



PRESS RELEASE

Enrichment: ramp-up of the Georges Besse II on schedule

Paris, January 16, 2013

Georges Besse II, AREVA's new enrichment plant inaugurated in December 2010, met a new milestone end of 2012 with more than 2.5 million separative work units (SWU) per year of installed production capacity reached, in line with the original project schedule.

Deployed over two separate units at the AREVA Tricastin site (France), the South and the North plants, Georges Besse II produced its first commercial SWU in 2011 using the centrifuge enrichment technology. With this technology, Georges Besse II offers the best guarantees in terms of technical reliability, energy saving and environmental impact.

Georges Besse II South plant is thus ramping up according to schedule, with on average two additional cascades commissioned every month. At the end of 2012, about 70% of the South plant is in production.

For the North plant, the civil engineering work and the Centrifuge Assembly Building were finalised and operational readiness testing was also completed. The North plant is expected to come on line in first quarter 2013.

Thanks to the modularity of the process, several cascades can be commissioned each month until the full production capacity of 7.5 million SWU is reached in 2016.

Guillaume Dureau, AREVA's Senior Executive Vice President of the Front End business group, said: "The capacity milestone reached shows AREVA's continuous commitment towards enrichment activities to ensure security of supply for its customers. This is also the result of AREVA teams' total involvement to conduct and deliver its projects on time and on budget."

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Ranked first in the global nuclear power industry, AREVA's unique integrated offering to utilities covers every stage of the fuel cycle, nuclear reactor design and construction, and related services. The group is also expanding its operations to renewable energies – wind, solar, bioenergies, hydrogen and storage – to be one of the leaders in this sector worldwide.

With these two major offers, AREVA's 48,000 employees are helping to supply ever safer, cleaner and more economical energy to the greatest number of people.