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EURATOM ADVANCES ORGEL PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan 2, 1962 -- The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) has contracted with the Dutch company Neratoom for the supply and installation at the Ispra Center of a reactor specially designed for use in the evaluation of the neutron balance of Orgel type reactors.

An exhaustive research program will be carried out on this type of reactor, which will employ heavy water as moderator and an organic liquid as coolant. Under this program to obtain accurate data on the neutron balance of this type reactor, the study will be conducted with the aid of the critical experiment ECO (Experience Critique Orgel), for which this contract (worth about \$1,500,000) has been concluded.

ECO is a low-power critical assembly, one of the uses of which will be to determine experimentally the critical mass for various fuel element geometries. The experiments to be carried out on this critical assembly are intended to culminate in a theoretical scheme which can be used to establish the neutron balance of the Orgel string power reactors to be developed later.

The core of the ECO reactor consists of an aluminum vessel three meters in diameter and four meters high surrounded by a graphite reflector 90 centimeters thick. The entire assembly will be protected by concrete shielding 1.7 meters thick and will be housed in a specially constructed building.

The contract was concluded as the result of an invitation issued by Euratom to which several firms within the Community had replied. The reactor is expected to be developed and installed at the latest by March 1963.