MEMO: Fusion for Energy signs multi-million deal with Airbus Safran Launchers, Nuvia Limited and Cegelec CEM to develop robotics equipment for ITER

The scope of the contract:
Fusion for Energy (F4E) has signed a contract with Airbus Safran Launchers, Nuvia Limited and Cegelec CEM for the production of the ITER Cask and Plug Remote Handling System. The UK Atomic Energy Authority (UK), Instituto Superior Tecnico (Portugal), AVT Europe NV (Belgium) and Millennium SAS (France) will also be part of this deal which will deliver remotely operated systems for the transportation and confinement of components located in the ITER vacuum vessel.

The value of the contract:
The total amount of the contract is approximately 100 million EUR.

The duration of the contract:
The contract is signed for a period of seven years.

AIRBUS SAFRAN LAUNCHERS

Airbus Safran Launchers develops and supplies innovative and competitive solutions for civil and military space launchers. As lead contractor for the European Ariane 5 and Ariane 6 launcher families, as well as for French oceanic deterrent force missiles, its expertise encompasses state-of-the art launch and propulsion system technologies. Airbus Safran Launchers is a joint venture equally owned by Airbus Defence and Space and Safran, created by the desire of the two groups to take the European space industry to the highest possible level. With estimated sales of 2.5 billion euros, it employs more than 8,000 highly qualified staff on more than 13 main sites in France and Germany.

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NUVIA

Nuvia Limited is an international engineering, project management and services contractor bringing nuclear expertise to a number of highly regulated industries including: nuclear, defence, science & research and oil & gas. With roots that can be traced back to the dawn of the nuclear industry Nuvia’s rich heritage is reflected in the broad range of services offered and is the reason that customers trust Nuvia to develop and implement solutions to their most complex challenges. In the UK and internationally we have been at the forefront of our industry and have developed a reputation for safe, high quality delivery.

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Cegelec CEM is a business unit of VINCI Energies Nuclear specialised in mechanicals. The company has developed a strong expertise in the nuclear market over more than 30 years. It has a proven-track record in turnkey projects for large scientific installations specialised in new build and refurbishment like design and build of special and remotely operated machines, design and supply of special equipment such as shielded doors and structures, confinement systems, high integrity handling systems, robotics integration and dedicated systems for use in controlled zones, process equipment. Cegelec CEM has been contributing to projects requiring the design and realisation of complex mechanical systems, with high added value on technical, organisational and regulatory aspects, and with a commitment to rigorous planning and cost-effective execution. The company has been carrying out projects for budgets in ranging from 1 million EUR to more than 80 million EUR.

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The UKAE runs the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, the UK’s national laboratory for fusion research, based at Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire. In addition, it hosts the world’s largest magnetic fusion experiment, JET (Joint European Torus), on behalf of its European partners. The JET facilities are collectively used by European fusion scientists, coordinated by a programme management unit at Culham. Around 500 people are employed at the JET facilities, with around 350 European scientists visiting each year to conduct research, and more from outside Europe. The UKAEA is actively engaged in supporting the development of the ITER project and the early physics / engineering design of the DEMO project. It is also diversifying its non-fusion activities to include a wider range of scientific and technology areas. For example, RACE (Remote Applications in Challenging Environments) is a remote handling and robotics centre for industrial applications.

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IST is the largest and most reputed school of Engineering, Science and Technology in Portugal. IST has participated in remote handling activities of ITER since 1996, with important results in 2011 to proceed with the reactor building construction.

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AVT Europe NV is a Small Medium Enterprise (SME) located in the North of Belgium. AVT is a preeminent provider of special material handling equipment. The company offers customer fitted solutions on air cushions, rail or wheels going from manually controlled transport systems over completely automatic vehicles. It has worldwide references and is also an expert in industrial automation and robotics offering turnkey projects, logistics solutions and customised robots.

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MILLENNIUM has always been specialised in nuclear engineering and is now well-known for its expertise in the field of risk management. The service offered by MILLENNIUM covers a wide range of areas including design and dismantling studies, scientific calculations and provides a fully integrated response to the needs of nuclear operators running civilian or military facilities. MILLENNIUM has staff working close to all major French nuclear sites organised in project teams in which experts and engineers work together to offer innovative, high-performance solutions that meet all the relevant quality, deadline and cost requirements.

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