

NUWARD and Tractebel reinforce strategic partnership in Small Modular Reactors

Brussels, Belgium. NUWARD, EDF and Tractebel signed a Framework Cooperation Agreement on 15 June 2023 to strengthen and extend their collaboration in the development of the NUWARD Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology.

For over 50 years, Tractebel nuclear experts have supported the EDF Group in designing and operating the French nuclear fleet and building reactors in France and abroad. The collaboration of Tractebel and EDF on the NUWARD SMR project, the first EU-developed SMR technology, started in 2021. Tractebel actively contributed to the finalization of the conceptual design phase and has worked on the nuclear island and the conventional part of the plant for the basic design phase.

The partners have now decided to deepen and extend their collaboration in the long run. In March 2023, EDF created its subsidiary NUWARD and began the basic design phase of the NUWARD SMR project. It resulted in a significant increase in the human resources required for the project.

To support this development, Tractebel will allocate more resources to NUWARD SMR in all the fields of nuclear engineering. Around 50 engineers from Tractebel are currently working on the NUWARD SMR project. This number is expected to double in the coming years.

“Tractebel has been leading innovation in SMR for the past five years. We are convinced that this technology will play a key role in the energy transition in Europe and worldwide. The cooperation agreement with NUWARD reinforces our commitment to the development of the first EU SMR technology. Tractebel brings a European and industrial perspective to NUWARD. Our engineers have worked on projects in several European countries to investigate SMRs’ potential to decarbonize heavy industries and retrofit coal power plants. We can leverage this experience to extend the industrial applications of the NUWARD SMR technology and support NUWARD in its projects outside France to help Europe reach carbon neutrality by 2050.” says **Denis Dumont**, Chief Global Nuclear Officer, Tractebel.

“Tractebel has a proven track record of supporting nuclear stakeholders in their complex projects. That is why, the company is a key partner for NUWARD, alongside the other partners. The competition for skilled workers has become fierce within the nuclear industry. Building a Europe-wide team for the NUWARD SMR project is crucial to support our ambition in positioning NUWARD SMR as the European benchmark for small modular reactors.” says **Renaud Crassous**, NUWARD Executive President.

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About Tractebel

Tractebel is a global engineering company delivering game-changing solutions for a carbon-neutral future. Insights gathered during our more than 150 years of experience in energy, water, infrastructures and nuclear projects combined with local expertise allow us to tackle complex future-oriented projects. By connecting strategy, design, engineering and project management, our community of imaginative experts helps companies and public authorities create positive impact towards a sustainable world, where people, planet and profit collectively thrive. With offices in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North and Latin America, the company registered a turnover of 518 million Euros in 2022. Tractebel is part of the ENGIE Group, a global reference in low-carbon energy and services.

About NUWARD

The NUWARD SMR is targeted to replace old high CO2-emitting coal, fuel, oil and gas power plants around the world as well as offering the capability of supporting other usages such as hydrogen production, urban and district heating or desalination. Based on proven PWR technology, it is a 340MWe plant with two reactors of 170MWe each. Led by NUWARD, the project relies on the skilled and valued contributions of EDF, CEA, Naval Group, TechnicAtome, Framatome and Tractebel.

More information on [nuward.com](https://www.nuward.com)

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