

Italy will provide assistance for the construction of the chemical weapons destruction facilities at Pochep. Germany is prepared to assist in the construction of the facility in Leonidovka; an exchange of Verbal Notes is under way. Great Britain and Canada are considering assistance for the facility at Kizner.

Canada, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Finland and Switzerland are funding public outreach centres in the vicinity of some facilities.

### **Dismantlement of nuclear submarines and related work**

Dismantlement of nuclear submarines withdrawn from the Russian Navy is another priority area identified at Kananaskis. This is a complex activity, including transport of the submarines, defuelling, dismantlement and safe storage of the reactor compartments.

Substantial progress has been made since 2002, with 61 submarines dismantled, including 17 with foreign assistance from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Japan and Norway. The activities have taken place mainly in northwestern Russia as well as in the Russian far east.

In addition to the dismantlement of submarines, Global Partnership projects also addressed the development of infrastructure to ensure nuclear material from the dismantlement process is made safe and secure. Key projects under way include:

- the German-financed construction of a long-term interim storage facility for 150 reactor compartments at Sayda Bay (the operation of the first section of the storage facility will start on July 18, 2006);
- the rehabilitation of the temporary storage facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel at Andreeva Bay funded by the U.K., Norway and Sweden;
- refitting of the nuclear waste incinerator in Zvezdochka shipyard funded by France;
- a multi-use naval vessel for the transport of nuclear (and related) materials funded by Italy; and

- an Spent Nuclear Fuel storage facility at the Atomflot site, Murmansk funded by the U.K. Canada funded environmental improvements at Zvezdochka.

The parties continue to use successfully the Framework Agreement on a Multilateral Nuclear Environment Program in the Russian Federation, which provided the basis for the implementation of the Northern Dimensional Environmental Partnership (NDEP) "nuclear window," which includes a number of nuclear multilateral and bilateral projects, such as rehabilitation programs at Gremikha funded by France, the NDEP and the EU.

As of December 1, 2005, the parties have accumulated €70,114 million in the NDEP's "Nuclear Window." To date, three contracts have been concluded, totalling €19.1 million. The parties are planning to provide up to €150 million for this program by the end of 2008.

### **Disposition of fissile material**

In 2000, the U.S. and the Russian Federation agreed to each convert 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium designated as no longer required for defence programs into forms not usable for weapons. As a number of countries have put funds aside for this purpose, it is hoped that the outstanding issues will be resolved to enable this important activity to commence.

The U.S. and Russia have agreed on a common approach to resolve the question of liability protections, which will help put this and other programs on solid ground for the long term.

### **Employment of former weapons scientists**

Since 2002, more than 1,400 research projects have been funded through the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Russia and the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) by the U.S., the EU, U.K., Canada, Japan and other countries, involving more than 17,000 former weapons scientists. In the coming year, the funding parties will analyze the activities and ways to improve further the effectiveness of the two Centers.