

KHNP selected as preferred bidder for Czech nuclear power plant project

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Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) has been selected as the preferred bidder for the construction of a new nuclear power plant in Czechia. This significant win marks KHNP's entry into the European nuclear market.

The Czech government estimates the total project cost at approximately 200 billion Czech Koruna for a single unit, and around 400 billion Czech Koruna for two units. Final contract negotiations between KHNP and the project owner are expected to conclude by March 2025.

KHNP's APR1000 reactor, certified to meet the highest European safety and environmental standards, will be the centerpiece of the project. The company is committed to maximizing local content and has already signed MoUs with over 76 Czech companies, including Doosan Škoda Power, ŠKODA JS, and Metrostav Diz.

"The Czech government selected KHNP as the preferred bidder based on our internationally recognised capabilities in nuclear power plant construction. We are proud that KHNP has been able to become an important player in supporting to meet energy needs and reduce carbon emissions, extending beyond Korea," stated Dr. Jooho Whang, CEO of KHNP.

"A nuclear project means long-term cooperation for the next 100 years or so, from construction to operation. The construction of the APR1000 reactors would thus guarantee the long-term development of partnership and friendship for both countries. Thus, a strengthened partnership between the governments of both countries could enable extensive cooperation across a wide range of areas. We see this as a major commitment and will do everything possible in the final negotiations to ensure that the APR1000 reactor is actually built in the Czech Republic," he added.

KHNP has a strong track record in nuclear power plant construction and operation, and the company is confident in its ability to deliver a safe, reliable, and cost-effective project in Czechia.

The localisation of the project will also concern the workforce. According to KHNP advisory Alois Mika, the company plans to preferably use workers from the Czech Republic or other European countries. “KHNP’s plan is to make maximum use of human resources in the Czech Republic. If that is not enough, plan B will follow, i.e. mobilise labour in the European Union or other European countries” Mika explained at the Czech-Korean Nuclear Energy and Cultural Exchange Day in June.

KHNP is actively pursuing constant communication with community members

Alongside efforts to enhance the APR1000’s competitiveness, KHNP has persistently engaged with community members in the region designated for the new nuclear plant. The company’s commitment to sincere communication with the local community is evident through efforts such as sponsoring a local sports team, participating in volunteer activities, and engaging in cultural exchanges. This has garnered trust from a wide range of stakeholders and undoubtedly contributed to the company being selected as the preferred bidder in a positive way.