

**April 17, 1967
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EURATOM MEETING COMPARES POWER REACTOR EXPERIENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 17---The eighth Euratom-sponsored technical information meeting, held in Brussels last week to draw on the nuclear industry's successful experiences as well as airing its setbacks, attracted over 350 people, representing 114 nuclear firms and organizations of the six European Atomic Energy Community countries.

The participants met to trade information picked up in constructing and operating seven nuclear power stations whose costs Euratom has shared. Two of the plants are located in Italy, three in Germany, one in the Netherlands, and one is a joint Franco-Belgian plant. The Dutch and two of the German plants are not yet completed, while the others are in operation.

Euratom shares in start-up costs and expenses of fabricating fuel elements and certain components for power reactors to a tune of \$32 million. In return, it obtains the technical and economic feedback gleaned from running such stations; this information is then turned to uses beneficial to all six countries.

According to Euratom official sources, one of the points emerging from last week's meetings was that difficulties have cropped up less in the specifically nuclear side of the reactors than in their mechanical parts. Euratom's executive Commission hopes to extend such meetings in the future to other reactors than the light-water and gas-graphite types discussed up to now.