

Annex to the UK-France Summit Communiqué adopted 18 January 2018
on conclusions from the UK-France
Civil Nuclear Energy Seminar

On January 18, 2018 Mr. Richard Harrington MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the United Kingdom and Ms. Brune Poirson, Minister of State, attached to the Ministre d'État, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France, co-chaired a UK-France Seminar on the bilateral cooperation on civil nuclear energy, in the presence of research organisations and industries from both countries. This Seminar, as agreed to during the 34th Franco-British Summit which took place in 2016, succeeded in deepening the already rich cooperation between France and the UK on civil nuclear matters.

The UK and France, with reference to the *2018 UK-France Summit Communiqué*, acknowledged the good progress in the development of Hinkley Point C and the deepening of industrial cooperation in reactor construction. Willing to promote a diversified and decarbonized electricity generation mix, they exchanged views on the latest nuclear policy developments, noting that both countries have a common history and face similar issues regarding nuclear reactors and fuel cycle facilities, including their decommissioning and the management of the radioactive wastes. Both sides recognised that both countries have developed complementary skills and technologies in these areas which comply with the highest safety standards. Both Ministers stated their support for strengthening bilateral cooperation and launching joint developments.

Both sides exchanged views on their approach to developing small and advanced modular reactors and agreed to maintain a close and regular collaboration in this area. Both sides reviewed and summarized their respective policies on plutonium management and shared information about potential options to disposition of the UK's inventory of separated civil plutonium, including immobilization and the fabrication of MOX fuel. They agreed to continue to exchange information regularly on this issue and call on nuclear organisations from both countries to maintain their cooperation concerning separated civil plutonium.

Both sides emphasized that the bilateral cooperation in the nuclear fields mentioned in these conclusions, supported by both regulators (ASN and ONR) and their respective Technical Support Organisations, should rely upon the most stringent requirements in terms of safety, security and radiation protection. The bilateral cooperation will remain a driving force in the development of international standards or reference levels within the IAEA or WENRA, as well as for developing harmonized expertise practices (in particular through the ETSO network) and for addressing long term research challenges in nuclear safety.

Both sides recognized that the *National Nuclear Laboratory* (NNL) and the *Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives* (CEA) have strong potential for collaboration in R&D matters, especially with regards to the sharing of experimental facilities and joint research projects. Both sides agreed to continue ongoing dialogue in these key areas.

Both sides acknowledged and supported the common interest expressed by the *Nuclear Decommissioning Authority* (NDA) and *Electricité de France* (EDF) to investigate the development of a long-term decommissioning partnership on key topic areas related to the decommissioning of first generation gas-cooled reactors both in France and in the United Kingdom.

Both sides expressed their full support to the NDA and UK industrial players, and *New Areva*, to explore the possibility of cooperation in the areas of development of advanced technologies for the dismantling of nuclear facilities, legacy waste management and final estate, and know-how and expertise sharing.

To mark both sides' support for collaboration in the field of nuclear decommissioning, both Ministers signed a Declaration of Intent setting out their support for increasing commercial and research collaboration in this area in the UK, France and third markets.

Both sides discussed their respective challenges in nuclear skills and agreed to hold a workshop in the first half of 2018 to discuss how the UK and France can work together to address their respective skills gap. Both sides welcomed the cooperation between the *Nuclear Skills Strategy Group* (NSSG) and the *Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires* (INSTN) paving the way for a reinforcement of academic and industrial relationships in civil nuclear between the UK and France.