

Formation of a European TSO Network (ETSON)

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The Technical Safety Organisations (TSOs) IRSN, GRS and AVN, have decided to considerably intensify the co-operation between their institutions. For this purpose, they formed the "European TSO Network".

Aim of the TSO network

The aim of this network is to promote and develop European scientific and technical co-operation between the TSOs in the field of nuclear safety. This will be achieved by exchanging in particular systematically R&D results and experience in connection with the operation

of nuclear facilities and safety assessments, by promoting a harmonisation of nuclear safety assessment practices in Europe, and by encouraging initiatives to define and implement European research programmes.

This will support the further development of the international state of the art in science and technology by using common resources and synergies in all working areas. The network was founded with a perspective to also opening this co-operation to other TSOs in Europe.



Working Groups in the ETSON

Actually three working groups are installed to elaborate topical documents on the following issues:

- Safety Assessment Guide
- Identification of research needs
- Knowledge management

ETSON is also member of the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNE-TP) of the European Commission.

OEF Initiative

The TSO Network supports the efforts to strengthen the European OEF process as an important task to improve the safety of nuclear installations. In order to contribute to these efforts, the TSO Network proposes the establishment of a European Operating Experience Feedback System consisting of:

- a European Expert Network composed by TSO and Regulatory Body experts to carry out the technical analysis
- a Technical Board formed by high level experts to assist the European OEF process
- an Information Service Centre to coordinate the work, to disseminate the results and to form the contact point for the Member States.

Further Information

Further information on the European TSO network is available in the following documents:

- Memorandum of Understanding on the Creation of the European TSO Network
- The TSO Concept
- European TSO Network - Rules of Procedure
- Working Groups of the European TSO Network
- Safety Assessment Guide
- Proposal on the European Operating Experience Feedback System

These documents and further information can be obtained via the home pages of the three founding organisations: <http://www.grs.de>, <http://www.irsn.fr>, <http://www.avn.be>

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