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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EURATOM CONTRACTS FOR
NUCLEAR SHIP PROJECT**

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 27 -- Euratom officially entered the nuclear ship field today. The contract between the European Atomic Energy Community and two German firms signed today in Hamburg calls for the construction of a propulsion unit of the organic moderated and cooled type. It is planned to install the reactor in a new research vessel of about 22,000 tons.

This is in line with one of Euratom objectives to coordinate the various efforts being made within the six countries of the Community in the field of nuclear marine propulsion and to stimulate exchange of nuclear information. Besides the Federal Republic of Germany, member countries of the Community include Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

Three other contracts are being negotiated with the following organizations:

1. The French Atomic Energy Commission for construction of a gas-cooled, high-powered ship reactor of a type that also shows promise for use in land-based nuclear power plants.

(MORE)

2. Fiat and Ansaldo of Italy for construction of a light water-cooled ship reactor operating on enriched uranium.
3. Various organizations in the Netherlands for construction of a pressurized-water ship reactor.

The German contract provides that Euratom will contribute 4.48 million Deutschmarks (\$1,066,667) or about 40 per cent of the cost of the total project. Working designs are expected to be completed by the end of the year. German shipyards have until January 31, 1961, to submit proposals for the nuclear ship herself, but no decision on the actual construction is expected before 1962 at the earliest. The ship will take between two and two and one half years to build and is expected to cost 35 million Deutschmarks (\$8,333,333).

The contract was signed by the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), the Gesellschaft fuer Kernenergieverwertung im Schiffbau und Schifffahrt MBH, and also by the firm of Interatom (Internationale Atomreaktorbau GMBH, Bernsberg/Cologne). Commissioner Paul de Groote signed on behalf of Euratom.