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EVOLUTIONARY, INNOVATIVE AND PASSIVE REACTOR CONCEPTS REVIEWED BY THE EUROPEAN UTILITY REQUIREMENTS (EUR) GROUP

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Since the first release of EUR volumes 1 & 2, the EUR group has kept growing. Beside the sets of generic requirements of volumes 1 and 2, the EUR promoters are producing evaluations of selected LWR designs that may be offered on the European market. Brought together, they make up volume 3 of the EUR document. A subset includes a description of the standard design and an analysis of compliance vs. the generic requirements of Volume 1 and 2. It may also include design dependent requirements. A subset of volume 3 is produced with contribution of the corresponding vendor.

As of today 5 subsets dedicated to the ABWR, BWR 90, EPR, EPP, and SWR1000 projects have been published and one dedicated to the Russian AES 92 is still being drafted.

The works on volume 3 have actually been more in-depth and longer than initially planned. Since the analyses of compliance have been carried on to the elementary requirement level, they have requested much resource and time, both by the EUR utilities and by the interested vendors. On the other hand these detailed assessments of compliance vs. EUR have resulted in a kind of "qualification" of the volumes 1 and 2 vs. a panel of rather diverse real projects. Another very positive fallout is the involvement of the main vendors, that have got an in-depth knowledge of the EUR document, including the background rationales that do not appear explicitly in the text, and that were given opportunities to discuss the most critical issues. As the fifth subset of volume 3 is being published, there obviously is a much better understanding between the European utilities that develop EUR and the NPP vendors that plan to be present on the European market in the ten coming years.

Thus the EUR document is now the best reference for the LWR plants that may be ordered beyond the turn of the century in Europe or elsewhere. Even if the growth of the EUR group makes consensus more difficult, the benefits the utilities foresee are substantial enough to keep developing the EUR document. The next phase of the programme, the EUR action plan 2002-2004 was approved by the EUR Steering Committee during the 10-years celebration meeting held in Lyon in February 2002.

The main objectives are to clarify further the EUR requirements while keeping engaged with the other actors of the nuclear electricity business, the vendors and the regulators.

