**PRESS RELEASE**

**Rosatom started the first phase of construction of Paks II NPP units**

**On July 3, 2023, at the Paks II NPP construction site, the general contractor of the project, JSC ASE (Engineering Division of Rosatom) started works on the first phase of construction of the new Paks NPP units (Hungary) with the construction of the groundwater cut-off.**

The construction of the groundwater cut-off is carried out in strict compliance with the licences issued by the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA). Following the construction of the groundwater cut-off and soil stabilization, excavation works and preparation for the construction of the foundation slab will begin.

At present, four power units with VVER-440-type reactors are operating at Paks NPP built according to the Soviet design. The plant generates more than 50% of the electricity produced in Hungary. The Paks II NPP project is implemented based on the Russian-Hungarian intergovernmental agreement signed on January 14, 2014, and three basic contracts for the construction of the new NPP. The main license for the construction of the Paks II NPP was issued by the Hungarian regulator in August 2022. The Paks II NPP with two VVER-1200 3+ generation power units will be built on a turnkey basis. This was the first time that the licence to build this type of power units had been granted within the European Union. Obtaining a construction license confirmed that the new units comply with Hungarian and European safety standards. Units 5 and 6 of the Paks II NPP have a guaranteed lifetime of 60 years.

***For reference:***

The works of the first phase began with the construction of groundwater cut-off. It is an engineering structure – an impervious wall – one meter thick and up to 32 meters deep, having two and a half kilometres in circumference. Its task is to keep groundwater out of the pit. The cut-off is also designed to prevent the groundwater level at the construction site from dropping, which is a critical condition for the safe operation of the four operating units of the Paks NPP. In parallel with the construction of the groundwater cut-off, preparatory work is underway to construct auxiliary buildings and facilities, concrete plant, warehouses and office buildings.

The Rosatom State Corporation Engineering Division unites the leading companies of the nuclear industry: Atomstroyexport JSC (Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, branch offices in Russia and abroad), Joint Design Institute – Atomenergoproekt JSC (Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, and St. Petersburg branch offices and design institutes, branch offices in Russia and abroad, R&D branches) and subsidiary construction companies. The Engineering Division ranks first in the world by the order portfolio and the number of NPPs constructed simultaneously across the world. About 80% of the Division’s revenues come from foreign projects. The Engineering Division implements construction projects for high-power NPPs in Russia and across the world, renders a full range of EPC, EP, EPC(M) services including project management and design activities, and develops Multi-D technologies for the management of complex engineering facilities. The Division relies on the achievements of the Russian nuclear industry and innovative state-of-the-art technologies. www.ase-ec.ru

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