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For A. M. release

Thursday, September 21, 1961

NEW INVITATION ISSUED FOR PARTICIPATION IN SECOND PHASE
OF U. S.-EURATOM JOINT NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 -- A second invitation to participate in the United States-Euratom joint nuclear power reactor program has been issued to private and public enterprise in the six-nation European Community, it was announced today in Washington and Brussels.

The Commission of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission announced publication of the new invitation as part of the formal procedure for carrying out the program of the U. S.-Euratom Agreement for Cooperation.

The new invitation, characterized as more flexible than the first one (issued on April 13, 1959), provides that enterprises undertaking construction of large-scale nuclear power plants within the program framework may either purchase or lease the enriched uranium for fueling reactors. The Commissions of Euratom and AEC have agreed to seek amendment of the Agreement for Cooperation in order to make the leasing alternative possible.

Proposals under the second invitation must be submitted to the Joint AEC-Euratom Board no later than June 1, 1962. Benefits to firms participating in the program are the same as those made available under the first invitation. They include: a 10-year financial guaranty of fuel elements; long-term loans to finance a portion of the over-all investment cost; a plutonium buy-back plan; and chemical reprocessing of irradiated fuel. In addition, participants will also benefit economically from the reduction in the price of enriched uranium recently announced by the Atomic Energy Commission.

Under the terms of the second invitation participating firms must be able to give reasonable assurance that the nuclear plants can be built and brought into operation by December 31, 1965, and be operated for a minimum of 10 years as a source of safe and reliable power.

The Joint AEC-Euratom Board will give preference to proposals for power reactor plants having a nuclear capacity of at least 150,000 electric kilowatts. Smaller plants will be considered, however, if they present special interest for the program.

As a result of the first invitation under the program, the proposal of the Italian utility SENN was accepted, and a 150,000 electric KW boiling-water reactor is now under construction at a site between Rome and Naples.

An integral part of the U. S.-Euratom program is a joint 10-year research and development program centered on reactors accepted for construction. Information and new techniques deriving out of the program will be made freely available to industry in the United States and Euratom countries.

Reactor proposals may be submitted at any time before the cut-off date of June 1, 1962, for review and evaluation by the Joint Reactor Board. The Invitation and Supplemental Fact Sheet, as well as other pertinent information, can be obtained from the European Atomic Energy Community, 51 rue Belliard, Brussels, Belgium, or from the Division of International Affairs, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington 25, D. C.