

## Hitachi Concludes Agreement with Energy Ministry of Lithuania for NPP Exports

On March 30, Japan's Hitachi, Ltd. announced that it had signed a concession agreement—an understanding between a company and a host government specifying the rules under which the company can operate locally—with the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania regarding the construction of the Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in that country, including partial investment in the project company. The agreement will be officially concluded after approval is given by the Lithuanian parliament, which is now in session. The project's approval will mark another important step for Hitachi in delivering the advanced boiling water reactor (ABWR) it has proposed.



After the Lithuanian parliament approves the agreement, a concession for power plant construction will be granted to a project company to be established with investments by Hitachi, Visagino Atominė Elektrinė (VAE) and regional partners, including Estonia and Latvia. The Lithuanian government established VAE in 2008 to promote the Visaginas NPP project. The project company (with Hitachi investing) is expected to conclude the final contracts for engineering, procurement, construction and so forth by this summer, with operation slated to start in 2021.

Hitachi and Hitachi-GE Nuclear Energy, Ltd. (Hitachi-GE) proposed an ABWR for the Visaginas NPP with an enhanced level of safety, reflecting the lessons learned from last year's nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPS, including the need for alternative power supplies and countermeasures to restore cooling functions as necessary. Hitachi will team up with GE, Hitachi's U.S. partner in the nuclear power business, and GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy.

Hitachi was selected last July as the strategic investor for the project to construct the Visaginas NPP, and signed an initial memorandum in December on terms for the concession agreement.

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