

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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EURATOM CONTRACTS TO HELP FINANCE FIRST COMMUNITY ATOMIC SHIP

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 30 --- The European Atomic Energy Community today agreed to participate in the construction and sea trials of the "Otto Hahn," the Community's first atomic ship, under a contract signed in Brussels by the Euratom Commission and a German firm, Gesellschaft fuer Kernenergieverwertung in Schiffbau und Schifffahrt (GKSS).

The four-year contract, part of the Euratom program to coordinate Community efforts in nuclear marine propulsion, provides for a \$4 million Euratom contribution toward the cost of nuclear equipment in exchange for reports on the experience gained in operating the ship. The contract also includes regulations for distribution of this information throughout the Community and permits industries in all member countries to submit bids for the supply of nuclear components.

The "Otto Hahn," under construction in the Howaldtswerke shipyards in Kiel, will be propelled by a light-water reactor with a relatively low primary pressure and a heat exchanger housed entirely within the pressure vessel. The reactor will enable the "Otto Hahn" to develop approximately 11,000 shaft horse power. The "Otto Hahn," designed originally for research and experiment in nuclear marine propulsion, may be operated later as a commercial bulk carrier with a deadweight of 15,000 metric tons.

Information and experience gained from the experimental nuclear vessel will be shared with the Reactor Centrum Nederland and the Italian Fiat and Ansaldo Companies. These companies are presently drafting designs under Euratom contracts for the construction of more advanced reactors for economical nuclear propulsion.

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