



Laboratory, and has received a DOE site use permit. Lightbridge has been developing proprietary next-generation nuclear fuel technology for existing light water reactors and pressurized heavy water reactors and for new SMRs. Lightbridge previously signed two long-term framework agreements with **Battelle Energy Alliance**, the DOE's operating contractor for INL.

■ **GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy**, the nuclear business of **GE Vernova**, has awarded a contract to **BWX Technologies** to manufacture the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) for GEH's first BWRX-300 SMR, to be constructed at **Ontario Power Generation's** Darlington New Nuclear Project site. The RPV is the largest component in the BWRX-300. BWXT has a previous contract from GEH to perform RPV-related engineering analysis, design support, and manufacturing and procurement preparations. Early site preparation work at the Darlington site has been completed, and construction of the first of four planned BWRX-300 units is expected to begin this year, pending regulatory approval. GEH hopes to launch commercial operations at Darlington by the end of 2029.

Additionally, GEH has signed new MOUs with British nuclear engineering firms **Boccard** and **Cavendish Nuclear** to accelerate the deployment of SMRs in the United Kingdom. The agreements reflect GEH's intention of collaborating more closely with U.K.-based suppliers in order to better advance the development and operation of GEH's BWRX-300 SMR. The MOU with Boccard allows GEH to use that firm's digitalized nuclear manufacturing facility in North Wales, including its bespoke software BocTrack and its nuclear-experienced engineering and project management teams. The MOU with

Cavendish Nuclear builds on an existing relationship that has supported the regulatory approval of the BWRX-300 through the government's generic design assessment process. GEH has been navigating through **Great British Nuclear's** SMR selection competition and had previously announced SMR-related

collaborations with **Aecon**, **AtkinsRéalis**, **Jacobs**, and **Laing O'Rourke**.

■ French SMR developer **Hexana** has formed a strategic partnership with the Belgian engineering firm **Tractebel** aimed at supporting

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