

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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### EURATOM EXTENDS RESEARCH

### CONTRACT WITH FRENCH FIRM

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 18 -- The European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) has extended for a two-year period the large-scale contract in progress with the firm Société Nationale d'Etude et de Construction de Moteurs d'Aviation (SNECMA) under the U.S.-Euratom Research and Development Program.

The first stage of this work related to improvements in heat transfer in boiling-liquid-cooled nuclear reactors. These studies, on which about 15 research workers are engaged, are being carried out in close collaboration with the research laboratories of Euratom, which are assigning some of their own staff to work on the project. The problem consists in boosting the specific reactor power by whirling the liquid coolant by means of metal strips twisted lengthwise into spirals inside the core containing the nuclear fuel, a system which is intended to prevent the formation of a steamlock acting as a heat-insulator.

The results obtained so far are sufficient to justify the continuation and expansion of this project, mainly in order to:

1. Widen our understanding of these phenomena
2. Check by using a concrete installation (e.g. that of the Garigliano boiling water reactor included in the U.S.-Euratom Joint Research and Development Program) that the application of processes designed to improve thermal exchanges would be acceptable.
3. Establish a summary assessment of the characteristics of a boiling water reactor using this technique.

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