

**UK**

**UK** has published an interim assessment report that identifies 25 recommended areas for review – by either industry, the government or regulators – to determine if “sensible and appropriate” measures can further improve safety in the UK nuclear industry. See interim report from [www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/interim-report.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/fukushima/interim-report.pdf) NN

**Europe**

**Areva** and **Electricité de France** subsidiary **Corys** has won a multi-million euro contract for the renovation of training simulators at the **Mochovce** and **Bohunice** V2 nuclear plants operated by national utility Slovenské Elektrárne in Slovakia. Both simulators will be used for operator training and licensing of VVER 440 V213 pressurised water reactor (PWR) units NN

**Germany's Siemens AG** has paid **France's Areva SA** 648 million euro (EUR) (927 million US dollars) after an arbitral tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce found the German company failed to meet contractual obligations in the nuclear joint venture Areva NP that it exited earlier in 2011. The payment, plus interest, will be booked in Siemens's fiscal third quarter ending in June 2011. The tribunal also cut in half the term of the non-compete clause of the former joint venture to four years. NN

**Lithuania's State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate** (Vatesi) has issued a licence to **Ignalina** nuclear power plant for the construction of solid radioactive waste retrieval and pre-treatment facilities. The new facilities will be used for retrieval, segregation and pre-treatment of solid radioactive waste accumulated during the operation of the Ignalina plant. Solid radioactive waste generated from any future nuclear power plant projects in Lithuania will be kept in new storage facilities. Commissioning of the facilities, to be built at the existing Ignalina site near the border with Latvia and Belarus, is scheduled for 2013. NN

Members of the **European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group** (Ensreg) and the **European Commission** have reached “a fair degree of agreement” on the form of stress tests proposed for nuclear power plants in the **European Union**. The assessments will cover extraordinary triggering events like earthquakes and floods and the consequences of any other initiating events – for example transport accidents such as airplane crashes, potentially leading to multiple loss of safety functions requiring severe accident management. There was also proposed establishing a process in order to address risks due to security threats. NN

**Slovenia** has become the 30th member country of the **OECD Nuclear Energy Agency** (NEA). Becoming a full member of the NEA is a “very important step” to country that will provide new challenges and mutual benefits for both Slovenia and other member countries. Slovenia has been an observer in the seven NEA standing technical committees since 2002 and joined the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in July 2010. NN

In response to Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, Finnish **Radiation and Nuclear Safety** Authority (STUK) submitted a report to the **Ministry of Employment and the Economy** (TEM) as requested on how Finnish nuclear power plants are prepared for exceptional natural phenomena. Report (in Finnish) is available from: [www.stuk.fi/stuk/tiedotteet/en\\_GB/news\\_680/](http://www.stuk.fi/stuk/tiedotteet/en_GB/news_680/) Other

**Swedish** company **Brokk** is providing demolition robots to Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan to help clear highly contaminated areas at the facility. The first machine arrived onsite in mid-April and another shipment left Sweden at the weekend and will arrive at Fukushima within a few weeks. The machines will be operated from a control room as far as one kilometre from the reactors. NN

## Russia

Operation of a new nuclear reactor at **Russia's Kalinin** power plant has come closer with the loading of dummy fuel for commissioning tests. The primary circuit can now be flushed ahead of pressure tests and other checks that must take place before real nuclear fuel is loaded. Kalinin 4 is slated for start-up in September and commercial operation two months later. WNN

**Izhora Works**, part of **Russia's OMZ Group**, has shipped the reactor vessel for **Novovoronezh-2**, the reference VVER-1200 plant. It is the first RPV that has been manufactured in Russia for a new Russian nuclear power plant in the last 20 years. NE

## China

The second unit at **China's Ling Ao II** nuclear power plant, operated by **China Gaungdong Nuclear Power Company** (CGNPC), has been connected to the grid. The reactor is the second 1080 MWe Chinese-designed CPR-1000 pressurised water reactor (PWR) to start up, following its sister plant Ling Ao II unit 1, which entered commercial operation in September 2010. WNN

The second steel ring of the containment vessel of unit 2, the Westinghouse AP1000, at the **Haiyang** nuclear power plant in eastern **China's** Shandong province has been lifted into place. The containment vessel ring was the second of six. When completed, this airtight structure will house all the reactor system's primary circuit components including the reactor vessel, main coolant pumps and steam generators. It will be surrounded by a steel-concrete-steel sandwich construction outer structure. WNN

The reactor building dome - with a diameter of 37 metres, a height of 11 metres and weighing 156 tonnes - of unit 2 at the **Yangjiang** nuclear power plant in China has been carefully lifted by crane and placed on top of the containment vessel walls of Yangjiang unit 2. The successful installation by of the dome means that the project to build Yangjiang unit 2 now enters its next phase, when heavy reactor system components are installed within the building. The installation had been done by plant constructor **China Nuclear Engineering and Construction Corp** (CNECC). WNN

## Asia and Middle East

Nuclear plant operator **Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power** (KHNP) and technical services company **TÜV SÜD** have signed an agreement that will see them cooperate on nuclear energy. The collaboration will focus on information and experience sharing about safety issues in the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning of power plants and equipment. NN

**Pakistan's** third nuclear power reactor **Chashma 2**, also known as CHASNUPP-2, has begun commercial operation. The Chashma Nuclear Power Plant unit 2 is a 300 MWe pressurized water reactor located near Chashma Barrage on the left bank of the River Indus. WNN

First criticality has been achieved on 8 May 2011 at **Bushehr**, **Iran's** first nuclear power unit. Final commissioning tests will now be carried out before power is increased to 100 percent and commercial operation begins. NN

**Tokyo Electric Power Company** (Tepco) has confirmed the company's decision to decommission units 1 to 4 and to cancel construction of the proposed units 7 and 8 at the **Fukushima-Daiichi** nuclear plant. Units 1 to 4 have been "substantially damaged both internally and externally" by the earthquake and tsunami that struck the plant on 11 March 2011. Units 7 and 8 were to be the first advanced boiling water reactors in Fukushima prefecture. But it would be "very difficult" to gain acceptance from local residents for construction of the units. NN

**Japan** plans to create a single nuclear regulator, similar to those that exist in many other countries. This is because of the **Atomic Energy Society** of Japan analysed the March 2011 accident at the **Fukushima-Daiichi** nuclear power plant and noticed that the existence of multiple supervisory bodies made responsibilities unclear and hampered communication in the wake of the accident. A review of the roles of Japan's three main nuclear supervisory bodies: the Nuclear Safety Commission, the industry ministry's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, and the science ministry is to be done and unified regulator such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the US is to be called. NN

**India** is planning legislation to create an "independent and autonomous" body to subsume the country's existing regulator, the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** (AERB). The government will introduce a bill in the next session of parliament to create the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of India. NN

## Americas

**Westinghouse Electric Company** has developed an emergency fuel pool cooling system (**EFPCS**) to keep spent nuclear fuel cool in emergency situations, including the loss of all plant power. The system consists of a permanently installed "primary" cooling loop located inside the reactor building or spent fuel pool (SFP) building, and a mobile "secondary" cooling loop. The secondary cooling loop is stored off-site and then located outside the reactor building for either emergency or pre-planned use. This approach reduces the time required for system assembly and startup, which is especially important during emergency situations, and eliminates the need to enter the reactor building. The EFPCS includes mobile diesel generators, air compressors, switchgear and other support equipment required to operate this stand-alone system. Other

An uprate of **NextEra Energy's** twin-unit **Point Beach** nuclear power plant in Wisconsin that will increase the generating capacity of each of the plant's reactors by 17% has been approved by the **US Nuclear Regulatory Commission** (NRC). The uprate will increase the capacity of each of the pressurized water reactors from 512 MWe to 600 MWe. The NRC determined that NextEra could safely raise output primarily by carrying out significant upgrades to several plant systems and components, including safety-related pumps and valves, as well as the turbine-generator sets. NextEra will implement the uprate of unit 2 during its current refuelling outage and plans to implement that of unit 1 during its next refuelling outage, planned for later in 2011. WNN

**The Babcock & Wilcox Companies** (B&W) (NYSE:BWC) subsidiary **Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc.** (B&W TSG) and **USEC Inc.** (USEC) have completed the formation of **American Centrifuge Manufacturing, LLC** (ACM) to provide integrated manufacturing, assembly and delivery of centrifuge machines for USEC's American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio. In addition to the precise machining of centrifuge components, ACM administers a consolidated approach for supply chain management of the suppliers and subcontractors supporting the program. ACM is responsible for shipments to the Piketon facility, as well as completion of final assembly operations there. ACM will also deliver spare parts and other maintenance support services for centrifuge machines at the American Centrifuge Plant under a long-term service agreement. ACM is located at USEC's American Centrifuge Manufacturing Center in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Other

**Dominion Resources** is to sell the **Kewaunee** nuclear power plant in Wisconsin, **USA**. The company is confident it would find a buyer for the plant, which was granted a 20-year licence extension by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission in January 2011. WNN

**Bruce Power** in Ontario, **Canada** has celebrated the completion of fuel channel installation in the refurbishment of the **Bruce A1** nuclear power reactor. The horizontal pressure tubes are designed to hold 12 bundles of natural uranium fuel, with complex end pieces to allow online refuelling. WNN

**Russia** and **Argentina** have signed a memorandum of which the routine purpose is to extend cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy, but it also notes that Argentina will continue to look into **Rosatom** proposals for future nuclear power plants in the country and stipulates that Rosatom is prequalified as a possible supplier for Argentina's fourth nuclear power plant. WNN

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