

ENRRA

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER

Connecting ENRRA with
the Global Regulatory Community

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the First Edition of ENRRA International Cooperation Newsletter, an initiative that reflects our commitment to keeping ENRRA's community informed and connected with developments in the nuclear and radiological fields around the world. Through this newsletter, we aim to provide an accessible overview of selected International developments, regulatory trends, and areas of global cooperation relevant to our mandate and functions.

Beyond sharing news, this Newsletter is intended to serve as a knowledge management tool within ENRRA. I encourage our dear colleagues to make use of this Newsletter not only as a source of information, but also as a platform for sharing their own experiences, lessons learned, and knowledge gained through International missions, meetings, training programmes, conferences, and other activities.

In doing so, we can further strengthen institutional capacity and maximize the value of ENRRA's International engagement.

This First Edition will mark the beginning of a valuable and sustainable knowledge-sharing initiative that brings ENRRA's community closer to the global regulatory community.

Dr. Hany Khedr

Chairman of ENRRA

Why This Newsletter, Why Now?

The nuclear and radiological regulatory landscape is constantly evolving. Around the world, regulatory authorities are developing new approaches, responding to emerging challenges, strengthening cooperation and sharing lessons learned. Staying connected to these developments is increasingly important for any organization working to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear and radiological technologies.

With this in mind, the **Communication and International Cooperation Department** is pleased to introduce **the first edition of the ENRRA International Cooperation Newsletter**, prepared especially for ENRRA's Staff.

The newsletter aims to provide accessible overview of selected International developments in the nuclear and radiological field, with particular attention to regulatory affairs, nuclear safety and security, international cooperation and emerging developments that may be of interest to ENRRA.

More than simply sharing news, this newsletter seeks to strengthen ENRRA's connection with the wider global regulatory community and encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience within the Authority.

We hope that this newsletter will become a useful internal platform for keeping ENRRA colleagues informed, connected and engaged with the International nuclear regulatory community.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION.

Table Of Contents

01	Why International Cooperation Matters ?	4
02	ENRRA's International Cooperation Portfolio	5
03	ENRRA's Participation in the IAEA 70 TH General Conference	7
04	NUCLEAR IN FOCUS	12
	■ Global Developments	
	■ National Spotlight	
	■ International \ Regional Partners in Focus	
05	Spotlight On Global Regulatory ARENA	17
	■ Global Regulatory Developments	
06	Coming in Our Next Edition	19

Why International Cooperation Matters ?

Nuclear safety and security are global responsibilities. The safe and secure use of nuclear and radiological technologies depends not only on strong national regulatory systems, but also on continuous cooperation, knowledge exchange and learning among regulatory authorities and international organizations.

For ENRRA, International cooperation provides an important channel for exchanging regulatory experience, accessing International expertise, strengthening professional capabilities and learning from the experience of counterpart regulatory bodies around the world. It also supports the continuous improvement of regulatory practices in line with International standards and good practices.

International cooperation becomes even more important as **the nuclear sector evolves. New reactor technologies, small modular reactors, emerging applications of nuclear science, evolving security challenges and changing regulatory expectations require regulators** to learn from one another and cooperate where appropriate.



Emerging Applications



Security Challenges



New Reactor Technologies



Small Modular Reactors



Evolving Regulatory Expectations

Through cooperation with organizations such as the IAEA and with counterpart regulatory authorities worldwide, ENRRA both contributes to the International regulatory community and benefits from shared experience, peer reviews, capacity building and professional networks.



This newsletter is intended to strengthen that connection by bringing selected International nuclear and regulatory developments closer to ENRRA employees, highlighting what is happening globally, why it matters, and where ENRRA is connected to the International community, taking into consideration that monitoring global developments provides critical regulatory intelligence that supports ENRRA's decision-making process.

ENRRA'S International Cooperation Portfolio

ENRRA's International cooperation activities reflect Egypt's active engagement with the regional and International nuclear regulatory community, through participation in regional cooperation frameworks and networks, as well as bilateral partnerships with counterpart regulatory authorities.

At the regional and International level, ENRRA participates in five major cooperation frameworks and networks: AFRA (African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology), ANNuR (Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators), FNRBA (Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa), AAEA (Arab Atomic Energy Agency), and the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF). Through these platforms, ENRRA engages with regulatory authorities and nuclear organizations from different countries, benefiting from the exchange of expertise, regulatory experience, technical knowledge and lessons learned, while contributing to regional and International efforts to strengthen nuclear and radiological safety and security.

In parallel with its multilateral and regional engagement, ENRRA has established six bilateral cooperation partnerships through signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with counterpart authorities in the Russian Federation, Morocco, Cyprus, Hungary, Saudi Arabia and Rwanda. These agreements provide a framework for sustained cooperation and the exchange of operational and regulatory experience, technical information and expertise in areas of mutual interest.

ENRRA's bilateral cooperation also supports collaboration in areas related to nuclear and radiological safety, radiation protection, nuclear security, emergency preparedness and response, radioactive waste management and other regulatory matters. Such partnerships provide opportunities for ENRRA and its counterparts to share lessons learned, develop professional capabilities and strengthen regulatory approaches through direct engagement and technical cooperation.

Together, these regional, International and bilateral channels represent major cooperation links connecting ENRRA with the wider nuclear regulatory community. More than simply establishing institutional relationships, these partnerships provide practical mechanisms for knowledge exchange, capacity building, regulatory learning and professional networking, they help in overcoming current challenges, anticipating future ones, exposing staff to newly emerging nuclear and radiological technologies, and strengthening collective actions toward ensuring the nuclear and radiological safety and security of countries regionally and Internationally. This enables ENRRA to both benefit from International experience and contribute to the collective advancement of nuclear and radiological safety.

ENRRA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE IAEA 70TH GENERAL CONFERENCE



Egypt and Rwanda sign Nuclear, Radiological Cooperation Deal in Vienna

The Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA) signed a memorandum of understanding with Rwanda's Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) on 16TH of September to boost nuclear and radiological cooperation, on the sidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna.



The agreement reflects a priority Cairo has set on expanding its role as a regional resource on nuclear oversight, built on regulatory experience gained from licensing Egypt's first nuclear power plant.

ENRRA said exchanging expertise between African regulators is essential to building the continent's capacity for nuclear security, safety and the peaceful use of atomic energy.

ENRRA Chairman Dr.Hany Khedr signed the memorandum for Egypt, while Mr.Rugigana Evariste, RURA's Director-General, signed for Rwanda.

The ceremony took place on the sidelines of the IAEA's 70th General Conference, running from 14 to 18 September at the Vienna International Centre.

Ambassador Mohamed Nasr, Egypt's envoy to Austria and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, witnessed the signing.

The memorandum aims to deepen cooperation between the two regulators and help them face current and future oversight challenges, alongside exchanging expertise in nuclear and radiological control.

ENRRA'S Chairman said cooperation with African countries is a priority and a necessity for ENRRA, pointing to Egypt's readiness to share its regulatory expertise with the continent.

He said such exchanges support national and regional capacity-building in nuclear security, safety, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

After the signing, the Rwandan side expressed appreciation for Egypt's continued support through ENRRA, and the two sides agreed to move quickly to draft a plan to implement the memorandum, according to the statement.

ENRRA Holds Bilateral Meetings with Turkey, Russia, and the European Commission to Strengthen Cooperation in Nuclear Regulation and Nuclear Safety

As part of the participation of the Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA) in the 70th Session of the IAEA General Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 18 September 2026, Dr. Hany Khedr, Chairman of ENRRA, held a series of bilateral meetings with Turkey (NDK), Russia (Rostekhnadzor), and the European Commission, with the participation of Mr. Ramy Afifi, Senior Strategic Communications and International Cooperation Specialist at ENRRA.

The meetings focused on strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise in regulatory and technical areas related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Dr. Hany Khedr began his meetings with the Turkish delegation from (NDK). The meeting discussed prospects for cooperation and the exchange of expertise in regulatory areas related to nuclear activities. He highlighted the potential for mutual benefit through enhanced cooperation and exchange of experience between the two regulatory bodies, particularly during the pre-operational phase.



This was followed by a meeting with the Russian regulatory authority (Rostekhnadzor) to discuss the progress achieved between the two sides. Dr. Khedr expressed his appreciation to the Russian side for its support in building ENRRA's regulatory capabilities.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of continuing to develop the existing partnership, deepening technical cooperation, and exchanging expertise in ways that support ENRRA's preparedness for the upcoming stages of Egypt's nuclear power program, while opening new avenues for cooperation including advanced nuclear technologies.

Concluding the series of meetings, ENRRA held discussions with representatives of the European Commission to review developments in ongoing cooperation and emphasize the importance of continuing support for joint programs and projects. Such cooperation contributes to strengthening ENRRA's regulatory and technical capabilities and benefiting from European expertise, while supporting national priorities in nuclear regulation and nuclear safety, particularly as Egypt's nuclear power program continues to advance.



Dr. Khedr expressed his appreciation for the continued cooperation between ENRRA and the European Union, noting that the progress achieved recently within a relatively short period reflects the importance of the strategic partnership between Egypt and the European Union and demonstrates a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation in nuclear regulation and nuclear safety.

These bilateral meetings form part of ENRRA's efforts to expand its international cooperation network, strengthen the exchange of expertise and knowledge with regulatory bodies and international partners.

ENRRA Participates in International Regulatory Forums and Meetings on the Sidelines of the 70th IAEA General Conference

The Egyptian Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority (ENRRA) participated in International Regulatory Forums and Meetings held on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), held in Vienna, Austria, with the participation of Dr. Hany Khedr, Chairman of ENRRA, and Mr. Ramy Afifi, Senior Strategic Communications and International Cooperation Specialist. The participation reflects ENRRA's commitment to strengthening its engagement in regional and international forums concerned with nuclear and radiological regulation and nuclear safety.

ENRRA delegation participated in the "18th Plenary Meeting of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA)", which addressed a number of issues related to strengthening nuclear security and safety regulatory oversight across Africa. The meeting also reviewed achievements made during the past year and discussed work plans and cooperation with partners, supporting the development of regulatory infrastructure and enhancing cooperation among African regulatory bodies.

ENRRA delegation also participated in the "Senior Safety and Security Regulators' Meeting", which brought together heads and senior officials of regulatory bodies in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety, transport safety, radioactive waste safety, and nuclear security. The meeting provided a platform for exchanging expertise and good practices, as well as discussing regulatory challenges and international initiatives supporting regulatory bodies.

The participation also included the "Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF) Plenary Meeting", which brought together senior regulatory officials, technical experts, and representatives of Member States to discuss current and emerging priorities in strengthening nuclear safety and international cooperation. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences on regulatory challenges and discuss ways to enhance cooperation and capacity building to support countries developing or expanding their nuclear power programmes.



ENRRA's participation in these Forums and Meetings reflects its commitment to strengthening its presence and active engagement at both the regional and International levels in the field of nuclear and radiological regulation, while maintaining continuous engagement with regulatory bodies and international organizations. It also reflects ENRRA's commitment to monitoring International developments in nuclear and radiological regulation and safety, and benefiting from relevant international experience to support the development of national capacities, thereby strengthening Egypt's role and position as a regional hub for the exchange and transfer of expertise and supporting cooperation among regulatory bodies at both the regional and international levels.

Egypt Reaffirms Peaceful Nuclear Rights, Safety Standards at IAEA Conference

Electricity Minister Mahmoud Esmat said on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, that peaceful nuclear energy is an inherent right of all states under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, stressing that Egypt's nuclear program adheres to the highest safety and security standards.



Addressing the IAEA General Conference in Vienna, Esmat said Egypt supports nuclear technology development and the safe deployment of small modular and advanced reactors.

He highlighted progress at El Dabaa nuclear power plant, including the installation of reactor pressure vessels for the first two units and continued work on all four units.

Esmat also rejected efforts to make accession to the voluntary Additional Protocol a condition for peaceful nuclear cooperation, and called for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons.

He condemned attacks on nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, describing them as violations of international law.



15 Sep 2026



STATE INFORMATION SERVICE
(SIS) EGYPT

IAEA adopts Egypt's Resolution on Nuclear Facilities in the Middle East

The 70th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted, by an overwhelming majority, an annual resolution put forward by Egypt on the application of IAEA safeguards to all nuclear facilities in the Middle East.

In a statement issued on Friday, September 18, 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Egyptian Expatriates said the resolution received the support of 112 countries, with no country voting against it.

The Foreign Ministry said the outcome underscores Egypt's standing within International organizations and the consistency of its position with efforts to promote security and stability in the region.

Egypt's position calls for the application of the IAEA safeguards system to all Middle Eastern countries and their nuclear facilities without exception, as well as the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the achievement of universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Egypt stressed the pivotal role of the NPT in maintaining and strengthening International peace and security since its conclusion in 1968, underscoring the need for the International community to fulfill its responsibilities and fully implement all legal obligations arising from the treaty.

It also called for stepped-up International efforts to overcome the deadlock hindering the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

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the deadlock hindering the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Against this backdrop, Egypt stated that the Seventh Session of the UN Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction—scheduled for November 2026 at UN headquarters in New York—offers an opportunity for all regional countries to engage in serious, constructive dialogue and join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Egypt added that such engagement would support international efforts to achieve the universality of the treaty and establish a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.



18 Sep 2026



STATE INFORMATION SERVICE
(SIS) EGYPT



SECTION

01

NUCLEAR IN FOCUS

Global Developments

National Spotlight

International/Regional Partners
in Focus

IAEA Projects Global Nuclear Power Capacity Could Triple by 2060, Continuing Rising Trend

Global nuclear power capacity could more than triple by 2060, says the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as countries increasingly consider nuclear power to meet rising electricity demand and energy security, with small modular reactors (SMRs) set to become a significant new source of clean power and a growing need to offset retiring reactors.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi announced the new projections, contained in the 46th annual report Energy, Electricity and Nuclear Power Estimates for the Period up to 2060 today at the 70th IAEA General Conference in Vienna.

It is the sixth year in a row the IAEA has revised up its projections for the expansion of nuclear power. The outlook, which previously projected trends through 2050, has been extended to 2060 in this year's edition.

At the end of 2025, 413 nuclear power reactors were operating worldwide, providing 377.1 gigawatts electric (GW(e)) of global nuclear generating capacity. In its high case projection, capacity reaches 1045 GW(e) by 2050, compared with 992 GW(e) projected last year, before increasing further to 1284 GW(e) by 2060 – approximately 3.4 times the 2025 level. The low case projects growth to 696 GW(e), nearly double the 2025 level.

While nuclear electricity generation increased by 1.1% in 2025 to 2689.1 terawatt-hours compared with 2024, global electricity generation grew faster, by 2.7%. Nuclear's share of global electricity generation fell from 8.7% in 2024 to 8.4% in 2025, as nuclear generation did not keep pace with global electricity growth.

According to the report, the largest share of future nuclear additions globally is in Central and Eastern Asia, where nuclear capacity could rise from 114 GW(e) in 2025 to 407 GW(e) by 2060 in the high case, with nuclear electricity generation increasing almost fivefold from the 2025 level.

SMR uptake set to increase

The role of SMRs is set to expand in the coming decades. In the high growth projection, 28% of all new nuclear capacity added by 2060 comes from SMRs, while in the low case they account for 23% of new capacity. In the previous edition of RDS-1, SMRs represented 24% of new capacity in the high case and just 5% in the low case.

The latest edition of the report also includes a breakdown of SMR deployment across regions, and projects a particularly strong uptake in North America where about 60% of new nuclear capacity could come from SMRs. In South-Eastern Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean it is also strong at 40% in both the high and low cases.



Offsetting reactor retirements

Two out of every three nuclear power reactors have been in operation for more than 30 years and 45% have been in operation for more than 40 years. In the high case, about one third of 2025 capacity would retire by 2060 and almost two thirds in the low case.

Against this data, the report highlights a need to prepare for and offset reactor retirements.

Some offsetting has already begun. While seven reactors with a total capacity of 2.8 GW(e) were retired in 2025, three new nuclear power reactors with a total capacity of 3.0 GW(e) were connected to the grid and construction began on 12 new reactors that are expected to add a total capacity of 14.3 GW(e).

In addition, lifetime extensions and refurbishment programmes are underway in several regions to extend operation of existing large nuclear fleets, as well as new policy measures to support the competitiveness of existing reactors in deregulated electricity markets.



14 Sep 2026



IAEA

[Source Link](#)

First SMR Funding Agreed by European Investment Bank

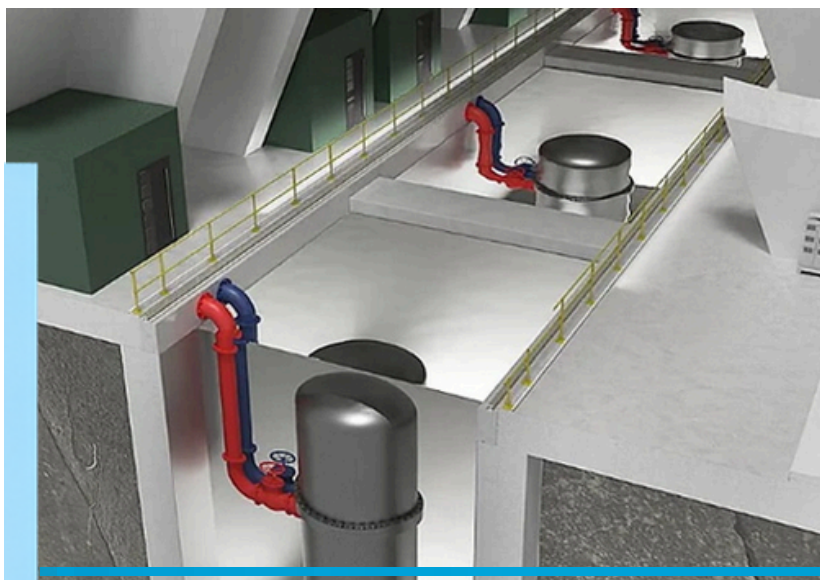
The European Investment Bank is to invest up to EUR40 million (USD46 million) in Finland's small modular reactor company Steady Energy, whose LDR-50 reactor is designed specifically for district heating networks.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is owned by the 27 European Union member states, who are split in their opinions on nuclear energy. In the past it has generally avoided new nuclear projects and only invested in nuclear-related safety projects, such as at Chernobyl. But in the past year or so it has issued loans for a Romanian reactor refurbishment project and for a project to extend the Georges Besse II uranium enrichment plant in Tricastin in southern France.

This is now its first investment in a small modular reactor technology (SMR).

The money is to support Steady Energy's research and development, testing and licensing activities as it seeks to move towards commercial development, and will be provided for activities between this year and 2028.

The EIB said the investment was in line with the European Commission's strategy to bring Europe's first SMRs online by the early 2030s.



It says it "adopts a technology-neutral approach in line with the European Union's decarbonisation goal and the objectives of ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness in an environmentally sustainable, cost-efficient, effective, safe and socially acceptable way".



15 Sep 2026



WORLD NUCLEAR NEWS

Egypt, IAEA Chief Discuss Iran Nuclear File and Regional Tensions

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi discussed developments surrounding Iran's nuclear program and efforts to contain regional escalation during a phone call on Thursday.

The two officials stressed the importance of continuing diplomatic efforts, prioritizing political solutions and containing escalation to prevent further tensions and preserve regional security and stability.

The call also covered preparations for the IAEA General Conference and ways to strengthen cooperation between Egypt and the UN nuclear watchdog.

Abdelatty praised the close cooperation and coordination between Egypt and the IAEA, particularly the agency's technical support under its technical cooperation program on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

He also welcomed Grossi's selection of an Egyptian expert to serve as secretary of the IAEA's policy-making bodies, saying the appointment reflected international recognition of Egyptian expertise and the contribution of Egyptian professionals to the agency's work.



11 Sep 2026



AHRAM ONLINE

Rosatom Officials Discussed the Latest Developments Regarding the Construction of the El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant in Egypt

Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Mahmoud Esmat discussed progress on the construction of the El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant (NPP).

According to a statement from the company, during the meeting held in Nizhny Novgorod, the parties assessed the latest progress in the construction of the El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant.

The meeting also addressed the significant progress made in July with the placement of the reactor for the second power unit at its design site. Both sides positively assessed the pace of work achieved on the project and stated that the plant is planned to begin generating its first electricity in 2028.



The meeting also covered various topics related to expanding cooperation in the field of nuclear energy and beyond. Specifically, the construction of a water treatment plant and the establishment of nuclear medicine and additive manufacturing technology centers in Egypt were discussed.

Under the agreements, Russia will construct the power plant and supply nuclear fuel for its entire operational life. The Russian side will also contribute to the training of Egyptian personnel and provide support to Egypt in operation and maintenance for the first 10 years following the plant's commissioning.



27 Aug 2026



ANADOLU AGENCY

Kazakhstan, Rosatom Seal Contract for Two-Unit Balkhash Nuclear Plant

Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom and Kazakhstan Nuclear Power Plants have signed an engineering, procurement and construction contract for the Balkhash Nuclear Power Plant, advancing plans to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power station.

The agreement, signed on Thursday on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, covers two power units with a combined generating capacity of 2,400 megawatts. The plant will be built near the village of Ulken on the shores of Lake Balkhash in Kazakhstan's Almaty Region.



"The document signed today marks a new stage in our cooperation with Kazakhstan," TASS quoted Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev as saying on Thursday. "In the near future, Rosatom will carry out design work and establish an international consortium of equipment suppliers."

"At every stage of the project, we will remain firmly focused on our main objective: to build and commission power units that meet the strictest international safety and efficiency requirements. We are confident that Russian nuclear technologies will provide a reliable foundation for the Republic of Kazakhstan's energy independence and sustainable development."

Rosatom, which will lead an international consortium, will oversee the full project cycle, including design, procurement, construction, commissioning and handover of the completed facility.

Site surveys for the future plant are already underway and are expected to be completed in 2027. Engineers will then prepare documentation needed to secure construction permits. Construction is expected to begin in 2027, with the plant scheduled to enter operation in the mid-2030s.

Rosatom was selected in June 2025 to lead the international consortium for Kazakhstan's first modern high-capacity nuclear power plant after Astana said the Russian company had submitted "the best proposal."

It competed against China National Nuclear Corporation, France's EDF and South Korea's Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power.

The project is estimated to cost around \$16.4 billion, including approximately \$14.4 billion for the power units and another \$2 billion for infrastructure, safety systems and fuel for the warranty period. Russia is expected to provide up to 85% of the financing through a state export loan, while Kazakhstan will cover the remaining 15%.

The plant is expected to take about 11 years to complete, with commissioning targeted for around 2035-2036. Rosatom has also said it sees no obstacles to involving companies from other countries in the international consortium.

Despite being the world's largest uranium producer, Kazakhstan currently generates no nuclear electricity. The country has accounted for roughly 40% of global uranium mine production in recent years and holds significant uranium reserves.

Kazakh authorities have argued that nuclear power will help meet growing electricity demand, strengthen energy security and reduce the country's heavy reliance on coal-fired generation. The government is also pursuing additional nuclear projects as part of a broader effort to expand and diversify the country's power generation capacity.



SECTION

02

SPOTLIGHT ON GLOBAL REGULATORY ARENA

Global Regulatory Developments

Finland's Readiness for Nuclear Emergencies Assessed by IAEA

Strengthening national coordination is one of the recommendations made by an International Atomic Energy Agency team which identified a number of strengths in Finland's preparedness and response framework for nuclear and radiological emergencies.

The agency's 10-day Emergency Preparedness Review, which concluded on Wednesday, identified strengths in Finland's framework, "including the national mechanism bringing together public authorities, industry and non-governmental organisations to ensure the continuity of critical societal functions in an emergency, and the Satasairaala hospital's training plan for managing anyone affected by radioactive contamination as the result of an emergency".

Areas identified for further improvement include to: "strengthen national coordination at the preparedness stage by establishing a National Coordinating Mechanism and during the response to a nuclear or radiological emergency especially in the early and transition phases by developing a National Radiation Emergency Plan in accordance with IAEA Safety Standards; establish legislation for the management of radioactive waste generated from decontamination activities in case of a nuclear or radiological emergency; further improve arrangements for the protection of the public, emergency workers and helpers, for public communication and for integrating international assistance with the national response; and enhance laboratory capacity for the analysis of environmental, food and water samples".



Olivier Isnard, Deputy Director for Emergency Preparedness and Response at the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, who led the mission team, said: "Finland has invested considerable effort and resources in preparing for nuclear and radiological emergencies, and we saw this reflected in the expertise and commitment of the organisations we met ... more systematic coordination at the national level, and across sectors and phases of an emergency, would help Finland draw even more effectively on these capabilities."

Karim Peltonen, Director at Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK), said the mission provided "important input to the development of Finnish arrangements in preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergencies, especially enhancing the coordination of all parties that participate in preparedness and response"

and demonstrated Finland's commitment "to the rule-based world order and to the international framework for preparedness and response for nuclear and radiological emergencies".

The Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) was carried out at the invitation of Finland's government and hosted by STUK. The team included experts from Argentina, Austria, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Slovenia and South Africa. They visited the country's two nuclear power plants, the Satasairaala hospital chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training centre, as well as food safety laboratories and the Helsinki City Rescue Department and civil defence shelter. They also interviewed the main governmental and emergency authorities.

Finland operates five nuclear power reactors at the Loviisa and Olkiluoto nuclear power plants. Radiation sources are also used in medical, industrial and research applications, and the Olkiluoto site also hosts the world's first geological disposal facility, Onkalo.

UK regulators to begin Xe-100 design assessment

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has directed UK regulators to begin the Generic Design Assessment of the X-energy Xe-100 high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, after completing reviews of X-energy UK Holdings Ltd's application.



The decision was announced exactly a year after British multinational energy and services company Centrica and X-energy Reactor - a subsidiary of X-energy LLC of the USA - signed a Joint Development Agreement to deploy X-energy's Xe-100 advanced modular reactors in the UK. The companies have identified EDF and Centrica's Hartlepool site in the north-east of England as the preferred first location for a planned UK fleet of up to 6 GWe.

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is a voluntary process through which the UK's nuclear regulators - the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales - assess the safety, security and environmental implications of new reactor designs intended for deployment in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), separately from applications to build them at specific sites. Successful completion of the three-step GDA culminates in the issue of a Design Acceptance Confirmation from the ONR and a Statement of Design Acceptability from the Environment Agency.

The ONR said the GDA will begin "once the necessary arrangements around timescales and resources have been put in place". X-energy UK Holding Ltd is also currently engaging with UK regulators as part of a Tier 3 Preliminary Design Review on selected topic areas of the Xe-100 design, the regulator noted.

X-energy submitted its application to enter the GDA process for the Xe-100 in June. GDA acceptance formally triggers the process of assessing the design's acceptability for deployment and operation ahead of the technical and environmental evaluations required for site-specific licensing and permitting, which is expected to take about three years.

The submission builds on the Xe-100's US licensing progress and is expected to benefit from expanded collaboration between the UK regulators and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), X-energy said, enabling NRC-reviewed design documentation and safety analyses into UK design reviews. The NRC has been actively engaged in pre-application activities with X Energy since September 2018.



COMING IN OUR NEXT EDITION:

ENRRA ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

International cooperation is not only about organizations and agreements; it is also about the people who represent ENRRA around the world.

Starting from the second edition, ENRRA on the International Stage section will feature the experiences of ENRRA employees who participate in international meetings, missions, workshops, training programmes, conferences and other activities abroad.

The Communication and International Cooperation Department encourages you to share your experience with your colleagues through our Newsletter, you are invited to share your lessons learned and professional experiences, helping colleagues across ENRRA benefit from knowledge gained through international engagement.



Have you recently participated in an international activity?

Share your experience with us at:



PRIC@enrra.org

Contributions may include a short-written reflection, key lessons learned and, where available, photos from the activity. Selected contributions will be considered for publication in upcoming editions of the newsletter.