

Press release

Sogin, Ansaldo Nucleare and Granit Technologies agree to develop radioactive organic waste treatment technology

The first plant will be built in Trino (Vercelli, Italy) to treat resins produced during nuclear power generation operations

Rome, 5th February 2009. Sogin, Ansaldo Nucleare and Granit Technologies have signed a cooperation agreement to develop innovative radioactive organic waste treatment technology.

Granit Technologies is a Switzerland-based company that has developed and patented a wet oxidation process to treat industrial and civil organic waste.

The agreement covers the application of the wet oxidation process to the treatment and conditioning of radioactive organic waste produced by nuclear power plants and nuclear facilities, with a view to reducing their volume and guaranteeing long term safety.

The first plant will be built at the Trino nuclear power plant to treat resins produced when the plant was in service. The technology can then be used at other Sogin plants affected by similar issues.

Sogin will develop the system to extract the resins from their current containers and the post-treatment system for process residues. It will also handle approval procedures and ensure that the materials resulting from treatment comply with requirements for dumping in Italian landfills.

Ansaldo Nucleare, a Finmeccanica group company, will be in charge of adapting the technology for use in the nuclear segment.

The timescale planned to develop the technology and build the plant stands at a little more than two years, with costs totalling about Euro 13 million. The technology can also be applied to the treatment of ionic exchange resins produced in foreign nuclear plants. For these purposes the agreement makes provision to promote the technology on the global decommissioning market.

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