



Kyiv, 9 August 2021.

EU to help State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management establish World Class Programme and Project Management Infrastructure

In June 2021, in partnership with the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management (SAUEZM), the European Commission launched a project to create a reliable and sustainable programme management infrastructure for the management of hundreds of projects planned to be implemented in the period up to 2060 or longer in the framework of the National Strategy for the Management of Radioactive Waste. The project, which is funded under the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) with a financial contribution of circa EUR 2 million, will be implemented in two phases.

"The transfer of sustainable knowledge and expertise has been a key focus of the INSC Programme since its establishment in 2007. This project is fully aligned with that principle. Its successful implementation will provide a significant assurance to the people of Ukraine, that projects within the Country's Radioactive Waste sector, will be implemented in full alignment with international best practice and facilitate the organisations concerned in meeting the highest standards of nuclear safety", stated **Dr Hans van Vliet, project leader on behalf of the European Commission**.

The initial pilot phase will cover three organisations, namely SAUEZM, SSE Central Radioactive Waste Management Enterprise and SSE Association Radon. Phase 2 foresees the dissemination and implementation of Phase 1 results, by SAUEZM at SSE Chornobyl NPP and SSE Ecocentre, thus establishing a fully functional infrastructure for programme and project management within the entire structure of the SAUEZM and its subordinate organisations. Phase 2 of the project is expected to commence on completion of Phase 1, in the summer of 2024.

Work, which is scheduled to commence in August 2021, will be implemented by a highly qualified team of experts with significant experience in the management of Nuclear Safety projects both in Ukraine and internationally. The Consortium led by the Chornobyl Research and Development Institute (Ukraine) in partnership with the Spanish company IDOM Consulting, Engineering, Architecture and the Ukrainian company NT Engineering will work in close cooperation with their Beneficiary and End-User counterparts in implementing the tasks included in the scope of the project. Training of Beneficiary and End-User Staff will be supported by the Ukraine Project Management Association, with successful trainees being certified by the International Project Management Association (IPMA).

"The implementation of this project is long-awaited and will improve the institutional capacity of both SAUEZM and its subordinate enterprises. We strongly believe that the implementation of best international management practices will enhance both our economic efficiency and, more importantly, will upgrade nuclear and radiation safety level," emphasized **Andriy Pliatsko, first Deputy Head of SAUEZM**.

Background information:

Since 1991, the European Union has donated over EUR €1.07 billion to projects aimed at upgrading the safety of Ukraine's nuclear industry. The projects ensured support for safety upgrading in the operation and maintenance of four nuclear power plants in Ukraine and the development of adequate national infrastructure for the safe management of radioactive waste, Institutional support for the Nuclear Regulatory body and, more recently, measures related to the decontamination and safe remediation of nuclear legacy sites. Furthermore, significant EU financial contributions supported the establishment of the New Safe Confinement and other facilities to support the safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, and several social projects for the support of communities affected by the Chornobyl nuclear accident in 1986.

Chornobyl Research and Development Institute is a Ukrainian non-governmental organisation focused on a wide range of activities within the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone, including its infrastructural and organisational improvements. **IDOM Consulting, Engineering, Architecture, S.A.U.** is an international company headquartered in Bilbao, Spain, that for over 60 years has been providing consulting and engineering services in various fields, including nuclear energy and radioactive waste management, in various countries around the world. **NT-Engineering** is a Ukrainian engineering company operating in the field of nuclear and radiation safety, as well as the radioactive waste management.

For further information please contact:

Dr Hans van Vliet, Project Manager on behalf of the European Commission; hans.vanvliet@ec.europa.eu

Mr Andriy Pliatsko, First Deputy Head of SAUEZM; dazv@dazv.gov.ua



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Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Address:
101, Volodymyrska str.,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
phone: +38 044 39 08 010
fax: +38 044 39 08 015

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