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Getting closer to Element 115 [news]

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
Date: Fri, 29 Jan 1999 16:21:26 -0800

Via: [withheld by request]@llnl.gov

From LLNL's own NEWSLINE:

----- Begin Press Release -----

Subject: Russia-Livermore Scientists may have produced elusive heavy element 114

A Russian-Livermore experiment at Russia's Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna may have produced the long-sought element 114, according to news reports out of Russia.

The Dubna accelerator fired calcium-48 atoms into a Livermore supplied target of Plutonium-244 in a 40 day experiment that wrapped up at the end of December 1998. Detectors picked up signs of a single atom of a heavy element, tentatively identified as 114, by a tell-tale sequence of alpha-particle emissions followed by a spontaneous fission, due to decay of the atom and the subsequent decay of its "daughters".

Livermore nuclear chemist Ken Moody spoke with caution about the experiments. "these are very interesting findings," he said. "The analysis we are doing now should tell us how to interpret the results."

"If confirmed, the synthesis of element 114 will create an important new opportunity to study the physics of extremely heavy elements," said Energy secretary Bill Richardson. "creating 114 has long been a goal of Nuclear Physicists. It is significant that this latest experiment is an international effort, a collaborative project involving Russian scientists at Dubna, and American scientists from DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Lab".

Livermore's participation was supported by Laboratory Directed Research and Development. Moody and collaborators Ron Loughheed, John Wild, Nancy Stoyer and Mark Stoyer of the Analytical and Nuclear Chemistry division supplied the plutonium target and participated in the design and implementation of the experiments, and the subsequent data analysis. They have worked in the highly competitive field of heavy element synthesis at the three world's major centers for such research, in Berkeley, Dubna and Darmstadt, and are careful not to count chickens prematurely.

Still, they agree it is an exciting time. Synthesizing element 114 is a long sought goal because of theoretical predictions that it will be part of an "island of stability" in an ocean of instability. Lighter (but still

extremely heavy) elements like 108 last only thousandths of a second before falling apart. The observations at Dubna suggested a 30-second lifetime for the 114 candidate, a veritable Rock of Gibraltar compared to some of its more ephemeral neighbors.

----- End Press Release -----

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RELEVANCE OF THIS MESSAGE: The claims of Bob Lazar

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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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Created: Jan 29, 1999