



ATKINS AND ASSYSTEM TO FORM STRATEGIC FRANCO-BRITISH ALLIANCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Paris/London 13 December 2010: Atkins and Assystem are to form a strategic alliance to create a 50/50 nuclear engineering joint venture to provide consultancy and engineering services to the rapidly-expanding international nuclear new build market. The Nuclear Atkins Assystem Alliance will enable both companies to address demand from governments and utilities in countries developing nuclear power as part of their energy mix and will provide services to nuclear new build projects and across the entire nuclear fuel cycle.

The alliance will enable both Atkins and Assystem to expand in a highly promising market. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) states that more than 30 countries are using nuclear power as a sustainable energy source and another 30 are considering development. Together, these countries represent a market of more than 200 new reactors over the next 20 years. Together, Atkins and Assystem employ some 27,000 highly trained professionals. The Nuclear Atkins Assystem Alliance is supported by this talent pool, of which 3,000 are professionals with nuclear skills, capable of delivering the engineering services needed to keep pace with this fast-growing sector. As they diversify their energy mixes, governments and power utilities will need to count on the support of experienced engineering partners, with a well-established track record in the design, construction and operation of nuclear power facilities.

Atkins and Assystem are recognised by key participants in the global nuclear power industry for their engineering expertise and track record:

- The two companies each enjoy more than 40 years' experience in the nuclear sector, supporting the development of nuclear power programmes in two pioneering countries, France and the United Kingdom.
- Atkins has a reputation for delivering engineering excellence worldwide including in many countries which are considering adding nuclear power to their energy mix.
- Assystem has built its engineering reputation in some of the world's safest, most advanced nuclear technologies by working with such market leaders as AREVA and EDF, supporting them on all of their projects in France and abroad.

Headquartered in France, the alliance will combine Atkins' and Assystem's strengths to position both companies to take advantage of opportunities in the global nuclear market. Atkins and Assystem will continue to serve their home markets of the UK and France as separate entities.

Both companies have formed a strong relationship as they are already working together on the ITER international nuclear fusion research project in the south of France, having been selected last April as part of the Engage consortium to act as Building Architect Engineer.

Keith Clarke, chief executive of Atkins, explained: "Nuclear engineering is a key part of Atkins' strategy going forward. The alliance with Assystem will give us a strong platform from which to deliver nuclear services to emerging international markets. The combination of our collective nuclear expertise will position us superbly to pursue opportunities in a broader array of markets with a wider range of services which go beyond our considerable presence in our own home markets."

Dominique Louis, chairman of the Assystem management board, added: "By combining our capabilities and the experience acquired in the French and British nuclear programmes, which are among the world's most advanced, Assystem and Atkins will together deliver unrivalled nuclear engineering excellence to governments and utilities."

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For more information:

ATKINS

Sara Lipscombe, Group communications director

+44 1372 726140

Andy Winstanley, head of PR

+44 1372 752018

Alex Simmons, Smithfield

+44 207 9030669

ASSYSTEM

Pauline Bucaille, communications VP

+33 1 55 65 03 08

Editors' note:

Assystem is an international Engineering and Innovation Consultancy that is Europe's leading independent provider of nuclear engineering services. As a key provider in the industry for more than 40 years, Assystem supports its customers in developing their products and optimizing their industrial investments throughout their life cycle. Assystem employs more than 8,500 people worldwide and reported €613 million in revenue in 2009.

Recent projects in the nuclear engineering sector include the commissioning of the first units at Areva's GB II enrichment facility, an EPCM contract from France's Atomic Energy Commission for radioactive waste reprocessing and encapsulation facilities and onsite studies for the Finnish and Chinese EPR plants. Assystem trains 400 professionals every year in its in-house facility, the Assystem Nuclear Institute.

Atkins is the UK's largest engineering and design consultancy and the world's 11th largest design firm. We have the depth and breadth of expertise to respond to the most technically challenging and time critical infrastructure projects and the urgent transition to a low-carbon economy. Whether it's the concept for a new skyscraper, the upgrade of a rail network, the modelling of a flood defence system or the improvement of a management process, we plan, design and enable solutions.

Recent projects in the nuclear engineering sector include the delivery of engineering services across the UK's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) estate including the decommissioning of the first generation magnox storage pond at Sellafield, one of the highest hazard facilities in the NDA estate. In addition, Atkins has played a key role for British Energy in providing the solution to returning the Heysham A and Hartlepool nuclear power stations back to power following problems with the boiler closure unit on those stations. For Her Majesty's Government, a siting study was undertaken to screen alternative locations of new nuclear plants. Atkins has trained more than 550 engineers over the past two years in its Nuclear Training Academy.