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Ansaldo Nucleare: advanced technology worth EUR 13 million for China

Ansaldo Nucleare, a subsidiary of Finmeccanica group company Ansaldo Energia and Italy's leading company in the nuclear sector, has signed a major agreement with Westinghouse Electric Co. for the design and supply of innovative components to be installed on the first of a new generation of nuclear plant to be built in China at Sanmen in Zhejiang province (around 400 km south of Shanghai).

The Chinese plant, the first of a number of new facilities, will be equipped with AP1000 reactors, the most advanced (Generation III+) pressurised water reactors currently available. These 1100 MW reactors use safety systems designed to function without any support (passive systems) or action from the operator. Ansaldo Nucleare has worked with Westinghouse on the design, development and testing of the reactor since the initial concept was formulated.

The agreement, secured through a joint venture with Camozzi Energy Special Components, is worth EUR 23.2 million, of which Ansaldo Nucleare's share will be EUR 13.2 million.

At the same time, an agreement was also signed with China's State Nuclear Power Technology Corporation, for training of Chinese personnel both in Italy and China, and support from specialised Ansaldo staff for Chinese firms' manufacturing activities.

This will enable the Italian joint venture to play a part in the construction of the other plants of this type that China plans to build in the next few years.