

TRAINING IN THE REMOTE-PILOTING OF VEHICLES
FOR INTERVENING IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Benefiting from its long and rare experience accumulated over more than twenty years, the Groupe for Remote Intervention of the French Atomic Energy Commission (IPSN-DPT) now offers a highly specialized training in the remote-piloting of vehicles for intervening in environments hostile to man.

The aim of this training, which is unique in Europe, is to teach individuals how to pilot various types of remote-controlled vehicles, the purpose of which is to carry out remote controlled operations inside or outside installations.

Depending on their specific nature and equipment, these vehicles, which are remote controlled by cables or electromagnetic waves, can assure many different functions in various hostile environments :

- direct audio-visual recognition,
- physicochemical measurements in real time or acquisition of data for batch treatment,
- sampling of solids, liquids and or gases,
- various remote operations on different materials equipment and installations in the presence of great potential dangers,
- remote handling and or transport of dangerous loads (presenting radiation or explosion risks),
- providing assistance to personnel during interventions,
- rescue of persons in difficulty.

Remote controlled equipment can be very precious in circumstances resulting from natural catastrophes (earthquakes, floods, avalanches, forest fires, volcanic eruptions) in addition to being indispensable for certain industrial applications (nuclear, chemical and biological). It is, of course, extremely advantageous to know how such equipment is used and what the limits are. One of the objectives of this training is to communicate this knowledge.