



**Press release**

## **Engineering Studies for High Level Radioactive Waste Disposal in Underground Repositories**

### **- A European Integrated Project is launched -**

The European Integrated Project ESDRED (Engineering Studies and Demonstrations of Repository Designs), part of the European Union (EU) 6<sup>th</sup> Euratom Framework Programme for Nuclear Research and Training (2002-2006), is co-ordinated by the French national radioactive waste management agency (ANDRA) and involves in total thirteen partners from eight EU Member States and one Associated Country. The contract between the European Commission and the individual partners was signed on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2004.

With a five-year programme and a budget of EUR 18 million (of which EUR 7.3 million is from the Framework Programme), the overall objective of the ESDRED Project is to demonstrate, with the use of industrial-size prototypes, the technical feasibility of the different activities relating to the construction, operation and closure of a deep geological repository for high-level radioactive waste, in particular:

- the construction and installation of engineered barriers around waste packages,
- the transport and emplacement of waste packages in the disposal cells, and
- the use of specific cements and their emplacement through shotcrete techniques to build disposal cell sealing plugs or to reinforce underground structures.

Specific demonstration activities include :

- the construction of full-scale technological prototypes to test underground disposal operations for which industrial or mining experience is currently lacking, and
- the development of technological solutions adapted to repository designs, especially with a view to minimising any disturbance to the geological environment, as a means of ensuring the long-term safety of a repository.

A special programme involving the training of engineers and the transfer of technologies, especially intended for the new Members States of the European Union, will be proposed throughout the project, primarily in the form of secondment opportunities and/or seminars.

#### **PARTNERS**

##### **Radioactive Waste Management agencies:**

ANDRA, France  
ENRESA, Spain  
NAGRA, Switzerland  
NIREX, United Kingdom  
ONDRAF/NIRAS, Belgium  
POSIVA, Finland  
SKB, Sweden

##### **Technological R&D organisations:**

AITEMIN, Spain  
CSIC, Spain  
DBE TECHNOLOGY, Germany  
ESV EURIDICE EIG, Belgium  
GRS, Germany  
NRG, The Netherlands

#### **Contact**

Michèle CHOUCHAN, Director of communication and public relation branch

Telephone: +33 - 1 46 11 82 94 – Fax: +33 - 1 46 11 81 00

e-mail : [michele.chouchan@andra.fr](mailto:michele.chouchan@andra.fr)

Andra, Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs

Parc de la Croix-Blanche – 1/7, rue Jean-Monnet

F 92298 Châtenay-Malabry Cedex – France