

## **The Future of Nuclear Power as Seen by German Operators**

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The present situation is characterized by operators in Germany and Western Europe excluding, for the time being, any construction of new nuclear power plants in view of the current economic and political boundary conditions. The operation of existing nuclear power plants, however, is of great importance to German operators. They constitute assets in competition.

Against this background, the agreement concluded by German nuclear power plant operators and the German federal government on June 14, 2000 is an important milestone. German operators seek to put this agreement into effect and, in addition, to preserve the nuclear infrastructure and the know-how associated with it. Realistically, this is possible at the required level only as a European effort.

There are many factors indicating that ten years from now the boundary conditions for nuclear power will be very different from what they are at present. Existing overcapacities in Germany and Europe will have disappeared, and decisions will have to be taken about the renewal of power plants. Advanced nuclear power plant technologies will then be available.

In order to be ready to build new nuclear power plants when the time comes,

- on the one hand, engineered safeguards requirements and rules and regulations must be adapted to the new reactor generation internationally and,
- on the other hand, the continued existence of present nuclear power plants must be guaranteed and the necessary infrastructure must be preserved on a European level.

It is not necessary, however, to internationalize the rules and regulations pertaining to the nuclear power plants now in existence.