

**The All Party Parliamentary Group on Nuclear Energy
Wednesday 28 November 2007
The Boothroyd room, portcullis house**

**Presentation by
Brian Cothran, vice-president,
Europe, GE-Hitachi
Nuclear Energy**

“New nuclear energy in the UK A GE perspective”

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin of Roding
Anne Moffat MP
Professor Robin Grimes, Imperial College

Attendees:

John Robertson MP	Bill Tynan
Michael Connarty MP	Michael Courtney
Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP	Desmond Cecil, Areva
Jim Sheridan MP	Tris Denton, NIA
Albert Owen MP	Simon James, NIA
Bill Olnier MP	Craig Stevenson, BE
John Spellar MP	James Garthwaite, BE
Stephen Ladyman MP	Adrian Bull, Westinghouse
David Drew MP	Audrey Yvernault, Politics International
Lord Williams	Nicole Fuller, Politics International
Baroness Williams of Crosby	Dr Timothy James, Swansea University
Stuart Hercock (for Baroness Royall of Blaisdon)	B Neville, Centrica

Welcome and introductions

John Robertson MP, Chair of the APPG welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Brian Cothran and his colleagues, Lee Elder, Senior Vice-President, David Hinds, Vice President, New Unit Engineering, Joe Carelli, Vice-President, Europe Sales and Magued Eldaief, President, UK (GE Energy).

GE-Hitachi

Brian Cothran, Vice-President of Business Development gave a general overview of GE which was founded in 1878, with over 325,000 employees worldwide and based in more than 100 countries. He explained that GE Hitachi's portfolio includes Infrastructure, Industrial NBC Universal, Healthcare, Commercial Finances and Consumer Finance. GE Energy includes gas, cleaner coal, nuclear, wind, hydro, biomass, solar, network reliability, environmental services and asset Optimization.

The UK is GE's third largest market which employs around 22,000 people throughout the United Kingdom. GE Technology generates almost 15GW of the UK's energy requirements with 5.5GW currently under contractual services/O&M contracts. GE constructed and owns Baglan Bay 550MW CCGT and also GE Healthcare owns 3 Nuclear Licensed sites

As nuclear expands across the world, GE joined Hitachi, in preparation for the nuclear renaissance. The companies, each bringing their own unique brand of specialisms and skills, and have worked successfully in a complimentary partnership for over thirty years. Earlier this year, they embarked on building new offices in Bracknell.

They jointly built an ABWR, one of the most advanced operational reactors and both have joint experience in the ESBWR.

Brian went on to explain the new construction forecasts in the Americas, Europe, Asia and India. The US NRC final design approval is expected in 2008 with the first ESBWR on plan to be operational by 2015. The UK GDA is underway and approval is expected in early 2011.

He explained that the ESBWR is well suited for the UK due to its improved safety and security features. Another advantage is that the design has been simplified and standardised, along with the excellent economics of the operating and capital costs.

GE-Hitachi is confident to succeed in the UK. It has been successful in the UK since the 1930s and has 50 years experience in nuclear industry.

A question and answer session followed and a wide range of questions were asked of the GE-Hitachi team. These covered: sufficient supply chain in the UK; skills and manufacturing in the UK; the technology of the ESBWR; the difference between the ASBWR and ESBWR; and the overall economics.

John Robertson MP thanked Brian and his colleagues on behalf of the group for coming along and giving an excellent overview of GE-Hitachi's perspective on new nuclear build in the UK.