



Press release
28 October 2024

Orano renews its confidence in the electrical engineering experts for the expansion of its Tricastin uranium enrichment plant

INEO Nuclear (part of Equans France), as leader, and Actemium Projets Nucléaires France (VINCI Energies), will provide the General Electrical Installation as part of the programme to increase the Orano plant's capacity.

Once extracted, uranium must be processed and enriched so that it can be used as fuel for nuclear power plants. This enrichment phase is strategic and relies on high added-value expertise. Inaugurated 10 years ago and located on the Tricastin site (in the Drôme department in south-east France), Orano's Georges Besse 2 enrichment plant is the only installation in France dedicated to this process. To meet **the challenges of Western sovereignty in terms of low-carbon nuclear-generated electricity**, its production capacity now needs to be expanded, requiring the construction of new buildings alongside the existing plant.

The consortium's remit is to design, build and commission high-current, high- and low-voltage electrical installations supplying all the process and utility sub-systems, as well as low-current installations (IT, telephony, fire safety and various alarm systems).

Meeting nuclear safety requirements

Working in a nuclear environment implies particularly stringent safety requirements and constraints, particularly in terms of traceability, inspection and selection of equipment and materials, such as the 200 km of fire- and shock-resistant cables. To take account of seismic hazards, for example, electrical cabinets and controls are laboratory-tested on vibrating tables to guarantee the safety of the installations. The members of the consortium work in collaboration with partners specialising in this type of equipment qualification. As the Georges Besse 2 plant is an INB (Basic Nuclear Installation), operators and technicians are trained and qualified to work in an environment with high safety and security requirements.

Renewed confidence

The consortium selected by Orano comprises INEO Nuclear, part of Equans France, a world leader in energy and services, and Actemium Projets Nucléaires France, a VINCI Energies company specialising in nuclear activities.

It brings together teams already involved in building the first three units of the plant, which were commissioned as of 2010 and reached 100% of their production capacity ten years ago. Orano's renewed confidence underlines the consortium's know-how and technical expertise in this type of large-scale project, in particular its ability to meet deadlines in response to an already established fuel fabrication requirement. With an investment of almost €1.7 billion, this expansion programme represents a major investment for the nuclear sector. The consortium is proud to contribute to this through the strong values it shares with Orano: safety, security, performance and commitment. INEO Nuclear and Actemium Projets Nucléaires France are delighted to be contributing to the growth and dynamism of the regional economy and employment in this area where the Drôme, Ardèche, Gard and Vaucluse departments in the south-east of France meet.

"The composition of our Consortium's teams is based on a large number of employees already involved in the initial Georges Besse 2 North plant construction programme, in the fields of project management, the performance of studies, works supervision and testing. I'm convinced that this experience, combined with our experts' mastery of this type of project, will ensure that we have full control over all phases of the project," emphasises **Olivier Gonthier, Major Projects Business Director at INEO Nuclear**, the consortium leader.

"The award of this major contract reflects the recognition by Orano, with whom we have been working for many years, of our ability to manage major industrial nuclear projects and to provide solutions for general electrical equipment and installations, our core business," adds **Julien Pierrot, Electricity, Fuel and Research Director, VINCI Energies Nuclear Activity**.

Key figures

- Up to 150 people on site during peak periods
- 200,000 hours of production
- 550 km of cables
- 34 km of pathways
- 2,200 lights
- 250 electrical boxes
- 42 distribution panels
- 24 low-voltage master distribution panels
- 650 fire detectors
- 150 documents to be reviewed
- 1,000 new documents per unit to be created

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About the Consortium and Equans France

Rooted in more than a century of history, the Equans group, a subsidiary of the Bouygues group, is a world leader in the energy and services sector. In France, thanks in particular to Ineo, Axima and Bouygues Energies & Services, it has a high territorial density synonymous with proximity. Its 35,000 employees in France support their customers in improving and optimising their equipment, systems and technical processes to meet the challenges of a triple transition: energy, industry and digital. Equans leverages a high level of expertise and technology, with the ambition of making a significant contribution to a resilient, low-carbon world. Electrical engineering, HVAC, refrigeration, fire safety, Facility Management, IT and telecommunications, digital solutions: Equans' complementary expertise is deployed in France through a unique combination of multi-technical skills for design, construction and installation projects, as well as for operation and maintenance services.

Active in 20 countries, with 90,000 employees working on five continents and annual revenue in 2023 of €18.8 billion, the Equans group connects, produces, supplies and protects energy and data for regions, towns and cities, buildings, plants and infrastructures every day. Following the same dynamic, its Equans France subsidiary achieved revenue of €7.1 billion in 2023, and operates in nearly 30 different countries.

www.equans.fr | www.equans.com

About Actemium Projets Nucléaire France

Actemium Projets Nucléaire France specialises in the management of complex projects. Drawing on this expertise, it supports its national customers at every stage of their projects, guaranteeing efficient management adapted to safety requirements and committed to a responsible approach. Based in the Pierrelatte basin, Actemium Projets Nucléaire France is one of VINCI Energies' dedicated nuclear companies.

About VINCI Energies

In a constantly changing world, VINCI Energies steps up the environmental transition by implementing two major transformations: the digital and energy revolutions. Its teams deploy tailored technologies and multi-technical solutions, from design to implementation, operation and maintenance. With strong local roots, agile and innovative, its 1,900 business units are strongly involved in their customers' energy choices, their infrastructures and their processes, making them more reliable, more efficient and more sustainable every day. VINCI Energies aims for a global performance that cares for the planet, is useful to the people and supportive of communities.

2022: €16.7 billion (revenue) // 90,000 employees // 1,900 business units // 57 countries

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Photo: Orano, Georges Besse plant



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