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Improvement of Environmental Radiation Monitoring and Dosimetric Control in Chornobyl Exclusion Zone

In March 2021, and in partnership with the State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management (SAUEZM), the European Commission launched a project to improve radiation safety within the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. The Project which has an EU financial contribution of €4.2M foresees the upgrade of the environmental radiation monitoring system at the Vector Complex and Buriakivka disposal facility, as well as the establishment of an up to date dosimetric control system within the Exclusion Zone.

The project, which is funded through the European Union's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation will be implemented in two phases: phase 1 will produce the necessary system designs, which is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2022, whilst phase 2 foresees the supply and installation of the necessary equipment.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the Beneficiary, State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone management and three End User organizations, Chornobyl NPP, Central Radioactive Waste Management Enterprise and "Ecocentre".

A highly specialised and experienced team of experts from the Consortium led by Assystem Engineering and Operations Services in collaboration with Turkish Subsidiary Assystem ENVY, and Ukrainian company JSC KIEP, will work in close cooperation with experts of the SAUEZM, Chornobyl NPP, Central Radioactive Waste Management Enterprise and "Ecocentre", in developing the system designs. It is anticipated that Phase 2 will commence toward the end of 2022.

"After a long standing involvement of the European Union in supporting Ukraine in dealing with the aftermath of the Chornobyl catastrophe, now 35 years ago, together we have reached a stage where the situation is stabilised considerably but needs to be kept under control. This project will contribute to that need" remarked **Dr. Hans van Vliet, manager of this project in the European Commission.**

Mr. Andriy Pliatsko, First Deputy Head of the State Agency of Ukraine for Exclusion Zone Management, remarked:

"Successful implementation of this project will increase radiation safety in Ukraine, in particular through the modernization of radiation environmental monitoring and dosimetric control, both around the complex "Vector" and RWDF "Buryakivka" and in the Exclusion Zone as a whole. The EC's support in resolving this issue is very important, as radiation and environmental monitoring is one of the strategically important priorities".

Background information: Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than EUR 1.07 billion toward projects aimed at improving the safety of Ukraine's nuclear industry. Projects have provided support to improved safety in the operation and maintenance of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, the development of an appropriate national infrastructure for the safe management of radioactive waste, institutional support to the Nuclear Regulator, and more recently activities related to the clean-up and safe remediation of nuclear legacy sites. Additionally, significant EU financial contributions have supported the establishment of the New Safe Confinement and other facilities to support the safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste from Chornobyl, and implemented several social projects in support of communities living with the consequences of the 1986 Chornobyl accident.

Assystem is an international engineering group. As a key participant in the industry for over 50 years, the Group supports its clients in managing their capital expenditure throughout their asset life cycles.

JSC KIEP is the Ukrainian based engineering company active in the field of nuclear engineering activities, including design, implementation and supervision of radiation monitoring and dosimetry control systems.

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