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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Japan: AREVA signs a contract for the supply of MOX fuel to Hokkaido Electric**

Paris, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

AREVA has signed today a contract\* to supply MOX fuel assemblies for unit 3 of the Tomari nuclear power plant (Japan), owned and operated by Hokkaido Electric Power Company.

Under the terms of the contract, the fuel will be fabricated at AREVA's MELOX plant in southern France, using plutonium recovered from the treatment operations performed at the group's La Hague plant, thereby recycling it to be used in Japan as MOX fuel.

This first contract with fuel service supplier Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel (MNF) is fully part of Japan's nuclear program to recycle used fuel, and follows other contracts signed by AREVA from 2006 to 2009 to supply MOX fuel for Japanese utilities CHUBU, KYUSHU, SHIKOKU, KANSAI, EPDC and CHUGOKU.

For Jean-Pierre Gros, Executive Vice President of AREVA's Recycling business unit, "This contract, signed through the fuel vendor MNF with a 8th Japanese utility, strengthens AREVA's world leadership in MOX fuel fabrication and attests Japanese utilities' confidence in our technology and know-how."

For Mr. Inoue, President of MNF, "This first MNF contract for MOX fuel will strengthen our relationship with AREVA in Japan. Working together, we are committed to the success of the MOX program of Hokkaido EPCo."

\* Contract signed between MELOX SA, to fabricate MOX fuel, and MNF, in charge of designing the fuel for the utility.

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**MORE ABOUT**

**AREVA**

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 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.

**AREVA MELOX**

Since 1995, AREVA MELOX has been fabricating MOX fuel assemblies for nuclear power plants in several countries including France, Germany, Switzerland, Japan and the United States. Made with uranium and plutonium oxides, MOX fuel is a solution for recycling the plutonium recovered from used nuclear fuel. With more than 1,500 tons produced to date, MELOX is the world's leading producer of MOX.

**MNF**

MNF is a full-fledged nuclear fuel fabrication service supplier, integrating development, design, manufacturing and sales. MNF is aimed at contributing to a stable supply of high quality nuclear fuel fabrication service in response to the increasing importance of nuclear power generation globally amid expanding efforts to prevent global warming. MNF supplies Japanese customers with uranium fuel assemblies for pressurized water reactors (PWR), boiling water reactors (BWR) and high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, as well as uranium-plutonium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel assemblies. MNF shareholders are Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), AREVA, Mitsubishi Materials Corporation (MMC) and Mitsubishi Corporation (MC)

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