



Supporting the nuclear power programme in Belarus

The challenge

In January 2008, the Security Council of Belarus approved the construction of a nuclear power plant (NPP), and a law on the use of nuclear energy was enacted in July 2008. Launching a national nuclear energy industry was a considerable step towards enhancing the country's energy security and a powerful incentive for accelerating technological-advanced and innovation-driven future development.

In July 2012, Belarus signed a construction contract with the Russian Federation for two 1170 MWe units, as well as fuel supply, spent fuel take-back, training and other services. To develop the workforce for the new NPP, a national training system to supply qualified specialists for the nuclear power sector was created within the State Programme of Education and Training for the Belarus Nuclear Power Programme. The required infrastructure was established and key organizations (nuclear energy programme implementing organization, operating organization, regulatory body and technical support

organization) involved in the implementation of the national nuclear power programme were defined. Belarus is working toward IAEA Milestone 3, 'Ready to commission and operate the first nuclear power plant' (IAEA document NG-G-3.1 (Rev. 1) 'Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power'). The IAEA and Belarus have developed a country-specific Integrated Work Plan to support the implementation of the Belarus Nuclear Power Programme.

The project

An IAEA technical cooperation project was set up to strengthen the operating organization and to develop a human resources management system for the first nuclear power plant in Belarus, with the objective of ensuring its safe and reliable operation. Under the project, a quality management system and a legal framework for personnel training were developed. Training programmes for the NPP staff were reviewed in line with a systematic approach to training. The NPP training centre was equipped with two new computer-based training modules



Nuclear power plant construction, Belarus, July 2018. (Photo: BelNPP/Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus)

