

"Ending the production of weapons-grade plutonium is a non-proliferation priority for the United States and the international community. ... The signing of this MOU with our Canadian partners is another key step toward meeting this priority."

—Samuel Bodman, U.S. Secretary of Energy,
Remarks on the Zheleznogorsk project, March 30, 2005.

project involves the construction of a fossil fuel plant to provide an alternative energy source, allowing Russia to close the Zheleznogorsk reactor. The potential environmental impact will be minimal and will be far outweighed by the enormous security and environmental benefits to be gained. Canada's contribution to the project includes \$9 million to fund design work in 2005. Construction of the replacement facility is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2006.

Project: Plutonium Disposition Program

The disposition of fissile materials is a key priority of the *Global Partnership*.⁵ Canada has committed \$65 million to support G8 funding of Russia's Plutonium Disposition Program. This program flows out of the U.S.–Russia bilateral agreement signed in 2000, which commits each party to the disposition of 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium. The initiative is dependent on international funding for Russia's portion of the program.

Canada is a member of the G8 Multilateral Plutonium Disposition Group, which is working to resolve cost issues, gather required international financing, and finalize the program's management structure. A formal multilateral agreement is required to provide the legal framework for the program to move to the implementation stage.

Project: Support to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund

The IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) is an effective vehicle for Canadian efforts to strengthen nuclear and radiological security throughout the FSU. Canada and the IAEA signed a \$4-million contribution arrangement in March 2004, making Canada the second largest contributor to the NSF. Under this arrangement, Canada is funding a variety of security activities until December 2006 including

IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions, physical protection upgrades at nuclear facilities, physical protection training sessions, improvements to radiation detection at international borders, missions for the recovery of radioactive sources, and workshops to assist states in developing national systems of control over radioactive sources. In addition, Canada is funding one staff position in the IAEA's Office of Nuclear Security to assist with the implementation of NSF projects.

An advantage of the NSF is that it enables Canada to fund nuclear and radiological security activities in FSU countries where Canada does not currently have appropriate legal frameworks in place. To date, the Canadian contribution has been used to fund:

- one IPPAS mission;
- work in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, including the provision of equipment and training related to detecting, identifying and responding to malicious acts; and
- the recovery of highly radioactive sources.



Canadian manufactured dosimeter to detect radiation emissions

⁵ G8 leaders first acknowledged the magnitude of the risk posed by weapons-grade plutonium at the 2000 Okinawa Summit, when they sought to establish an international financing plan for plutonium disposition in Russia.