

HEXANA AND TRACTEBEL JOIN FORCES TO ADVANCE NUCLEAR COGENERATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION

AIX-EN-PROVENCE
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HEXANA and TRACTEBEL have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in promoting nuclear-based cogeneration as a key solution for industrial decarbonization, energy system resilience, and efficiency across Europe and invite stakeholders to join the newly created SMR and AMR Cogeneration Task Force within COGEN Europe.

Under this agreement, the two companies are spearheading the creation of a dedicated SMR and AMR Cogeneration Task Force within COGEN Europe. This new initiative will bring together stakeholders from the nuclear, industrial, and cogeneration sectors around a shared objective: enhance recognition of nuclear cogeneration as a cornerstone of Europe's clean and competitive energy future. The Task Force aims to foster dialogue, policy engagement, and public awareness on the critical role of nuclear cogeneration in Europe's clean transition both for industrial processes and district heating.

Driving recognition of nuclear cogeneration

Cogeneration enhances overall energy efficiency by enabling the simultaneous production of heat and low-carbon electricity. While most existing reactors are designed solely for electricity generation, their cogeneration potential remains largely untapped as only 15% of operational reactors currently use cogeneration. Nuclear technologies, including SMRs and AMRs, could supply up to 74% of the heat needed for industrial processes. ⁱ

By combining electricity and heat production, SMRs and AMRs deliver flexible, low-carbon energy solutions that strengthen industrial competitiveness and energy security while supporting industrial sectors in their shift away from fossil fuels.

These technologies complement electrification efforts while enhancing system efficiency and resilience, making nuclear cogeneration a powerful enabler of Europe's clean energy transition.

With this MoU, HEXANA and TRACTEBEL share a common vision: ensuring that nuclear cogeneration gains greater recognition within European strategies and financial frameworks supporting the clean energy transition.

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A call to join the new SMR & AMR Cogeneration Task Force

Cogen Europe is the main advocate for cogeneration in Europe, but nuclear is a new focus within the association. This is why HEXANA and TRACTEBEL decided to join forces to launch a task force dedicated to SMRs and AMRs within COGEN EUROPE.

Both organizations invite other SMR and AMR developers, as well as industrial energy users, utilities, suppliers to join the Task Force under COGEN EUROPE's umbrella.

"Nuclear cogeneration represents a unique opportunity to combine energy efficiency and low-carbon innovation to replace fossil fuels in industrial clusters. By joining forces, we can make nuclear cogeneration a visible, credible, and supported pathway for industrial decarbonization in Europe," said Sylvain NIZOU, CEO of HEXANA.

"Decarbonizing industry remains one of Europe's greatest challenges, with hard-to-abate sectors like cement, steel, and chemicals responsible for over 60% of EU industrial CO₂ emissions. Under the umbrella of COGEN Europe, the Task Force is a strategic step to unlock the potential of nuclear cogeneration and help shape a low-carbon industrial future for Europe. We invite all stakeholders to join us in this effort," added Bernard Marié, Head of Flex Power, Renewable, Industry & SMR, Business Area Gas, Energy and Nuclear, Tractebel.

Organizations interested in participating are encouraged to contact COGEN Europe for more information on how to engage in the Task Force.

About HEXANA

HEXANA, an industrial start-up spin-off from the French Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA), is developing an innovative energy platform that combines sodium-cooled fast neutron reactors (SFR) with a thermal storage system. SFR is a proven technology with more than 400 years of cumulative experience worldwide, of which 120 years in Europe (from construction to decommissioning). HEXANA's solution delivers decarbonized, flexible, competitive, and sovereign energy tailored to industrial needs. Positioned as a credible alternative to fossil fuels, HEXANA leverages the legacy of the Phénix, Superphénix, and ASTRID projects, integrating unique expertise and decades of experience (more than 70 years of R&D and operation) to transform nuclear energy into a pivotal asset for the energy and climate transition.

Awarded with a France 2030 grant, HEXANA operates from offices in Aix-en-Provence, Paris, and Brussels. The company is a member of GIFEN, the European SMR Industrial Alliance, NuclearEurope, COGEN Europe, the Capénergies and Nuclear Valley clusters, France DeepTech, Forces Françaises de l'Industrie, La French Tech Aix-Marseille, SNETP and Provence Fabrique des Possibles.

For more information, visit www.hexana.com

About TRACTEBEL

Tractebel is a global engineering and consulting company delivering integrated solutions for sustainable energy and built environment projects. Our expertise is trusted worldwide across multiple markets like nuclear, renewables, power & gas, electrical grids, hydropower & dams, water resources & supply, desalination, complex & high-tech buildings, transport infrastructures, and ports & waterways.

By connecting strategy, design, engineering, social & environmental studies, project management and in-house digital applications, we partner with companies and public authorities to create a positive impact on people and planet.

Backed by more than 150 years of experience, today Tractebel is a community of over 5,000 passionate experts across the globe, committed to ethical business and the fight against climate change. Tractebel is part of the ENGIE Group, a global reference in low-carbon energy and services. www.tractebel-engie.com

ⁱ Source : https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl_71699/beyond-electricity-the-economics-of-nuclear-cogeneration?details=true

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