

Press release

SOCOTEC: INAUGURATION OF PIERRELATTE NUCLEAR TRAINING CENTRE

SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire, one of the leaders in nuclear training in France, **will hold the inauguration ceremony for its new nuclear training centre at Pierrelatte, southern France, on 25 April.** The inauguration will be attended by **Patrice Mas**, Director of Industrial Policy and Supplier Relations for EDF/DPN, **Marinne Dumont**, IPSR project manager for EDF/DPN, **Hervé Montjotin**, CEO of the SOCOTEC Group, **Sébastien Botin**, SOCOTEC Group Human Resources Director with responsibility for training activities, **Damien Gousy**, CEO of SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire and **Hichem Sahraoui**, head of the Pierrelatte centre.

The opening of the Pierrelatte nuclear training centre is a clear demonstration of SOCOTEC's vitality in France's nuclear sector, which is being impacted by the economic climate, ecological transition and recent reforms to continuous professional development. By placing itself close to **this industry's players to assist them with their training plans, the SOCOTEC Group is consolidating its leading position in nuclear sector training.**

MEET THE MARKET'S NEW NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

The framework for continuous professional development in the nuclear sector recently changed, with reinforced checks on the amounts invested and **increased requirements for workers to earn qualifications through apprenticeships and the French *compagnonnage* system of training under skilled workers.** Against this backdrop, SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire has adapted its training offering to help maintenance companies raise their employees' technical skills and has invested in first-class premises that reproduce the exact working conditions inside nuclear plants.

The new Pierrelatte centre, which opened recently, meets all new requirements for core nuclear training as well as those of EDF's Nuclear Protection Division (DPN): EDF's MEEI¹ programme, simulations in premises identical to those of a nuclear power plant, validation of technical actions, etc. The centre also houses **a training worksite for Core Nuclear Knowledge and the Additional Safety and Quality module and a radiation protection worksite certified by CEFRI**, the French radiation protection certification committee. The centre will dispense **very high quality training for internal and external personnel who carry out work in nuclear power plants.**

The centre covers an area of **1,236m², including 731m² of training worksite and six classrooms.** It can accommodate **2,000 trainees a year.** Eight trainers offer all types of nuclear training:

- Core nuclear training courses
- Assistance and consultancy in radiation protection and in how to become an approved nuclear power plant service provider
- Dosimetry management and Radio Protection Officer (RPO) certification
- Industrial and nuclear maintenance training.

To ensure a high level of safety and security at nuclear facilities and meet companies' needs, SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire has developed **specific maintenance courses** that provide highly personalised training in both behavioural and technical aspects by using educational facilities that simulate real conditions.

¹MEEI: Maintain facilities in an exemplary condition

STRATEGIC LOCATION TO SUPPORT SOCOTEC'S VITALITY IN THE NUCLEAR SECTOR

The choice of Pierrelatte as location, in place of the Bollène centre, **is a strategic choice due to its proximity to the Cruas and Tricastin nuclear plants**. Located at the **heart of the network of companies that work in the nuclear sector**, the new centre enables SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire to be closer to future partners as well as current clients: EDF, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in Marcoule, and ORANO DS. The location also bolsters its regional base in the sector.

SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire currently has **five training centres** and will soon be opening a sixth in the Paris area. It employs **53 people**, including **39 trainers**, and trains more than **10,000 people a year**; in 2017, it posted **revenue of €5 million**.

Training plays a key role in the array of services developed by the SOCOTEC Group for the nuclear industry. SOCOTEC has **600 employees** specialising in nuclear activities and over 40 years' experience in the sector, where it **generates annual revenue of €60 million**. **It operates at all of France's nuclear plants and waste storage sites** and supports clients throughout the life cycle of their facilities, whether for design studies, construction and development, operation and maintenance, or decommissioning.

Its main services include non-destructive testing, QA/QC inspection, expediting and technical assistance, owner assistance, regulatory technical controls and inspections, tests and analyses, advice on regulatory files (installation classified for environmental protection, IOTA [installations, infrastructure, works and activities]), risk analysis, hazard studies and digital simulations, and training in nuclear risk and radiation protection.

ABOUT SOCOTEC FORMATION NUCLÉAIRE

SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire offers comprehensive services in training, engineering and consultancy in France and other countries in the fields of nuclear activities and industrial maintenance.

SOCOTEC Formation Nucléaire dispenses over 140,000 hours of training a year at five centres in France: Dieppe, Dunkirk, Flamanville, Lagnieu and Pierrelatte. It has five radiation protection and risk prevention training worksites, five training worksites for Core Nuclear Knowledge and the Additional Safety and Quality module, and an ARC-approved¹ training worksite in Dunkirk (the only private-sector ARC¹ training worksite in France).

ABOUT THE SOCOTEC GROUP

The SOCOTEC Group, headed by Hervé Montjotin, has built its reputation over more than 60 years as a trusted partner assisting companies in the areas of quality, health and safety, and the environment.

SOCOTEC's mission is to ensure the integrity and performance of assets and people's safety. Through its inspection and measurement, assistance and consultancy, and training and certification services, SOCOTEC helps to optimise the performance of companies in every sector by managing the risks inherent in their activities. Drawing on its expertise and positioning itself as a long-term partner, SOCOTEC supports its clients throughout their project's lifecycle.

As France's No. 1 in construction inspection and a major player in TIC² for the construction and infrastructure sectors, the SOCOTEC Group generates consolidated revenue of €650 million (30% outside France) with 200,000 clients. It has operations in 25 countries, 6,800 employees and over 250 forms of external recognition. In France, its network of 200 operations covers the entire country and includes 35 training centres.

¹ARC: Skill Adaptation/Renewal

²TIC: Testing, Inspection, Certification