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KRB PROJECT INCLUDED IN US/EURATOM PROGRAM

BRUSSELS, July 13 -- The Euratom Commission and the German KRB Company (Kernkraftwerk RWE-BAYERNWERK) signed today the basic contract setting forth the terms and conditions for the participation of KRB in the joint nuclear power program under the Euratom-United States Agreement for Cooperation.

The KRB Company was established in 1962 by the Electricual Utilities Rheinisch-Westfaelisches Elektrizitaetswerk AG (RWE) and Bayernwerk AG for the purpose of the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant to be built at Gundremmingen (Bavaria) on the upper reaches of the Danube, which will be provided with a boiling water reactor of a net electric output of 237 MW. The equipment will be supplied and the plant constructed by the firms International General Electric Operations SA (IGEOSA), Allgemeine Elektrizitaets-Gesellschaft (AEG) and Hochtief AG.

The KRB project is the second power reactor to be included in the Euratom-United States joint program, the first being that of the Societa Elettronucleare nazionale (SENN), of a net electric output of 150 MWE, located at the mouth of the Garigliano river, between Rome and Naples. Negotiations are now proceeding with the Societe d'Energie Nucleaire Franco-Belge des Ardennes (SENA) toward the signature of the basic contract covering the inclusion of the power plant this firm is building near Givet, at the Franco-Belgian border, and which will have an output of 210 MWE, with a possibility of increasing the output to 242 MWE.

The KRB project, in addition to obtaining the benefits of the joint Euratom-United States nuclear power program, previously had been accepted in the Euratom program for participation in power reactors and thus enjoys the status of a joint enterprise, under the terms of the Euratom Treaty.

Moreover, the KRB plant will benefit from the research and development program, established under the Euratom-United States Agreement for Cooperation. The R and D program has as its objective the improvement of the performance of the types of reactors to be constructed under the joint nuclear power program and the lowering of fuel cycle costs. The program also deals with the use of plutonium fuels and other problems relevant to these reactors.