

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EURATOM SIGNS NEW ASSOCIATION CONTRACT FOR FAST REACTOR RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 4, 1966 -- The Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community announced today in Brussels the conclusion of an association contract with the Belgian government for research on fast breeder reactors.

All work on fast reactors in the Community has now been brought under the Euratom research program. Parallel to the negotiations with the Belgian government, talks were held with the Dutch T.N.O. (Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek) and R.C.N. (Reactor Centrum Nederland) which resulted in a similar association contract, signed on November 23, 1965. Previous association agreements had been concluded by the Community with the French C.E.A. (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique), the German G.F.K. (Gesellschaft fuer Kernforschung), and the Italian C.N.E.N. (Comitato Nazionale Energia Nucleare).

Fast breeder reactors is a priority field of Euratom research for which the Community is allocating \$82.5 million dollars from the revised Second Five Year Research Program, 1963-67. Along with the contributions of Euratom's associates, the total amount to be spent in the Community on fast reactor research during the five-year period is an estimated \$230 million.

The Euratom Commission and the Belgian government also signed within the framework of the association agreement two contracts with the Belgian C.E.N. (Centre d'Etudes de l'Energie Nucleaire) and Belgonucleaire for carrying out the research program. Under these contracts Euratom will contribute \$1.1 million (35 per cent of the total costs) for a three-year period beginning January 1, 1965 for studies on the use as a fuel and the reprocessing of uranium-plutonium oxide.

Under the agreement with the Dutch T.N.O. and R.C.N. Euratom will contribute \$1.4 million (35 per cent of the total costs) over the same period for research on the use of sodium as a coolant and the development of reactor components such as steam generators, heat exchangers, and sodium pumps.