

## **Franco-British declaration on Nuclear Energy**

The United Kingdom and France restate the crucial role that nuclear energy will need to play in a cost-effective transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy fuelled by a diverse mix of energy sources. The United Kingdom and France recognise the importance of Franco-British collaboration in the development of nuclear power and that in order to construct new nuclear power stations an investment environment must be created which takes account of the long-term nature of nuclear infrastructure projects.

France and the United Kingdom welcome the fact that EDF have firm plans to develop four new EPR (European Pressurised Reactor) nuclear reactors in the United Kingdom, and Her Majesty's Government and the company have reached broad commercial agreement on the key terms of a proposed investment contract for constructing two of those reactors at Hinkley Point in Somerset. This paves the way for the development of the first new nuclear power station in the UK for a generation.

The United Kingdom and France have a shared vision of a highly capable and competitive Franco-British nuclear industry which stands as a global leader and which capitalises on the domestic and international market opportunities across the whole of the civil nuclear life-cycle. The United Kingdom and France therefore welcome the agreement reached between the UK Nuclear Industry Association SME Partnership, the *Partenariat France Monde Électricité* (PFME) supported by EDF Energy to work in collaboration to maximise the opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterprises in our nuclear supply chains. We look forward to the first joint event between PFME and the NIA SME Partnership in the UK in the spring of 2014.

The United Kingdom and France acknowledge that the development of a workforce with the right skills is essential to the development of our nuclear industries and agree to respond together to the growing demand for a qualified workforce. In this context, France and the United Kingdom welcome:

- the commitment from Areva to offer strategic and practical support to the UK's National Skills Academy for Nuclear, including the creation of new apprenticeships in the UK nuclear manufacturing supply chain in recognition of the vital role they play in delivering a skilled and vibrant workforce for the future;
- the intention of the United Kingdom's network of nuclear Centres for Doctoral Training led by Imperial College London and Manchester University and the *Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives* (CEA) to deepen their cooperation and boost the numbers of highly-skilled professionals working in our nuclear industries through a new collaboration on PhD training;
- the decision of EDF to expand its existing partnership with Imperial College London to provide support for the Imperial-led nuclear Centre for Doctoral Training and the new build programme. This will build on the existing strong partnership between EDF and Imperial's Energy Futures Laboratory and the Centre for Nuclear Engineering.

The United Kingdom and France underline the important role that research and development play in dealing with the legacy of past operations, in improving safety, and in ensuring that

nuclear energy can continue to contribute to a low-carbon and secure energy future. We therefore welcome the signing of a number of agreements between the UK's National Nuclear Laboratory and key French organisations, including the *Commissariat à l'énergie atomique* (CEA), AREVA and EDF. These agreements deepen cooperation and close working between our two countries on existing and advanced reactors and the development of fuel cycle technologies in support of energy and climate objectives. In addition, the United Kingdom and France also welcome the developing partnership between EDF and Bristol University to develop the South-West Nuclear Research Hub, focusing on safety, new build and decommissioning.

The United Kingdom and France encourage and welcome Franco-British collaboration on plutonium disposition and on the development of options for the management of the UK's plutonium.

At the last Summit, the United Kingdom and France signed cooperation agreements on civil nuclear emergency planning and security, and our joint work under the terms of these agreements has already delivered tangible benefits. Since the last summit we have, for example, strengthened our understanding of each other's emergency arrangements through joint seminars, and will shortly sign an agreement to share radiation monitoring data. The French have also observed a UK domestic nuclear exercise. Under the UK's presidency of the G8, our two countries worked closely together with the International Atomic Energy Agency to strengthen practical international cooperation on nuclear emergencies. On nuclear security, we have been able to learn from respective best practice in key areas such as physical security and guarding. Further meetings with Ministries, regulators, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and the Gendarmerie will allow us to develop this understanding further. The United Kingdom and France are committed to continuing this work together to enhance our capabilities and strengthen our bilateral coordination in these areas.