

Fennovoima nuclear power station works get under way

By Jouko Vaskimo

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The construction of the **Fennovoima** nuclear power, **Hanhikivi 1**, is getting under way at Hanhikivi 1 site at Pyhäjoki, Finland. This major step forward aligns with the first representatives of Finnish labor unions beginning their work at the Hanhikivi 1 site. Mr **Jouni Karekivi**, from the city of Oulu, has been appointed as the common shop steward of the Hanhikivi site. Mr **Mikko Lehtelä**, from city of Raahe, has been appointed as the general health and safety representative of the Hanhikivi site. Both appointees have extensive experience in relevant business areas: Mr Karekivi in construction and Me Lehtelä in ground works and steel industry.

Mr Karekivi and Mr Lehtelä commented “It’s great to be involved in such a unique project and to have the opportunity to help make sure that employment issues at a big, international construction site are handled in compliance with Finnish labor laws already at the early stages of the project.”



An illustration of completed Hanhikivi 1 site (photo courtesy Fennovoima)

The common shop steward and the general health and safety representative are part of the site agreement, which Fennovoima, the plant supplier **RAOS Project Oy**, and Finnish labor market organizations signed in the spring of 2014.

The site agreement defines the policies of cooperation that the construction site must comply with and ensures that Finnish legislation is followed. The agreement defines e.g. the procedures for information exchange and problem solving, the activities of the site's labor union representatives, and the practical means for preventing a grey economy.

According to Mr Karekivi and Mr Lehtelä, the cooperation defined in the site agreement provides an excellent basis not only for the smooth progress of the project but also for them to perform their duties as representatives of labor unions.

“Common rules of operation agreed in advance facilitate the work of all actors participating in the project. The site agreement also acts as a guiding principle for our decision making. This is precisely the kind of cooperation and systematic approach required at a construction site that will employ thousands of workers at the peak of the construction phase.

Karekivi and Lehtelä were chosen by the **Finnish Construction Trade Union** after an interview process. The decision was made by the Finnish Construction Trade Union because it represents the largest sector of industry at the Hanhikivi 1 construction site. Other labor unions involved in the site agreement are the **Finnish Metalworkers' Union**, **Trade Union Pro**, the **Finnish Construction Trade Union** and the **Finnish Electrical Workers' Union**. The labor unions may appoint their own union representatives as soon as their industry-specific limit of employees at the plant site has been exceeded.

In accordance with the site agreement, Fennovoima has introduced a site register for the Hanhikivi 1 construction site. The register contains the current information on all the companies and employees working at the site. To date, the information on a total of 135 companies has been entered in the register; 131 of the companies are Finnish. Additionally, an official authority office will be set up where workers and companies can seek consulting and advice.

Fennovoima is building a nuclear power station Hanhikivi 1 (FH1) to produce electricity for its owners at cost price. The plant will be built on a greenfield site in Pyhäjoki in Northern Finland (photo courtesy Fennovoima).

Fennovoima and **RAOS Project**, subsidiary of **Rusatom Energy International**, have a plant supply contract for the Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant. According to the schedule agreed with **Rosatom**, Hanhikivi 1 is expected to produce CO₂-free electricity in 2024.





Fennovoima Ltd is a Finnish nuclear power company established by a consortium of Finnish power and industrial companies. Fennovoima is not in possession of nuclear power generation capacity, however, it has plans to construct a 1200 MW Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant at Pyhäjoki.

Finnish industry, trade and the energy companies in need of their own electricity production established Fennovoima in 2007. Fennovoima was originally set up as a partnership between **Voimaosakeyhtiö SF**, a co-operation producing electricity for its owners' needs at production cost in proportion to their ownership share, with 66% and the German power company E.ON with 34%. After E.ON's withdrawal from Finland, Voimaosakeyhtiö SF briefly owned 100% of Fennovoima shares. As per an agreement with Russian Rosatom, RAOS Voima Oy, a Finnish subsidiary of Rosatom, acquired a 34% stake which previously belonged to E.ON. Although RAOS Voima was prepared to take 49% in the project, Voimaosakeyhtiö SF commits to own more than half of the power plant and aims to increase the share of Finnish companies up to 66%.[9] As of 2014, Voimaosakeyhtiö SF has 44 shareholders.[9]

The Hanhikivi 1 power station has been advertised as provider of electricity for the industry. Many commercial parties resigned the initiative before the application. Finnish/Russian nuclear energy may become contradictory competition factor in Finland and in the western markets. In July 2015 10% of the partners were private companies. 90% is municipals and state companies. According to critics nuclear electricity is more expensive than alternatives. Present financial models predict the power station will produce electricity at less than €50 per MWh.

For further information, please navigate to www.fennovoima.fi.



Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) is a state corporation i.e. non-profit organization in Russia, established in 2007. It is headquartered in Moscow. Rosatom offers the entire range of nuclear industry products and services. Rosatom runs all nuclear assets of the Russian Federation, both civil and weapons. Along with commercial activities which move forward nuclear power and nuclear fuel cycle facilities, it acts as a governmental agent, primarily in the field of national security (nuclear deterrence), nuclear and radiation safety, basic and applied science.

Rosatom is mandated to act on behalf of the Russian Federation the international commitments undertaken by the nation with regard to the peaceful use of atomic energy. The main goals of Rosatom are ensuring sustainable development of nuclear weapons, increasing nuclear contribution in electricity generation with continued safety improvement, and strengthening Russia's position on the global market of nuclear technology by expanding traditional markets and attracting new ones. For further information please navigate to www.rosatom.ru.

About the Author



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Jouko Vaskimo works as Development Manager in charge of project management training portfolio at Aalto PRO, the Professional Development unit of Aalto University in Espoo, Finland. He is also an International Correspondent and Editorial Advisor for *PM World* in Finland. Jouko graduated from Helsinki University of Technology in 1992. Since then he has held project management related assignments with increasing levels for responsibility at Sinebrychoff Ltd, the oldest brewery in Scandinavia; Kemira Engineering Ltd, the leading chemicals manufacturer Finland; DNA Finland Ltd, a large Finnish mobile phone operator; Nokia Business Infrastructure; and Ixonos PLC, one of the leading Finnish ICT consultancies. Jouko holds the IPMA Level C (Project Manager) and Level B (Senior Project Manager) certificates and is the past chairman of the Finnish IPMA Certification Body operating IPMA certification in Finland. He is a member of the Project Management Association Finland and a founding member of PMI Finland Chapter. He received the PMP certificate in 2003. Since October 2007, Jouko has been heading the Finnish delegation to ISO/TC 258. Jouko resides in Espoo, Finland and can be best contacted at jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi.