

Memorandum of Cooperation

between

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

and

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (hereinafter referred to individually as a “Participant” and collectively as “the Participants”),

RECALLING the excellent level of the relations between the Participants, including the Joint Statement towards Strategic Partnership between the Czech Republic and Japan, signed in August 2003 in Prague and the recent 100th anniversary of the relations between both countries;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significance of cooperation between the Czech Republic and Japan as “like-minded countries with shared values” and “those countries that opt to use nuclear energy”, as quoted in paragraph 70 of the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Communiqué 2023 (Sapporo, April 16, 2023);

CONSIDERING the extensive and successful experience of the Czech Republic and Japan in highly safe nuclear power-related technologies that both countries possesses, significant potential existing for cooperation in the nuclear power field, including nuclear power plant safety improvements and human resources development;

CONSCIOUS of the need to accelerate the transformation of the energy sector and its national energy mixes towards a more sustainable and low-carbon energy sector in order to contribute its fair share to the fight against climate change;

CONSCIOUS of the unique position of nuclear energy within their national energy mixes and the need for its further development, including in the fields of science, research and innovation, and knowledge building; and

REAFFIRMING their mutual desire to cooperate in the development of advanced reactors (hereinafter referred to as "ARs"), including small modular reactors (hereinafter referred to as "SMRs");

have reached the following understanding:

I. Purpose

The main purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is to explore the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in strengthening of nuclear supply-chain, industrial cooperation, and research and development cooperation related to current advanced and future nuclear energy systems.

This Memorandum of Cooperation aims at three key areas:

1. Strengthening of nuclear supply-chain, to be much more flexible and effective in technologies development and supply qualification and manufacturing of materials and components;
2. Industrial cooperation to support restart and/or Long-Term Operation of current nuclear power plants and their safety improvement with focus on the severe accident management
 - a) experimental and modelling support for severe and design basic accident scenarios
 - b) structural health analyses to support maintenance and ageing management programmes
 - c) development of specific manipulators and non-destructive testing methods for refurbishment or maintenance programmes
 - d) qualification and implementation of Accident Tolerant Fuels; and
3. Research and Development related to the current light water reactors (hereinafter referred to as “LWRs”) and advanced ARs and SMRs technologies by utilization of large research infrastructures of respective countries, to support development of new technology including advanced materials and nuclear fuels, and provide proper qualification for their industrial implementation.

II. Background

The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic has been tasked to coordinate all nuclear activities of the Czech Republic including the international cooperation in this area;

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan has been tasked to coordinate all industrial nuclear activities in Japan;

III. Forms of cooperation

The Participants are willing to conduct their respective activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner. The Participants may:

1. Promote initiative in the private sector and enhance business creation and open innovation through various programmes as well as engage with companies from other industries and start-ups with regard to the nuclear industry and international cooperation;
2. Promote initiative in the academic and research sector, engaging key institutions and supporting cooperative projects;
3. Build public acceptance in nuclear energy, promoting recognition of international community regarding the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station;
4. Share best practices for nuclear related technology development; and

5. Organize respective joint events, such as seminars, workshops, business matching, policy dialogues, exhibitions and conferences.

This Memorandum of Cooperation does not give rise to legally binding rights or obligations between the Participants under international law. Each Participant intends to bear all its own costs associated with the implementation of cooperation under this Memorandum of Cooperation, within the limit of its annual budgetary appropriations.

Signed at Prague on May 4, 2023 in two original copies in the English language.