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WP5: KBS-3V Emplacement tests in ONKALO (EMP)

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LUCOEX project WP5 Newsletter

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 2014.

Testing of buffer installation machinery

Early in the year 2014 the buffer installation machine (BIM) and buffer transfer machine (BTD) has been in the storage waiting for accomplishment of the test hall in Onkalo site. The test hall completed in the end of March and the implementation of automation system for the BIM and BTD continued.

The testing of buffer blocks installation in test hall in Onkalo site began in September. The testing gave a good experience of machine functions and finishing needs for the testing in Onkalo underground facility. The operation of the machine was introduced for the LUCOEX partners and expert group 14th October.

The finalizing of ground level tests in the test hall was not possible because the deposition hole made of polycarbonate was too weak. The hole will be reinforced and the last tests in test hall will be performed in early 2015.

Problem handling tools

The tools for the solving of buffer installation problems have developed and manufactured. The first tests have performed with lifting aids and water jet cutting system in ground level. According the results obtained, small modifications will be done to the tools before the tests in Onkalo demonstration tunnels.

Plans for the year 2015

LUCOEX WP5 main activities in 2015 will be the testing of installation machine and problem handling tools in demonstration tunnels in Onkalo underground facility.