



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

Brazil's Angra plant advances in court

Brazil's state-owned Eletronuclear has won its appeal in the Rio de Janeiro Court of Justice on an embargo that had been blocking its completion of the third unit at the Angra nuclear power plant. The court victory allows Eletro-nuclear to proceed with the work on the Siemens/KWU 1,405-MW PWR, which was halted in April 2023 after disputes with the city government of Angra dos Reis regarding agreements related to "environmental compensation" payments and changes in granted permissions. The embargo created the latest delay in a long series of

stoppages that have plagued the project since it began in 1984. ■ Tokyo-based Muroosystems Corporation has acquired the German company NUKEM Technologies Engineering Services. The decision to sell NUKEM had been made in 2022 due to the geopolitical challenges of continuing the company under a Russian owner. Subsequent negotiations were held with a number of potential buyers until the purchase agreement was made with Muroosystems, a company that focuses on information technology in power development projects. The acquisition allows

NUKEM to return to markets from which it had lost access as a result of sanctions against Russia, thereby permitting an expansion of the company's presence and capabilities in the management of radioactive and hazardous waste and the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. NUKEM also plans to expand into the areas of nuclear fusion and other new technologies. ■ In a transaction slated to close in the third quarter of this year, Australia-headquartered Paladin Energy is acquiring Canada-based Fission Uranium Corp., creating a large uranium company that is

listed on both the Australian and Canadian stock exchanges. Shareholders of both companies stand to benefit from an enhanced project development pipeline and a diversified presence across uranium mining jurisdictions in Canada, Australia, and Namibia, where Paladin owns 75 percent of the Langer Heinrich uranium mine. The transaction is expected to advance Fission's Patterson Lake South (PLS) high-grade uranium project toward production. According to a feasibility study, the PLS project has a potential 10-year mine lifetime, with a production of 9.1 million pounds of triuranium octoxide per year. ■ The government of Niger has withdrawn Orano's operating

permit for the Imouraren uranium mine, which has estimated reserves of more than 200,000 tons of raw uranium. Orano subsidiary Imouraren SA had been granted a permit in 2009 and began excavations at the site in 2012. However, the company suspended the excavations in 2015 due to unfavorable market conditions. The Nigerien Ministry of Mines reportedly determined that Orano's plans for development of the site failed to meet government expectations. Orano responded that it had been preparing to resume operations at Imouraren and that it reserved the right to challenge the permit withdrawal before appropriate national or international jurisdictions.

■ The Utilities Services Alliance has named EnergySolutions "Services Supplier of the Year"—marking the fifth time that the Salt Lake City-based supplier of nuclear power, decommissioning, remediation, and waste solutions has received this honor. Among the Utilities Services Alliance members are the Columbia, Comanche Peak, Cook, Cooper, Fermi-2, Monticello, Prairie Island, South Texas Project, and Susquehanna nuclear power plants, as well as the Urenco uranium enrichment plant and four Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power nuclear plants.

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