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WNE DAILY

NOVEMBER 06 2025 // PARIS NORD VILLEPINTE

INVESTORS TAKE NEW LOOK AT NUCLEAR

Increased momentum and understanding of the nuclear sector is helping to remove some of the perceived risks for investment, helping to open the industry up for much-needed private financing.

"The perceived risk is changing a lot and it is changing in a more positive way and at a very fast pace," Issam Taleb, a partner at EY-Parthenon France in the Energy and Resources sector, said during a panel session on financing yesterday.

"Two years ago, I would say the private equity contacts we had were not willing to address that market," he said. But, pointing to the changed political discourse and increased momentum for nuclear energy, Taleb said investors wanted to be educated about the industry. "There is momentum for [investor] newcomers. It is changing a lot."

Jasbir Singh Sidhu, former president of the Nuclear Institute and part of Nuclear Capital, concurred, pointing to the significance of nuclear being viewed as "critical national infrastructure".

"I've noticed there are many, many more private equity investors really looking at nuclear," he said. "There was a moratorium at certain infrastructure funds on investing in nuclear because it was not an asset class that they would touch. That has changed.

"Banks have woken up to the idea of investing in nuclear and [are] eyeing up projects. But they have to be bankable projects."

Notably, in June, World Bank Group formalised a partnership with IAEA on supporting nuclear energy in developing countries, marking its first concrete step to re-engage with nuclear power in decades.

"The World Bank is looking at investing in nuclear. Why is that? It's because they realise nuclear is part of the critical national infrastructure, not just for each nation state, but for the world now," Sidhu said. "So, there are many, many players coming into the market."

Speaking earlier during the wide-ranging session, Boris Schucht, chief executive of enrichment and fuel cycle services provider Urenco, pointed to the recent "very good sign" of private financing secured for the Sizewell C nuclear newbuild in the UK.

"When money is going in one direction, other money will follow. And we are seeing that," Schucht said, noting that this is in part being driven by political momentum, such as government pledges to triple nuclear power share.

"It's not only a political ambition anymore. It is now step-by-step, country-by-country, translated into business and political actions. That creates momentum and momentum attracts money," he said.

Schucht also pointed to the significance of such action in helping to provide stability, a requisite for investment given the long-term nature of projects in the industry. "That creates the momentum that convinces investors, convinces the market of stability," he said.

The panel also featured insights from former French minister and entrepreneur Arnaud Montebourg, executive vice-president of overseas business division at South Korea's KHNP, Insik Park, and from Markus Rauramo, chief executive of Nordic clean energy firm Fortum – who is also current president of trade body Eurelectric.

> ***"The perceived risk is changing a lot and it is changing in a more positive way and at a very fast pace"***
>
> *Issam Taleb*
> *EY-Parthenon France*

Fresh take on financing: panel debates how to best to secure funding for revived nuclear sector

Day Three
Exhibitors event

13:30-15:00
Pavillon République Tchèque
CZECH ENERGY MIX
Networking - Pavillon B004, B004D

WNE DAILY

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Cooperation is the key to global success

GIFEN chairman Xavier Ursat (pictured), speaking yesterday, stressed the need for cooperation to meet the expectations that surround the nuclear industry.

"Cooperation is still a cornerstone to meet the future needs of our industry," Ursat said, in a keynote address. "Cooperation inside the supply chain, cooperation at the European level and cooperation worldwide.

"Together through strong partnerships we can ensure the success of our shared goals. Strengthening the European supply chain would give better flexibility in terms of resources and additional capacity, as well as a stronger and more sovereign industry."

In outlining key challenges around delivery and sovereignty, Ursat also stressed the importance of maintaining safety. "Without safety and security, there cannot be nuclear success," he said. "This is the bedrock of our public trust."

WORKSHOP

CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Industry's linear economic model is no longer feasible. The circular economy approach enables sustainability, reducing the environmental impact and conserving resources for future generations, and is the subject of a workshop at WNE today presented by Cyclife, an EDF subsidiary.

Cyclife has championed this approach in nuclear power, providing decommissioning and the management services for low and very low-level radioactive waste. Its plant in Sweden has been active for more than 30 years, recycling metals for reuse in conventional industry, and will double its capacity this year to meet growing demand.

Managing director Delphine Servot said Cyclife has demonstrated strong operational success in the treatment of scrap metal and large metallic components, such as full-size steam generators.

"Leveraging advanced processes rooted in circular economy principles, we have achieved recycling rates of up to 95% for metals, significantly reducing CO_2 emissions and conserving repository space," she said. "We expanded the treatment capacity for metallic wastes to 10,000 tonnes per year."

And demand will only grow, with more than 200 nuclear reactors worldwide shut down for decommissioning, so Cyclife is developing the Technocentre Project in France, an ultra-modern plant capable of recycling of large metal components, due to open in 2036.

Project manager Laurent Augé said the Technocentre will be a centralised metal recycling facility to process the approximately 500,000 tonnes of very-low level radioactive metals produced in France. The material, he said, would come from" dismantling operations at EDF, Orano, CEA, as well as international projects".

"In terms of energy consumption and emission of CO_2, the production of secondary steel, from recycling consumes 40% less energy and emits 57% less greenhouse gases than its production by mining."

Cyclife's circular economy approach: 14:30, Workshop Room 2

JOB AND CAREERS PROGRAMME

INSPIRING FUTURE TALENT POOLS

Students visiting the show as part of the Job and Careers programme were surprised by Sébastien Martin, minister delegate for Industry, attached to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty, in an impromptu conversation. He took the opportunity to talk about the opportunities the nuclear sector presents for the younger generation, the importance of the industry in combatting carbon emissions, and its need for qualified young talent.

ORANO EXPANDS FUTURE-PROOFING PROGRAMME

The Orano group has signed three new engineering partnership agreements with Ametra, Assystem and Vulcain, in support of its Aval du futur programme.

The signing ceremony, which took place on the Orano stand (H054), was attended by Claude Imauven, chairman of the Orano board, chief executive Nicolas Maes, Nicolas Ferrand, senior executive vice-president, Aval du futur programme, and Guillaume Dureau, Orano's director of engineering, as well as representatives of the partner companies.

Orano's Aval du futur programme aims to renew its nuclear fuel processing and recycling plants, including a fuel unloading facility and a new MOX fuel fabrication plant facility, at the La Hague site, whose commissioning is scheduled for the early 2040s, as well as a new spent fuel processing plant planned for the mid-century.

Orano will also work to keep its existing facilities in operational condition as part of a program to ensure the long-term future and resilience.

Guillaume Dureau said: "These new partnerships mark a strategic step forward in the structuring of the Aval du futur programme and of our other projects in progress, including the sustainability-resilience programme. Orano's engineering has over 70 years of know-how in the nuclear fuel cycle. It is currently undergoing a complete transformation to be ready to handle a project workload estimated to rise to over 10 million hours by 2030.

"To rise to this challenge, we are leveraging all the resources at our disposal: recruitment, regional and local development, and, above all, stronger partnerships with recognized industry players. The extension of our engineering ecosystem is strengthening our capacity to design innovative and sustainable solutions for both our current and future projects."

TALENT CLUSTERS IN FRANCE'S NO 1 NUCLEAR REGION

The French pavilion yesterday hosted a delegation from Provence, highlighting the breadth of capabilities and facilities in France's first nuclear region.

Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of France and President of WNE, introduced the unique nuclear cluster, outlining the extensive range of competences. She said: "The entire nuclear cycle is deployed in this cluster, [which] can be explained by the local presence of ITER, the largest fusion project worldwide."

She described the wide range of nuclear research and production facilities, training centres and institutes, based in the region, supporting the industry's evolution. "Provence is a region that is historically open to international trade, and Marseille is a truly global city," and is now the sixth largest digital hub in the world.

Pietro Barabaschi, director general of ITER, announced that, thanks to the regional support of international companies based in Provence, the ITER project "is going very well. We have a scheduled performance index, and we are executing at more than 100% execution rate. We are seven weeks ahead of schedule and we hope to gain even more."

CHEERS! ASSYSTEM HITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

"Assystem was born from the excellence of the French nuclear industry, and that excellence continues to thrive, both in France and across the world. Today, a new vision is driving us forward: one of global ambition."

These were the words yesterday of the company's founder, Dominique Louis, as the company celebrated its 60th anniversary at WNE. He said: "What has remained unchanged are the values that have guided us since the very beginning: we are skilled, we are happy, and we trust the younger generations.

"My main ambition is to ensure Assystem's long-term future. We work every day to keep Assystem an independent, family-owned company, and that's what makes us successful. It's a great adventure, and I hope to see it continue for many years to come."

Earlier, Assystem (F030) and INSTN (G030B) renewed their long-standing collaboration and confirmed Assystem's support to INSTN through the apprenticeship tax, with the signing of a new three-year partnership agreement.

Under the agreement the partners will ensure that INSTN training programmes remain fully aligned with Assystem's professional skills needs; support and promote the involvement of its experts in INSTN training sessions; develop apprenticeship opportunities for INSTN students within Assystem teams; strengthen the links between the nuclear engineering programme, the master's in nuclear energy, and the RESNUC master's with Assystem's needs through the creation of student projects; and continue to deliver the two Assystem-labelled INSTN training courses: operation of nuclear facilities, and nuclear safety.

Assystem also signed an MoU with Metroscope (F064), a SaaS solutions provider specialising in performance diagnostics and predictive maintenance, for collaboration on data- and AI-driven solutions to anticipate failures, enhance maintenance reliability, and sustainably improve the performance of industrial assets across the energy sector, both in France and internationally.

Nuclear fizzy! Dominique Louis (left), chairman and founder of Assystem, raised a glass yesterday with Stéphane Aubarbier, deputy chief executive, at their company's 60th anniversary celebration at WNE

US promotes international partnership

It is a remarkable time for the nuclear industry in the United States. While worldwide there is a cascade of policies towards nuclear, the US government is demonstrating a consolidated policy commitment across the political spectrum.

The Trump administration is focusing on nuclear development in the US and within this decade the country intends to build new plants of all sizes – large, small, micro, with dozens of designs coming to the market – distinguishing the US as an innovator in the sector.

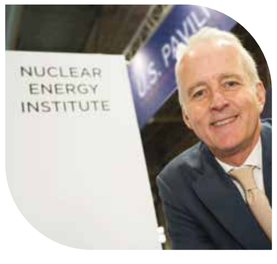
The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) team at the US pavilion at WNE 2025 (D020) says the government is also actively supporting partnerships with countries that are considering nuclear. It offers a long track record of industrial partnership and an opportunity to partner not just in their own countries, but in the US, which is set to be the world's largest open market.

Michael J Flannigan, NEI vice-president Governmental Affairs, said: "The US has a record of incorporating local companies into the global supply chains, so partnership with the US is a long-term economic move, not just to create reliable and clean energy.

"We are proud that this is part of the DNA of the US nuclear industry. We believe that countries are not just looking for electrons on the grid, they are looking for long-term economic benefits.

"2025 has been remarkable. The Trump administration has been tremendously supportive in the tax credit space to support the US nuclear industry. On 23 May in the Oval Office, the President of the United States, with Maria Korsnick, president and chief executive of the NEI, signed four executive orders to promote the domestic and international nuclear industry.

"The message from the US pavilion is that we have one of the strongest administrations in terms of international support for nuclear that we have seen in a long time," he added.



3 QUESTIONS

with Jose Larios, president and CEO of Celeros Flow Technology (G113)

Our nuclear journey began more than 60 years ago with the first industrial-scale nuclear power plant. Since then, our pumps and valves have played a central role in major programmes worldwide.

WNE, the premier event in the global nuclear calendar, is an important platform to demonstrate our commitment to the industry and engage with stakeholders across the value chain, from operators and OEMs to regulators.

As gold sponsors, our presence underscores our role as a trusted partner and highlights our specialised solutions that support the long-term safety, reliability, and efficiency of nuclear plants.

The nuclear sector is transforming as part of the drive to meet demand for sustainable, reliable power. Key challenges for the industry include life extension, SMR development and supply chain resilience.

At Celeros FT, we deliver engineered upgrades and long-term service agreements, engage early in SMR design and strengthen supply chain security through regional manufacturing and qualification programmes.

Through our participation in WNE 2025, we aim to deepen industry connections, showcase advanced solutions and gain insights into SMRs and life extension projects, while cultivating new partnerships aligned with our growth strategy.

BOOKSHOP .wne

TODAY'S SIGNING SESSIONS AT THE EPHEMERAL LIBRARY

10:00-11:00
MADAME L'AMBASSADEUR : DE PEKIN A MOSCOU, UNE VIE DE DIPLOMATE
Sylvie BERMANN, President of WNE, Ambassador of France

92% *of people in Poland support nuclear energy*

3 QUESTIONS

with China National Nuclear Corporation (K022)

WNE is a renowned international event that showcases the advancements and opportunities within the nuclear energy industry. For China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), it offers a valuable platform to demonstrate our comprehensive capabilities across the full nuclear power spectrum.

Additionally, the exhibition serves as an ideal platform for engaging with global peers and exploring opportunities for international business development. It has set a benchmark for excellence and collaboration worldwide.

At CNNC, we are committed to advancing safe, efficient, and sustainable nuclear technologies to meet growing energy demands and support worldwide decarbonisation goals.

We provide stable zero-carbon power for emerging industries such as AI; we practice technology-driven development through open collaboration; and we promote a vision of a community with a shared future for mankind by advancing innovative applications such as nuclear-based hydrogen production and nuclear medicine.

To address industry-wide challenges and contribute China's solutions to worldwide decarbonisation, we are increasing R&D investment, accelerating digital transformation, and fostering open partnerships through expanded international collaboration.

We anticipate several important outcomes from our participation in WNE 2025.

Beyond showcasing our capabilities, we look forward to establishing new partnerships with international peers, engaging in technical exchanges with industry counterparts, and exploring wider opportunities for global collaboration.

中国核工业集团有限公司
China National Nuclear Corporation

Poland enjoys upsurge in nuclear industry

The Polish Pavilion (NO82) at WNE 2025 is buzzing, with 37 companies represented, and Andrzej Sidlo, director of Poland's Ministry of Energy (pictured), is delighted with the gathering.

"This is my fifth time bringing the Polish pavilion to WNE," he said. "In 2016 we had only six companies. This year we have 50 companies with around 200 people across the exhibition."

As Poland prepares for its first nuclear project, with commissioning of the first unit due in 2035-36, the government is supporting the development of local talent to support the venture.

Sidlo said: "Although this is our first in-country development, we have a range of companies that have nuclear experience, and are involved in projects mainly in Europe, but also in the USA, Canada, China, India, wherever there is nuclear development. This gives us a good start to localisation.

"The government is investing now in building skill levels in the industry and running training programmes for local companies. We are also working to develop the capacity of our regulator, as currently they are not able to work on a such a large-scale project."

He said there is great support for nuclear development in Poland: "92% of people in Poland support nuclear energy. They see it as the future of the country."

Pipe dreams: Alleima Tube's Peter Waller has seen an increase in interest

PIPE SPECIALIST SEES ORDER UPTICK

The array of piping on the Alleima Tube stand (G104), highlights the company's long history with the industry, recording five decades of supplying critical components to the nuclear sector and well over 60 million metres of nuclear fuel tubes delivered to more than 100 reactors worldwide.

Peter Waller, global product manager Steam Generator Tubing, said: "We have been making variants of these products since the 1960s. We are now working with a lot of Generation IV and SMR companies and continue to cover the full tube and pipe business."

He has seen an increase in interest from the industry. "This last year has been busier for orders than before. It seems that the show is bigger, and it has been very effective. We have been in contact with so many customers on the stand and walking around."

*in*brief

PARTNERS ACHIEVE KEY FUEL PROCESS

Framatome and TerraPower have achieved a key milestone in uranium metallisation for advanced reactor fuel commercialisation after producing elements of uranium metal.

Announced during WNE, the companies say the metallic uranium 'pucks' represent a critical component in advancing the fuel supply chain for TerraPower's Natrium reactor.

The process, technologies and expertise used to produce metal from depleted uranium can be used with uranium at the higher enrichment levels required to power TerraPower's advanced reactor design.

TerraPower president Chris Levesque said the breakthrough demonstrates that the metallisation component of HALEU fuel can be manufactured domestically, supporting "plans to rapidly deploy Natrium plants across the United States".

The fabrication line was completed at Framatome's Richland, Washington, nuclear fuel manufacturing facility.

*in*focus

WINNING WAYS

Andrea Bachrata, president of WiN France (centre) is joined at WNE by Patricia Schindler, president of WiN PACA (left), and Haske Reiling, vice-president of WiN Netherlands, who were named winners of the second iteration of the WiN France Initiative Award – Europe Edition

EUROPEANS JOIN FORCES FOR DATA INITIATIVE

A consortium of six European nuclear nd digital players have joined forces to create a sovereign and secure digital space for data exchange.

EDF, CAE, Dawax, GIFEN, Institut Mines-Telecom and Sopra Steria disclosed the new initiative, called Data4NuclearX, yesterday at the show.

Data4NuclearX aims to promote secure data exchange in support of the expanding industry, facilitating interaction between companies in the nuclear sector, management of complex projects and the acceleration of digitisation of the sector.

The project envisages design and scoping until 2027 and then a pilot phase on the first three priority uses.

Operational deployment will follow from 2028. The Data4NuclearX project is supported by the French government as part of its mastering sovereign digital technologies initiative, France 2030.

CEA Chief executive Alexandre Bounouh

Rolls-Royce's Andy Mullineux with the model of the company's AMR

A FLEXIBLE SOLUTION TO ENERGY DEMANDS

The Rolls-Royce stand (D034) features a detailed model of the company's concept advanced modular reactor (AMR), the UK company's solution for the global call for energy resilience, scalable power and a decarbonised energy solution.

Andy Mullineux, campaign executive, Rolls-Royce, said: "The demand for energy is growing, with AI driving the need for data centre power, and putting pressure on the grid, so providing an offgrid solution is an interesting and unique proposition."

The AMR uses a lower radiation coated particle fuel, high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), with a triple layer protection mechanism that is clean and inherently safe.

Mullineux said: "It is not isolated to a particular niche; we are able to service a huge number of applications – such as data centres, but also security and defence need resilient energy – and across a huge power range.

"It is modular in form, so it is transportable and scalable. We can take it to where there is demand and it is easy to deploy. It is complementary to SMRs in a portfolio."

The project is currently in concept stage, with a projected mid-2030s timeline, in line with the development of the HALEU fuel.

Mullineux said: "We have had a really positive response at the show. People are interested in the brand and what we have to offer. They understand the portfolio we've got and the reputation that brings.

"We are well-positioned from the technological point of view, but we are also well positioned to industrialise this and take it to market, and providing a competitive product to fill that market demand. Rolls-Royce has a portfolio serving the whole energy power spectrum need."

EDF signs cooperation agreements with industrial partners

EDF has used the platform of WNE to highlight the importance of building an integrated, standardised, and diversified value chain, signing a number of cooperation agreements with industrial partners.

On opening day, agreements were signed with Dutch industry partners, including DEME Offshore NL, Mammoet (N039), and Haskoning, in the presence of EDF chief executive Bernard Fontana.

Through these collaborations, EDF aims to position itself as a trusted partner for the Dutch new nuclear market, by relying on the country's industrial expertise and capacity. Close cooperation with leading Dutch companies will strengthen Europe's integrated nuclear supply chain and enhance the ability to competitively deliver new build projects in the coming decades.

As part of this ongoing momentum, EDF's subsidiary Nuward, which is dedicated to developing its eponymous SMR, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian-based company Maire.

This agreement establishes the framework for exploring cooperation between the two, in particular regarding the Nuward SMR programme structuring, projects delivery and modularity.

Fontana said : "This year's WNE is an opportunity to highlight that EDF, along with its subsidiaries Framatome and Arabelle Solutions, has the resources and technology to help build France and Europe's nuclear future.

"Our achievements in delivering projects in France and the United Kingdom demonstrate our commitment to working with local industries, public authorities, and communities with a common standard of safety, security, quality, lead time and competitiveness."

*in*brief

AI APPROACH TRANSFORMS X-RAY SECURITY SCREENING

US exhibitor ScanTech AI Systems (E018B) is transforming X-ray screening with smart artificial intelligence (AI). The Georgia-based company, at WNE for the first time, designs solutions to enhance threat detection, streamline security operations, and improve staff throughput across critical infrastructure sectors – including nuclear, aviation, and government facilities. Boasting proven field performance and mission-focused innovation, its smart, scalable systems align with the evolving demands of modern security environments.

LITHUANIAN EXPERTISE IN RADIATION DETECTION

First-time exhibitor Polimaster (L009) designs and manufactures equipment for radiation detection, monitoring, and control. Its solutions are used globally by security professionals, border control officers, healthcare providers, industrial personnel, environmental scientists, and emergency responders to prevent radiation hazards. Based in Lithuania, its team consists of leading experts and scientists in radiation detection, combining expertise in physics with industrial knowledge to create cutting-edge radiation detection devices and dosimeters.

TURNKEY SERVICE IN LIFTING SYSTEMS

Apco Technologies (B021), a Franco-Swiss company specialising in the design and manufacture of high-security mechanical and electromechanical equipment, is at the show to promote its comprehensive solutions for specialised equipment such as polar cranes and safety-critical lifting systems. A first-time exhibitor, Apco offers a turnkey service, from basic design to manufacturing, installation and commissioning, tailored to each customer's needs.

CZECH EXPERTS OFFER FULL LIFECYCLE KNOWHOW

WNE newcomer Chemcomex a.s. (C/D/E046), an engineering and supply company, comes to the show with more than 30 years of experience in nuclear energy. The Czech company specialises in comprehensive solutions, from design to implementation of projects, including modernisation, decontamination, and demolition. Its know-how, emphasis on safety, and innovation make it a reliable partner in the European nuclear sector.

DENYS EMBRACES ENERGY TRANSITION

Denys (L036F) is at WNE for the first time to promote its capabilities across sectors, including energy. An innovator in the fields of water, energy, mobility, infrastructure, restoration, construction, and special techniques, the Belgian-based company believes in the future of the energy transition and sustainable infrastructure. It collaborates closely with its subsidiary Socea, a producer of steel-core concrete pipes.

65% *Celeros's pumps and valves are currently used in 65% of the world's operational nuclear power stations*

3 QUESTIONS

with Jon Adams, chief engineer, Rolls-Royce AMR (D034/8)

Rolls-Royce is exploring the opportunities in the Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) market and is uniquely placed to answer the global call for clean and scalable energy security. A Rolls-Royce AMR will deliver energy resilience and enable decarbonisation across civil, defence and industrial sectors.

A compact, High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor, our AMR will provide up to 25 mega-watts of power per unit and is designed for fast site deployment; compact in size and built in modules easily transportable by road, making it a versatile and credible power source for a multitude of applications.

Rolls-Royce is one of the world's only nuclear reactor vendors with full lifecycle experience and end-to-end capability to credibly deliver these novel technologies; based on proven, reliable power solutions in use across our business today.

World Nuclear Exhibition is a great platform from which to progress the development of our AMR programme, providing an excellent opportunity to network with our key partners across the nuclear industry, governments and supply chain.

Celeros FT's global nuclear sales director, Pascal Montel, on the company's stand at the show

Flow tech crucial to lifecycle demands

Gold sponsor Celeros Flow Technology (G113) is showcasing its role as a nuclear lifecycle partner at this year's WNE.

The company counts many leading nuclear operators among its clients. As a long-term partner to EDF, Celeros FT has supplied safety-critical flow control systems for many of EDF's nuclear power plants in France and the UK. Recently, it was awarded multiple contracts to supply safety-critical nuclear pump packages for Sizewell C, the UK's largest nuclear project to date.

Celeros FT has also built strategic relationships across the global nuclear supply chain with organisations such as Candu Energy, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), and Westinghouse to support future delivery of nuclear capacity.

By collaborating with nuclear power providers, it says significant improvements have been achieved in the design of safety-critical pumps used during station blackouts (SBO).

"Our pumps and valves are currently used in 65% of the world's operational nuclear power stations," says Pascal Montel, Celeros FT's global nuclear sales director. "WNE 2025 is the perfect platform for us to showcase our portfolio and strengthen our position as a trusted partner to the global nuclear industry."

HINKLEY POINT C: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The scale and complexity of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) newbuild is unparalleled in the UK, made harder by Covid, which set the project back two years. This delay has since been reduced by a year with the introduction of faster working practices on the second reactor.

The twin reactor power station is expected to help Britain achieve net zero and generate thousands of jobs, bringing a £13 billion boost to the economy.

Dr Michelle Tilley, project services director at EDF, told a large audience at WNE that the site will contribute 10% of the UK's current electricity consumption.

There have been many challenges, she said. "It's been 30 years since the UK built a new nuclear power station and that gap has been very hard and costly to rebuild.

"UK regulations and adaptations have been significant. We have spent hundreds of millions of pounds on three very different fish protection systems. We also had to add two extra floors to meet UK specific standards around temperature controls.

"These changes, or what sound like small changes, have added increased complexity and a 24% structural concrete increase."

HPC should be operational in 2029.

Dr Michelle Tilley, EDF's project services director, describes challenges faced in building HPC

NEW MEMBERS SIGN UP TO PEON PROGRAMME

GIFEN's flagship Programme d'Excellence Operationnelle de la fillere Nuclear (PEON) supporting operational excellence in the nuclear sector received a considerable boost yesterday at WNE. As part of the programme, launched in 2023, EDF chief executive Bernard Fontana and his Framatome counterpart, Grégoire Ponchon, signed an agreement to support 10 SMEs from the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region of eastern France on their journey to operational maturity. Framatome is sponsoring the programme, while Nuclear Valley is managing the process. Pictured from left are Sophie Rouzaud, director-general of Nuclear Valley; Francoise Onno, senior executive vice-president supply chain for Framatome, and Christophe Veron, head of the PEON programme.

PANEL

Harnessing the power of AI

There is no doubt that AI is transforming the nuclear industry, but its impact goes far beyond technology – touching on governance, expertise, and the future role of humans in nuclear projects.

One of the speakers at a WNE panel discussion today, Anne-Charlotte Dagorn, vice-president North America of platinum sponsor Assystem (pictured), says: "We already see AI giving tangible results in three main areas – automation, turning data into decisions, and transfer of knowledge.

"For example, we've created Optimizio, an AI-based planning tool that we've deployed with EDF to plan and optimise nuclear outages for maintenance operations.

"If you speculate what could happen by 2040 from a purely technological perspective, the potential of AI is almost infinite. Over the past decade the computational power of AI has been doubling every six months, so the capabilities that we'll have by 2040 are hard to imagine."

She welcomes these possibilities but emphasizes that beyond the technological perspective, the industry must find the right balance – ensuring AI reinforces, rather than replaces, human judgment and expertise. Future engineers must still gain the hands-on experience that builds true expertise and gives them the confidence to challenge the machine when needed.

Dagorn also feels the industry needs to adapt to leverage the full potential of the technology. "AI relies on data, and quality data comes through collaboration. Today, no single company has all the data alone and so if we want to truly unleash the potential of AI we need collaboration and data sharing across the entire industry and we are very far from that."

'AI in nuclear, today and tomorrow: enhancing operation, ensuring trust', 14:00, Main Stage

A step forward for robotics

Marc Blanchon, computer vision and robotics lead at Capgemini with Odin the humanoid robot

Meet Odin, the humanoid robot of Capgemini (K083), who is demonstrating his ability to perform a range of autonomous actions to support operators in the nuclear energy domain.

Marc Blanchon, computer vision and robotics lead at silver sponsor Capgemini explained the need for a humanoid design to the technology. "Our industries are built for humans, and therefore you have stairs, you have spacing designed for arms, you have things to your side.

"You cannot rebuild an industry for robots, so the best way is to have a form factor that allows collaboration in that environment.

"You can have some capacity between what the humans can perform and what the robots can perform, and so you can have collaboration between the two. If you want a robot that is adapted for the human environment, you have to have legs to climb stairs."

During the show, Capgemini and Orano (H054) announced that the first intelligent humanoid robot has been deployed in the nuclear sector at the Orano Melox Ecole des Métiers in the Gard region of France. Like Odin, the robot – named Hoxo – is equipped with embedded artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced sensors for real-time perception, autonomous navigation, execution of technical gestures, and interaction. Its purpose is to replicate human movements and operate alongside teams within nuclear facilities, including in challenging intervention environments.

SOLUTIONS FOR NUCLEAR TURBINE ISLANDS

French company Arabelle Solutions (G054) is at the show for the first time to promote its nuclear turbine island technology and services. Arabelle's integrated solutions range from the most powerful steam turbines to modular designs optimised for SMRs, as well as generators, pumps, heat exchangers, control systems, and more. Drawing on experience dating back to the industry's early years, the company's expert teams service, upgrade, and extend the lifecycles of turbine islands across the globe.

CLIMBING THE WALL WITH AWARD-WINNING ROBOT

Based in south-eastern France, PaintUP (A012A) designs and develops large-scale mobile robotic systems for industrial applications. At WNE for the first time, it presents CleanUP, a compact semi-autonomous robot capable of reaching 10m-high walls and ceilings for safe and efficient nuclear facility decontamination. Winner of EDF's robotic contest, it is designed to enable 3D mapping of α and β radiation, hazardous dust extraction, and surface sampling to reduce operator exposure and enhance process reliability.

REBAR SPLICING EXPERT AT DEBUT EXHIBITION

Founded in 1983, Dextra Europe (N131) has come to WNE for the first time to promote its solutions for modular construction and GFRP reinforcement at the show. A global leader in rebar splicing, the French company controls its entire value chain from design and production to distribution and after-sales support. Dextra also offers fiberglass reinforcement, high-performance bars, and geotechnical anchoring systems.

RUGGED ROBOT ARM FLEXES MUSCLE

Italian company Fluid Wire Robotics (FWR) is at WNE for the first time (A007A) to showcase its pioneering rugged electric robotic arm. Designed to operate in extreme radiation, heat, underwater and vacuum conditions, FWR's arms are passive: an actuation box shields motors, sensors and electronics, keeping the arm lightweight and electronics free. The company says its proprietary 'fluid wires' power and control the arm, enabling sensorless force control, accurate positioning and high manoeuvrability.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

First-time exhibitor RTP Europe (N148) is promoting its RTP3200 TAS N+ system for critical control and safety (SIL-3) applications. The company's system is in use in nuclear power plants where its fast, advanced data acquisition, as well as control applications, provide high performance and reliability.

SENSITIVE SITE MONITORING DEBUT

Horus, an autonomous tethered balloon, makes its debut at WNE with the French company Lium (A008A) with the boast that it is "revolutionising the monitoring of sensitive sites". With its continuous surveillance, smart sensors and onboard AI, it is designed to detect fires, gas leaks and intrusions in real time.

DAY THREE
Main Stage Programme

09:30-09:45
Keynote speech

09:45-11:00
Panel discussion: Way forward to 2035: securing the crucial role of nuclear in the global energy mix

11:15-12:30
Panel discussion: Shareholder engagement

14:00-15:00
Panel discussion: AI

15:15-16:00
Panel discussion: COP30

17:00
Show closes

THE INDUSTRY IN FOCUS

WNE 2025's show images partner is Romain Beaumont. Examples of the company's work – artistic views of nuclear plants – are displayed on the walls of the Lounge.

ROMAIN BEAUMONT PHOTOGRAPHIE VIDEO

AFRICAN DELEGATION

Delegates from South Africa, Rwanda and Morocco, including Dr Lassina Zerbo, chairman of the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board (RAEB) and Loyiso Tyabashe, chief executive of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), toured WNE yesterday as part of a visit to investigate opportunities for partnershps to expand the African nuclear industry.

INSTANT ANALYSIS TO COMBAT ADULTERATION

Accessible analysis: Marivil D Islam, analysing food for contaminents

The number of people facing food insecurity has more than doubled since 2020, and this global food crisis is putting pressure on suppliers and increasing the amount of adulterated food coming onto the market.

The IAEA is taking steps to help governments across the world combat this and is showcasing the work of its Food Safety and Control Laboratory in the Beyond Electricity Expo (BEE).

Laboratory technician Marivil D Islam explained: "We are seeing food contaminated by illegal additives and expired items being relabelled and sold. We have seen items that claim to be 100% fruit juice, found to be diluted with water or synthetic flavours, and spices such as turmeric mixed with flour and dyes, as well as the highly publicised melamine in milk scandal. We want to help stop these harmful foods being distributed."

The IAEA has developed and validated a Tier 1 analysis method, using small lightweight equipment and a laptop, that makes food testing highly accessible and affordable. Islam said: "We are collaborating through research and technical cooperation to agree on analytical methodologies to help our member states recognise adulterated foods. We also conduct training, either in IAEA or the home country, which enables them to enhance their own food control system.

"Although detailed analysis needs further equipment, this offers instant results to alert organisations to potential problems and help them protect their populations."

WHITE BEAR FOR GREEN CREDENTIALS

The stand of German pressure relief and explosion safety specialists Rembe (L007) highlights the company's green credentials, with Rembo, the company's mascot, featuring heavily.

As a gold sponsor of the World Wildlife Foundation, Rembe has been funding polar bears and their habitat since 2021, just one part of 'Rembe green' initiative that supports a wide range of environmental projects. The company develops and produces protective systems for industry that not only protect customers' systems and machines, but also avoid environmentally harmful emissions, sustainably eliminate leakages and defuse noise pollution.

Yves-Marie Roignant, business development manager, Process Safety Europe, said: "We are about protecting life, both in our safety work and in the environment. We recycle all the metal used in our products. We cut our pressure discs by laser and recycle all the oil used in the processes.

"The advantage of Rembe is that we are European, and based in Germany, with branches across Europe. We can deliver quickly, without customs and with European validation and qualification."

Bear necessities: Yves-Marie Roignant with Rembo Polar bear mascot toys