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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Enrichment: testing at Georges Besse II enters its final phase**

**Paris, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Full testing of the new Georges Besse II uranium enrichment plant has entered its final phase and will be completed in early November 2009, AREVA has announced. It confirms that the first centrifuge cascade will begin spinning at the end of the year, with full production capacity targeted for 2016.

Work is proceeding according to plan, despite the unforeseeable complications that are common to any project of this magnitude. AREVA recently discovered anomalies in inspections of a certain number of non-conforming welds on a system in the South unit of the plant, made under the responsibility of the Fives Nordon company. A corrective action plan was rolled out immediately to repair the welds in question. The non-conformances had no impact on the facility's compliance with safety requirements, what the Nuclear safety Authority recently confirmed.

Located at the Tricastin nuclear site between the Drôme and Vaucluse departments, the plant, which has been under construction for three years, will ultimately consist of two enrichment units. Thanks to its modular structure, overall production will reach 7.5 million separative work units (SWU) per year in 2016, two years ahead of the date initially forecast. The plant bolsters AREVA's position as a major player in the global enrichment market, where it supplies nearly one fourth of all enrichment services.

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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 developing a portfolio of operations in renewable energies. 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.