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EURATOM EXTENDS NUCLEAR
MARINE PROPULSION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 17 -- The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) will participate in three new research and development projects in nuclear marine propulsion, it was reported in Brussels on July 14. The projects will be undertaken by: 1) an Italian group consisting of the Italian Atomic Energy Commission (CNEN), the Fiat Company of Turin, and the Ansaldo shipyards of Genoa; 2) the Netherlands Reactor Center (RCN) in conjunction with a number of Dutch industrial concerns; and 3) a general research program of the "Gesellschaft fuer Kernenergieverwertung in Schiffbau und Schifffahrt" (GKSS), Hamburg.

The decision to participate in the three programs marks an extension of the Euratom Commission's activities in the field of nuclear propulsion for merchant shipping, a departure first indicated in the contract concluded on January 27, 1961, with GKSS and the Interatom firm for the development of an OMR-type (organic moderated-and-cooled) ship's reactor. Euratom's activities in the marine reactor field now encompass the following types: OMR, PWR (pressurized water); and possibly BWR (boiling water), in addition to a general research program into the technical problems involved in the development of these reactor types.

Euratom will act as coordinator of the research work scheduled for the three projects and will participate financially to the extent of about \$6 million. The Community as a whole expects to benefit from the results of the various projects because they may help to end the prevailing uncertainty concerning the economic advantages of different reactor types.

The program being undertaken by the Italian CNEN-Fiat-Ansaldo group, to which Euratom will contribute up to \$1.2 million, involves the drawing up of a complete draft design for a reactor-powered tanker. This program is scheduled to last two years.

The Dutch program (RCN) involves a number of research activities in connection with the adaptation of the PWR-type reactor to marine propulsion requirements, with the ultimate aim of preparing a complete design for a marine reactor of this type. The program, to which Euratom's contribution will be about \$1.9 million, extends over three years.

To the GKSS program, to be conducted at the Geesthacht Center near Hamburg, Euratom will contribute approximately \$1.8 million. The program comprises a number of experiments of fundamental importance for nuclear marine propulsion (shielding and vibration tests) and is scheduled to last five years.

Parallel with these technical research projects, Euratom will arrange for a comprehensive technical and economic study to be carried out by a group of leading shipping experts on such questions as tonnage, type of transport, length of voyages, etc., for which nuclear-propelled ships will be most suited in the future.

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