

AECL's CANDU station wins nod from Argentina

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) was notified recently by Argentine authorities that a 600-mega-watt CANDU station offered by AECL and its Italian partner, Italmimpianti, had been chosen as Argentina's next nuclear-power plant.

The price — about \$220 million — does not include heavy-water and customer costs, such as escalation and interest, during construction. Canadian "input" is estimated at about \$100 million.

The principals, AECL-Italmimpianti and the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission, will now begin negotiations with a view to signing a formal contract, which could take some weeks.

According to information received by AECL, the Argentine Junta decided in favour of a reactor fuelled with natural uranium for the nuclear-power plant to

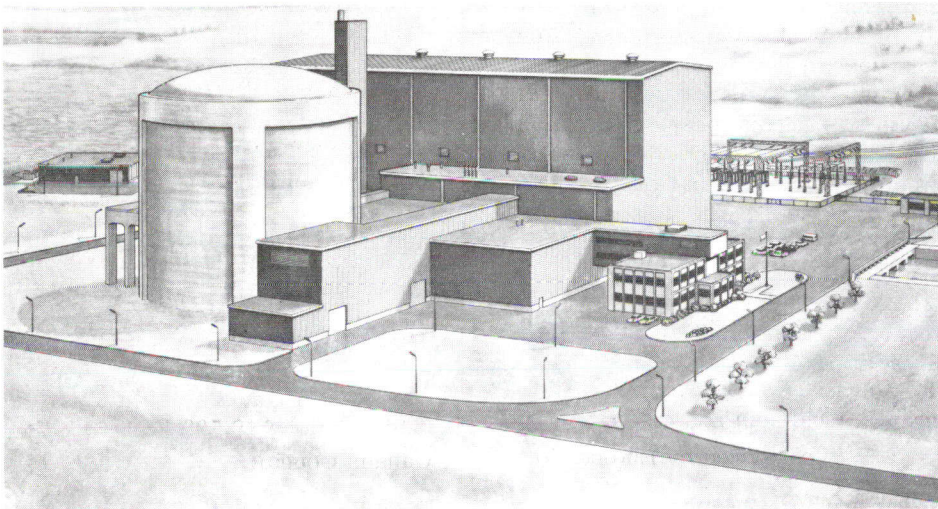
be built at Rio Tercero in the province of Cordoba, about 500 miles west of Buenos Aires. Implementing the decision, the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission chose the heavy-water-moderated, natural-uranium-fuelled CANDU reactor offered by AECL-Italmimpianti.

The partnership calls for AECL to supply the nuclear portion of the plant and Italmimpianti the conventional part.

The Canadian Government has approved Export Development Corporation financing for the Canadian portion of the project, details of which will be settled during contract negotiations.

Other bidders were General Electric and Westinghouse of the United States and Kraftwerk-Union of Germany.

The AECL-Italmimpianti offer provides for a construction period of 59 months from the date the contract is signed.



AECL photo

Artist's impression of the 600 MW CANDU nuclear power station to be

supplied to Argentina by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and Italmimpianti.

Computer-communications policy paper proposals

Proposals to deal with the fast-growing future of computer-communications (transmission of signals from a computer through a carrier) were tabled last month in the House of Commons by the Minister of Communications, Mr. Gérard Pelletier.

The 29 proposals are contained in a "green" paper on computer-communications. Together, they are intended to ensure that growth in this field is

orderly, that developments are co-ordinated, that a healthy Canadian industry is maintained and developed, and that the use of computer-communications is compatible with Canadian identity and social values.

Mr. Pelletier said that it was important to recognize that the proposals were not Government policy but were an "expression of Government thinking which will develop into concrete poli-

cies after appropriate consultation with the provinces and the private sector".

The paper has emerged eight months after the Canadian Computer-Communications Task Force handed down its report, and is a result of study of that report and of reaction to it from interested parties. It also follows by a month the tabling of a paper on general telecommunication policy proposals.

Mr. Pelletier said that although the computer-communications field was in its infancy, "its potential growth and influence on Canadian society" could not be ignored.

"Because of the importance of the computer-communications to future society, the Government rejects a *laissez-faire* approach, recognizing the need for an active governmental role in helping to ensure the development of computer-communications for the benefit of Canadian society," Mr. Pelletier stated.

One of the paper's main proposals is that an interdepartmental committee be created within the Federal Government to co-ordinate policies and to analyze alternatives on an on-going basis — its chairman and secretariat to be provided by the Department of Communications. Dr. Hans von Baeyer, formerly head of the Canadian-Computer Communications Task Force is the chairman.

Major proposals

Some of the highlights contained in the paper were that:

- recognizing that the computer-communications field was a key area of industrial and social activity, its use should reflect Canadian identity and Canadian influence and control should be at a maximum;
- the Government will consult with the provinces to promote co-operation among public and private sectors to develop systems and services and to achieve equitable access to computer services across the country;
- Government procurement policies will be used to stimulate the Canadian computer and communications industries and particularly the Canadian-controlled computer service industry;
- it is vital that the potential capabilities of computer-communications technology be closely harnessed to serve the needs of people as well as institutions;
- the Government will encourage the development of systems having broad