BACKGROUND

As nuclear safety and security have become a growing concern to the international community, it is essential that the technical and scientific basis for regulatory decisions reach the highest level of quality and reliability. The development of Technical Safety Organisations (TSOs) brings a decisive contribution to this objective, as they provide a wide knowledge based expertise in nuclear and radiation safety.

DEVELOPMENT OF ETSON

The European States and the European Union devoted significant resources over the last decades in order to help build up a sustainable TSO capacity. The European TSOs progressively carried out common scientific and technical co-operations in the field of nuclear safety.

The creation of ETSON in 2006 through a Memorandum of Understanding emphasized the contribution of this network for harmonization of nuclear safety assessment practices in Europe, and to encourage initiatives to define and implement coherent European research programmes.

Becoming an Association under French law in February 2011, ETSON involves nowadays eleven TSOs: eight members (IRSN/France, GRS/Germany, Bel V/Belgium, VTT/Finland, UJV/RCR/Czech Republic, LEI/Lithuania, VUJE/Slovakia and PSI/Switzerland) and three associated members (SSTC/Ukraine, JNES/Japan and SEC-NRS/Russia). The association will further develop and non European TSOs are also invited to share the ETSON activities as associated members or observers. Jacques Repussard (IRSN) has been elected for two years as president of ETSON.

ETSON

Enlargement

France - IRSN
Founding member since 2006
Public institute with industrial and commercial activities placed under the supervision of five ministries. Provide research and expertise in nuclear safety, radiation protection (human and environment) and technical support to the authorities. 1800 employees.

Belgium - Bel V
Founding member since 2006
Private nuclear expertise institute for nuclear safety, attached to the Belgium safety authority (AFCN). 50 employees.

Germany - GRS
Founding member since 2006
Independent organisation, bring technical and scientific safety expertise for the Federal State. 450 employees.

Finland - VTT
Member since 2008
Technical support to the Finnish nuclear safety agency, independent institution leading researches on safety, waste management, etc. 2 900 employees including 200 people in nuclear activities.

Lituania - LEI
Member since 2009
Expertise and research organisation in engineering, nuclear safety, hydrology, metrology, environment protection. 150 employees.

Ukraine - SSTC
Associated member since 2010
State organisation created in 1992 and attached since 2001 as technical support to the safety authority. 250 employees.

Russia - SEC-NRS
Associated member since 2012
State company created in 1987 to assist the safety authority as technical support. 298 employees.

Japan - JNES
Associated member since 2011
Independent institute created in 2003 (fusion between NUPEC (previous technical support for safety authority), NUSTEC (technological centre on nuclear safety and radiation protection) and JAPEC (in charge of regulation inspections). 440 employees.

Slovakia - VUJE
Member since 2010
Engineering company created in 1977 and privatized in 1994, research institute on nuclear facilities in Slovakia, technical support for the safety authority. 800 employees with 200 people possibly involved in TSO activities.

Czech Republic - UJV/RCR
Member since 2008
Engineering and scientific research private company dedicated to nuclear technology in various domains and focused on sustainable energy. 900 employees.

Switzerland - PSI
Member since 2012
Federal multidisciplinary research centre on natural sciences and technologies, technical support to the Swiss nuclear safety authority. 1400 employees including 200 people in nuclear safety, wastes and radiation protection.

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