



LUCOEX project WP5 Newsletter 1/2012

The Large Underground Concept Experiments “LUCOEX” project focuses on developing solutions for underground disposal of nuclear waste. The project was started in 2011 and it is implemented in collaboration with a consortium of Posiva Oy (Finland), Svensk Kärnbränsle-hantering AB (“SKB”) (Sweden), Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs (“ANDRA”) (France) and Nationale Genossenschaft für die Lagerung radioaktiver Abfälle (“Nagra”)(Switzerland). The project is partly financed by the European Union’s EURATOM programme.

The Finnish Posiva Oy is responsible for the project’s Work Package 5, KBS-3V Emplacement tests in ONKALO (EMP). This newsletter presents briefly the main activities and outcomes of the WP during the year 2012.

Development of methods and equipment

During 2012, the Finnish engineering office Insinööritoimisto Comatec Oy has made the design of the steel construction and automation system for the buffer installation machine. The design of quality control equipment and problem handling tools has been going on at the same time. Possible solutions for handling problem situations have been decided and the basic idea for the respective equipment has been formulated.

Konepaja Laaksonen Oy was chosen in a tendering process to manufacture the steel construction for the buffer and pellet installation machine. The work was started in July and in the end of 2012 all steel components have been manufactured and painted. The assembling was started at the end of November and will be ready by the end of January 2013. Elmont Oy has been chosen to realize the needed electricity and automation component installations.

The design of the transportation shuttle required for taking the buffer blocks from the central tunnel to the installation machine has been done and the documents for the respective tendering process are ready.

During 2012 the search for the place for the first phase demonstration has been going on. A final decision has not been yet taken. The second and third phase will be done in Onkalo in Olkiluoto.

Plans for the year 2013

LUCOEX WP5 main activities in 2013 will be the installation of electricity and automation equipment into the installation machine and the manufacturing of the transportation shuttle. Demonstrations of the buffer installation with full scale blocks and pellets will be started in the spring in three phases, together with demonstrating the quality control equipment. If possible, also the demonstration of problem handling tools will be connected to the afore-mentioned demonstrations.



LUCOEX WP5 team wishes all Collaborators
Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year!

