

Paris, 9 April 2010

## **ANSALDO ENERGIA (FINMECCANICA), ENEL AND EDF SIGN IMPORTANT MEMORANDUM TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER IN ITALY**

- *The aim is to enhance the role of Italian industry in building the planned new nuclear plants in Italy*
- *Co-operation agreement could be extended to international EPR projects*

Ansaldo Energia and Ansaldo Nucleare, Finmeccanica companies, Enel and EDF signed an important Memorandum of Understanding at the Fifth Forum of Italian-French dialogue, chaired by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in Paris today. The agreement was reached thanks to the commitment of Pier Francesco Guarguaglini, Chairman and CEO of Finmeccanica, Fulvio Conti, CEO and General Manager of Enel and Henri Proglio, Chairman and CEO of EDF.

The aim of the agreement is to define areas of co-operation between Enel-EDF and Ansaldo Energia, which holds 100% of Ansaldo Nucleare, in developing and building at least four of the nuclear plants planned by Enel and EDF for Italy, using Evolutionary Pressurised Reactor (EPR) technology. Enel and EDF will play the role of investors and architect engineers, which means they will have overall responsibility for the project and for managing the building of the plants. In this regard, they will draw on the wealth of experience of Ansaldo Energia in designing, planning and commissioning the nuclear systems and in providing support to licensing operations.

In addition, Ansaldo Energia will participate in the qualification and tender process carried out by Enel and EDF for the supply of equipment, installation and engineering systems (packages).

The agreement, which has minimum duration of five years, leverages on the existing expertise of Ansaldo Energia in the nuclear power sector and sets out the scope for the future development of the company in this area, along with the construction of the Enel and EDF plants in Italy.

Under the agreement, Finmeccanica undertakes to support Ansaldo Energia in enhancing and developing its activities by providing the necessary investment both in terms of production lines and human resources.

The agreement will also enable Ansaldo Energia and Ansaldo Nucleare, following the launch of a qualification process by Enel and EDF, to participate in the tenders for the engineering and supply activities of numerous EPR projects of EDF out of Italy.

This important agreement represents the first concrete step towards maximising the involvement of the Italian industry in building the nuclear plants planned by Enel and EDF for Italy.

The resurgence of nuclear energy is a global phenomenon: currently there are some 55 nuclear plants under construction in 14 countries, using various types of technology. These new plants will add more than 50,000 MW to existing nuclear generation capacity. Many other projects are also in the pipeline.