

Imouraren, May 4, 2009

## **Niger : foundation stone laid on Imouraren mining site**

His Excellency Mamadou Tandja, President of Niger, today laid the foundation stone of the Imouraren mining complex, in the presence of Alain Joyandet, French Secretary of State for Cooperation and Francophony, and AREVA CEO Anne Lauvergeon. A ceremony to mark the occasion was also attended by several hundred guests, including local people, and representatives from Nigerien authorities, AREVA and the media.

Imouraren will be Africa's biggest open-cast uranium mine, and the second biggest worldwide. Its production, set to last more than 35 years and reach 5000 tons per year, will double Niger's annual output and take it to number two in the world rankings.

The site, which received an initial investment of over €1.2 billion, will create nearly 1400 direct jobs.

Over and above the financial benefits of the mine, AREVA will continue and even strengthen its social and economic development policy in Niger. The group is involving local stakeholders and taking action in the fields of health, education and training, transport and access to water and energy for the local populations. It will be committing €6 million to this action every year for the next five years.

Anne Lauvergeon: "The mining infrastructures AREVA is building at Imouraren will strengthen the close partnership the group has had with Niger for the past forty years."

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## **More about**

*All over the world, AREVA provides its customers with solutions for carbon-free power generation and electricity transmission. With its knowledge and expertise in these fields, the group has a leading role to play in meeting the world's energy needs.*

*Ranked first in the global nuclear power industry, AREVA's unique integrated offering covers every stage of the fuel cycle, reactor design and construction, and related services. In addition, the group is expanding its operations in renewable energies, including biomass, wind power and fuel cells. AREVA is also a world leader in electricity transmission and distribution and offers its customers a complete range of solutions for greater grid stability and energy efficiency.*

*Sustainable development is a core component of the group's industrial strategy. Its 75,000 employees work every day to make AREVA a responsible industrial player that is helping to supply ever cleaner, safer and more economical energy to the greatest number of people.*