

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

France: French president Jacques Chirac pledged that a prototype fourth generation nuclear reactor unit will enter service in France in 2020: "J'ai décidé de lancer, dès maintenant, la conception, au sein du Commissariat à l'énergie atomique, d'un prototype de réacteur de 4ème génération, qui devra entrer en service en 2020. Nous y associerons, naturellement, les partenaires industriels ou internationaux qui voudraient s'engager." **Statement** in French:
http://www.elysee.fr/elysee/francais/interventions/discours_et_declarations/2006/janvier/allocution_du_president_de_la_republique_a_l_occasion_des_voeux_aux_forces_vives.37533.html

Germany: Amid a heated debate over German energy policies prompted by the natural gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine Thomas Steg, a **spokesman for chancellor Merkel, said that the nuclear issue had already been settled during coalition talks** last year. The chancellor sees "no reason to take a stance on this again," Steg said. "Nothing has changed on this." **Press release of Federal Ministry of Economics** in German: <http://www.bmwi.de/Navigation/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=91060.html>

Lithuania: Faced with the imminent loss of its nuclear power plant in Ignalina, Lithuania has **launched a new project aimed at building a modern nuclear power plant.** The Economy Ministry will kick off the ambitious project by sending 25 invitations to potential investors. The proposed nuclear plant would have a capacity of 700-1,600 megawatts and would provide electricity not only for Baltic states but also consumers in Germany and Scandinavia. http://www.baltictimes.com/art.php?art_id=14335

NUCLEAR POLICY

Concerning the gas crisis Andris **Piebalgs, EU Energy Commissioner** said: "It is clear that Europe needs a clearer and more collective and cohesive policy on security of energy supply. To date, the issue of security of energy supply is only really considered at national Member State level; but in reality we need a much greater European-wide approach on this issue. I will issue a first Communication on a new European Energy Policy in spring,

drawing final conclusions and proposals before the end of the year." **Statement:** <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/1&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The European Union is a net importer of energy. Two-thirds of the EU's total energy requirements will be imported by 2020. **Eurogas expects that the EU will import up to 75 percent of its natural gas requirements by 2020.** The U.S. Energy Administration Agency has

published a Country Analysis Brief for the European Union. **Report** at: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/European_Union/Full.html

URANIUM

Canadian research analyst Kevin Bambrough **forecasted a severe uranium supply crunch for the next ten years**. He warned of a supply deficit peaking in 2015 that might drive uranium prices to an “unsustainable” high. Because U.S. utilities will be competing, later this decade, with China, India and others for uranium, local utilities may have to rely upon a reliable domestic uranium source for their reactors. Complete **interview**: <http://www.stockinterview.com/stm-bambrough.html>

USA: Max Resource Corp. has received the necessary permits from the State of Utah and the Bureau of Land Management required to drill its Thomas Mountain uranium prospect in Juab County, Utah. **Press release**: http://www.maxresource.com/s/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=125867&_Type=News-Releases&_Title=Drill-Permits-received-for-Uranium-Exploration-in-Utah

Calypso Acquisition Corp. announced that it has signed a Letter of Intent with Energia Mineral S.A for the acquisition of the shares of **Energia Mineral S.A.**, an Argentine uranium exploration company. **Press release**: <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releasesfr/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=574156>

SXR Uranium One Inc. said it has received positive test results from its **Dominion uranium project** in South Africa that suggest a significant increase in indicated and inferred uranium resources and a 50 per cent increase in the indicated uranium resource grade. **Press release**: <http://www.cbc.ca/cp/business/060103/b010336.html>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

Russia: On 28 December 2005 the TENEX’s Board of Directors approved a transaction to buy a share equal to 25.1 percent in Argon’s authorized capital. The purchase of shares in ArgonPlant was another step in **TENEX' purchase of industrial assets necessary to create a holding company manufacturing gas centrifuges for isotope separation**. Located in the city of Balakovo, Argon is one of Russia’s leading manufacturers of carbon fiber. **Press release**: http://www.tenex.ru/digest/ProjectNacZn_En.html

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

The **NRC** has issued a Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) to **clarify requirements for assuring reactors can be safely shut down following a fire**. Plants must protect any electrical circuit whose fire-induced failure would prevent a safety system from operating, or cause a safety system to function inappropriately. The RIS is available on the agency’s web site. Go to <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-002.html>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

AREVA`s joint subsidiary with Siemens, **Framatome ANP, has been awarded a contract to design, fabricate and license two replacement once-through steam generators for Unit 1 of Exelon Corporation's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.** The design is referred to as the Enhanced Once-Through Steam Generator (E-OTSG) due to significant operability and reliability improvements and reduced maintenance costs. **Press release:** <http://www.us.framatome-anp.com/newsreleases/newsrelease.asp?NewsNumber=228>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Germany: The federal storage facility in Hanau was closed end of 2005. The Agency for Radiation Protection has left the site. **Press release** in German: <http://www.bfs.de/bfs/presse/pr05/pr0538.html>

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

The U.S. Department of Energy is seeking comments on a draft Request for Proposals for the competitive selection of a management and operating **contractor for Argonne National Laboratory**, a major DOE Office of Science research facility located near

Chicago. **Press release and more:** http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19441&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSERELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

The technical-scientific director of the German Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (Organization for Reactor Safety), **Lothar Hahn, was appointed chairman of the international Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI)** of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. **Press release:** http://www.grs.de/en/press_and_news/informationen_detail.html?nd_ref=1733

MISCELLANEOUS

The Preparedness Directorate of the U.S. **Department of Homeland Security has issued guidance on responding to a dirty bomb attack.** The guidance entitled, "Application of Protective Action Guides for Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDD) and Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Incidents" is available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/05-24521.htm>

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