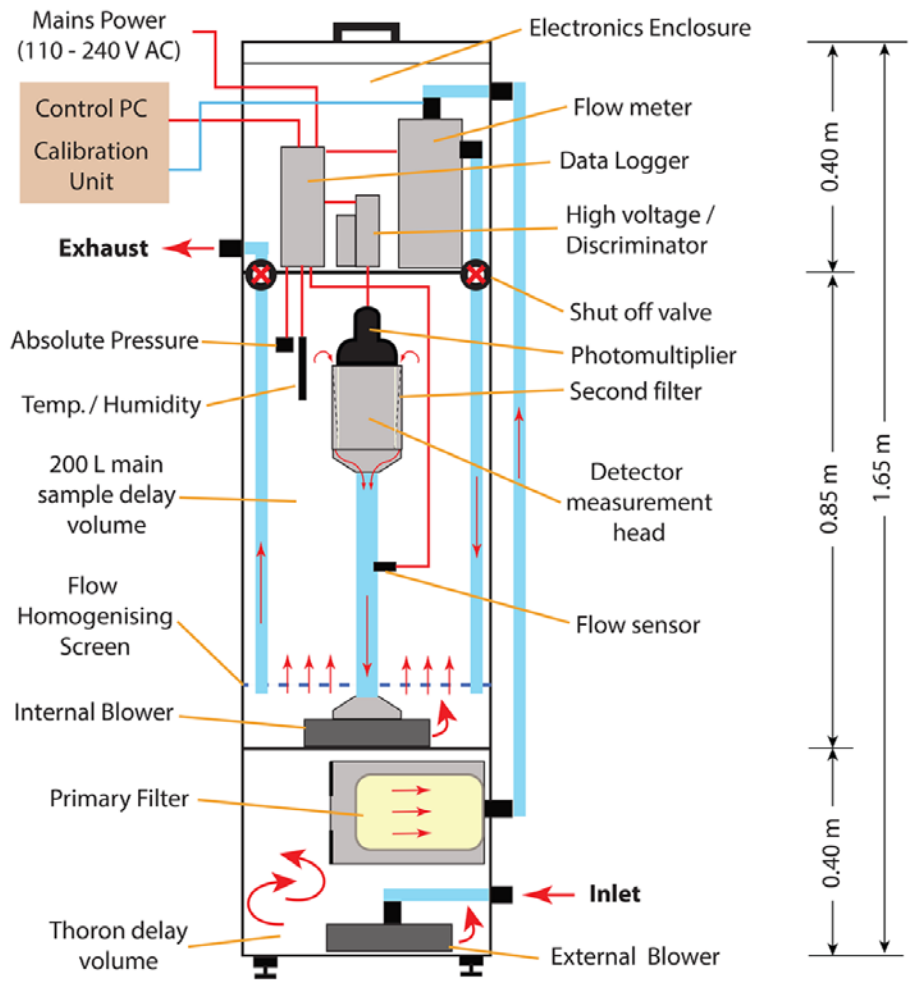
- Operation principle: Electrostatic collection of  $^{218}\text{Po}$  and  $^{216}\text{Po}$  from  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  and  $^{220}\text{Rn}$  respectively on an alpha detector
- Designed, built and calibrated at the INTE-UPC (radon chamber)



ARMON v1.0 Grossi et al. (2012) Vargas et al. (2025)



# Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO)

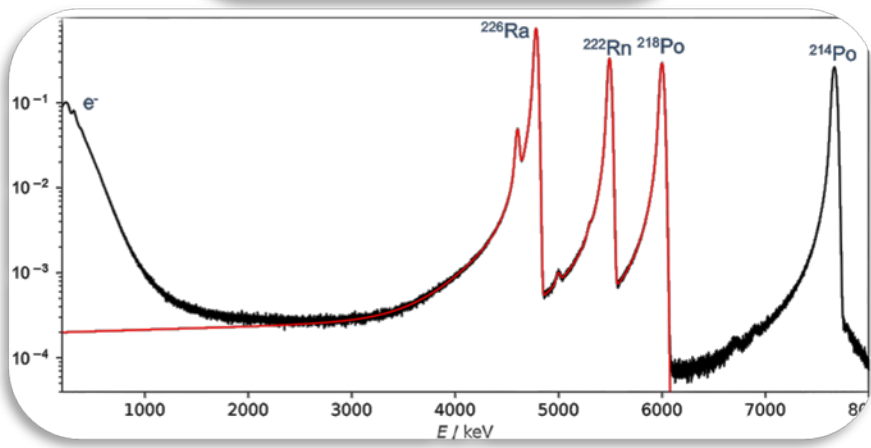
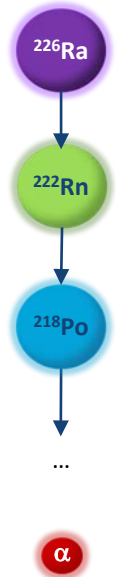


*Advances in Geosciences* **57** (2022) 63 - 80

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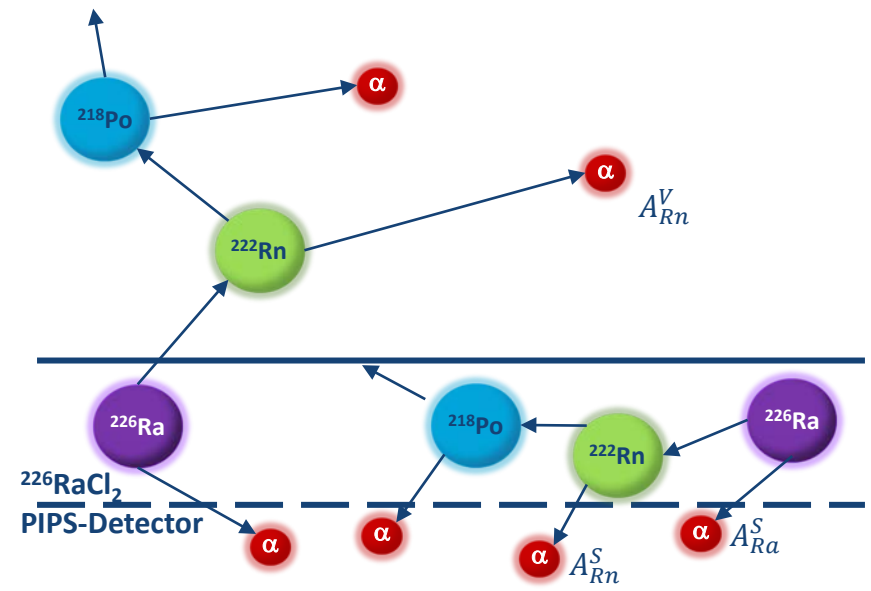
# Integrated Radon Source Detector system (IRSD)



$$A_{Ra}^S = A_{Rn}^S + A_{Rn}^V$$

Change of  $A_{Rn}^S$  :

$$\frac{dA_{Rn}^S}{dt} = \lambda_{Rn} A_{Ra}^S - \lambda_{Rn} A_{Rn}^S - \lambda_{Rn} \eta(t)$$



*Meas. Sci. Technol.* **32** (2021) 124008

Further details: *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **19** (2022) 840

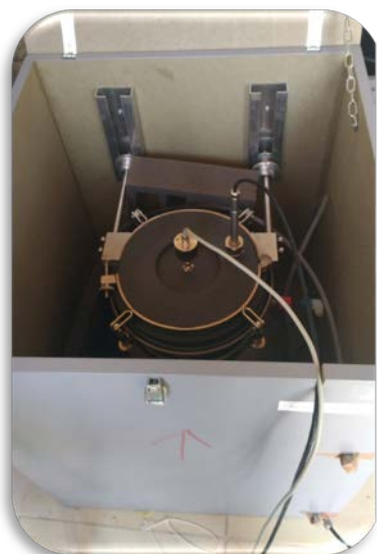




## Summary



- Goal: Improve  $^{222}\text{Rn}$  activity concentration measurements in the range 1 – 100 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>
- Method: Develop new calibration standards
- Result: New transfer standards and new primary standards



# Further information on traceRadon



FRIDAY 31 March 2023

**9:00 Low Level Radioactivity Measurement Techniques (LL)**  
– Chairs: B. Quintana Arnés

9:00	<b>Paul Malfrat</b> , IRSN, France	0-89
	Online analysis of gamma-ray spectrum by spectral unmixing	
9:20	<b>Begoña Quintana</b> , Univ. of Salamanca, Spain	0-108
	Low-level activity determination of <sup>14</sup> C from marine shells by the CIEMAT/NIST method	
9:40	<b>Iolanda Osvath</b> , IAEA, Marine Env. Laboratories, Monaco	0-106
	Improvements in the detection capability for monitoring low levels of radionuclides	

**10:00 Posters Overview: LL – Chairs: B. Quintana Arnés**

	<b>Stefan Röttger</b> , PTB, Germany	P-23
	Radon metrology for use in climate change observation and radiation protection at the environmental level	
	<b>Dirk Arnold</b> , PTB, Germany	P-25
	Metrology for the harmonisation of measurements of environmental pollutants in Europe	
	<b>Mirela Vasile</b> , SCK CEN, Belgium	P-45
	A comparison of different approaches for the analysis of <sup>36</sup> Cl in graphite samples	
	<b>Ivelina Dimitrova</b> , Sofia Univ., Bulgaria	P-73
	Estimation of Correction Factors for RadonEye Continuous Radon Monitors	
	<b>Tomislav Ilievski</b> , RBI, Croatia	P-85
	Upgrade of HPGe spectrometry system for low level activity determination with cosmic veto	
	<b>Charles Philippe Mano</b> , CEA, France	P-104
	Algorithms development for low level radon spectrum analysis	

**10:10 Best Poster Award – Chair: Brian Zimmerman**

10:25 Coffee Break

**11:00 WG Meeting: Low Level Radioactivity Measurement Techniques (80 min.)**

12:20 Closing the ICRM 2023 – Chairs: Brian Zimmerman, Aurelian Luca

12:30 Lunch

**14:00 The General Meeting of ICRM (ICRM GM): Part 1**

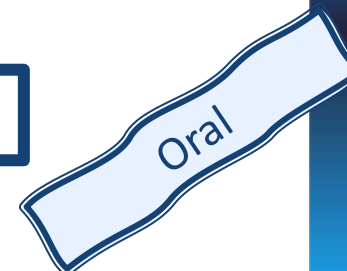
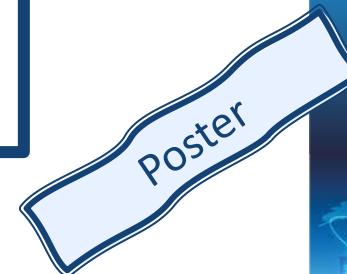
16:00 Coffee Break

**16:20 ICRM GM: Part 2 & Meeting Close**

17:00 Break

17:30 ICRM Executive Board Meeting

19:30





**Thank you for your attention!**



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✈ traceRadon-project stakeholder committee, stakeholders, MSU, EURAMET

## Acknowledgements

✈ traceRadon-project collaborators:



✈ traceRadon-project partners:



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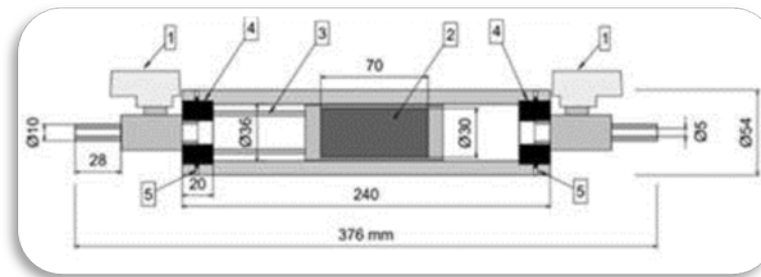


# Backup



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# CMI-source



*Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2020**, *17*, 1904

# CMI-source



Steady state:

$$C = \frac{\eta_{Rn}}{Q \cdot \frac{M \cdot p_{cali} \cdot R \cdot T_{con}}{M \cdot p_{con} \cdot R \cdot T_{cali}} + \lambda_{Rn} \cdot V}$$

$C$ : Radon activity concentration

$\eta_{Rn}$ : Radon emanation power

$Q$ : flow rate

$M$ : molar mass

$R$ : molar gas constant

$p_{con}$ : air pressure

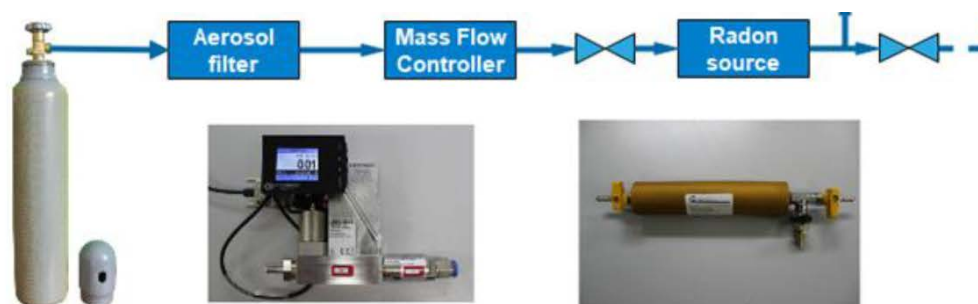
$p_{cali}$ : 1013.25 hPa

$T_{con}$ : temperature

$T_{cali}$ : 273.16 K

$\lambda_{Rn}$ : Rn decay constant

$V$ : Volume of the Rn chamber



*Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2020**, *17*, 1904



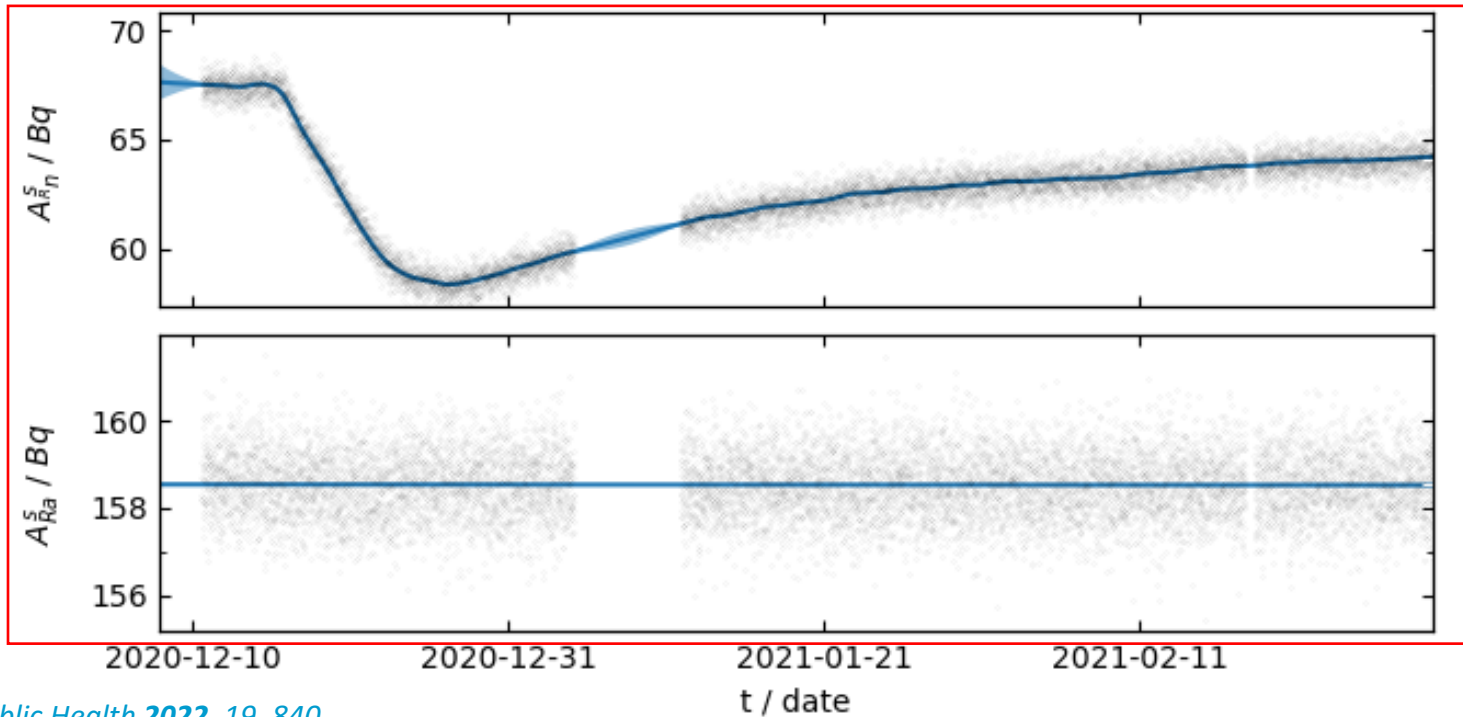
# Integrated Radon Source Detector system (IRSD)



Blue:  
calculated

Gray:  
measured

Measured by  
IRSD



*Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2022**, *19*, 840



# Results



	CMI source		PTB IRSD system		$k_{IRSD}/k_{CMI}$
	$k_{CMI}$	$C$ (Bq·m <sup>-3</sup> )	$k_{IRSD}$	$C$ (Bq·m <sup>-3</sup> )	
<b>RRI #1</b>	1.056 ± 0.019	21547	1.019 ± 0.015	1925	0.965
<b>RRI #2</b>	1.022 ± 0.017	1605	0.981 ± 0.015	56.3	0.960

RRI: Radon Reference Instrument

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