

# US ahead in race for India's nuke power



SANDEEP MENEZES .....

**US** nuclear power companies are seeking maximum partnership with Indian industry to gain lucrative contracts after the end of the country's nuclear isolation. Although the US boasts of the largest civilian nuclear power

industry, it has not licensed any new nuclear power plant since the accident at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in 1979.

When questioned about the technological capability of US companies partnering India in spite of not setting up new nuclear

power plants in the last two decades on its own soil, Ted Jones, Director, US-India Business Council, told *Projectmonitor*, "US companies have the requisite technological capability to implement projects in India. US companies are global players and have even been active in Asia where conditions are similar to India."

But when *Projectmonitor* again pointed out that in spite of its leadership role in nuclear industry, no new nuclear plants had been added in the US, Jones immediately asserted, "Where a nuclear plant is built is not important, but US companies have been building plants across the world."

Ms Meena Mutyala, Vice President — India Strategy, Westinghouse, also confidently told this paper, "We have been based in the US and though there have been

no new nuclear reactors in the US, we have been very active overseas. In Korea, for example, in that timeframe, we worked with Korean companies on our designs; our reactor technology has been implemented in that country. About 14 reactors are operating today and an additional four are under construction in Korea using Westinghouse technology."

The Three Mile Island nuclear accident may have led to non-addition of new nuclear power plants in last two decades, but the US still remains the largest generator of nuclear electric power in the world. It has 27 per cent of the world's total installed capacity and is now working towards 100 per cent participation in India's nuclear power industry.

Recently, a US Commercial Nuclear Mission comprising 60 senior executives representing more than 30 world-leading commercial nuclear companies visited India. The Mission was supported by the Nuclear Energy Institute and US Department of Commerce.

## Nuclear companies favour PPP

SHALINI NAIR .....

**MORE** than 30 of the world's leading commercial nuclear companies attended the largest-ever trade mission organised by the US-India Business Council in New Delhi and Mumbai last week.

Ted Jones, Director, USIBC, said, "We have come to touch base with stakeholders in India and understand that by 2020 there is a need of 30,000 mw, and by 2030 it will add up to 60,000 mw." He also encouraged PPP in the nuclear sector.

V.K. Chaturvedi, Director, Reliance Energy Ltd, noted, "A policy is awaited from industries like manufacturing, utilities for global commerce. The business council should take care of manufacturing critical parts within the country and help manufacturers who have business abroad."

# Thorium Power hails PPP in N-power

**THORIUM** Power Ltd, based in McClean, Virginia, USA, a likely forerunner in India's nuclear power sector, has welcomed recent signals from the Centre for increased private participation in the sector.

Seth Grae, President & CEO, told *Projectmonitor*, "There is considerable technological expertise in the public and private sectors. We believe the future of India's nuclear industry rests on strategic and effective collaboration."

He continued, "There is much the private sector can do to advance nuclear renaissance in India, but full participation in national nuclear programme will take time. India's nuclear power programme could certainly benefit from private participation, especially given the technological and scientific capabilities in the private sector. It is conceivable that this type of arrangement would enable India to

accelerate its nuclear development programme."

Emphasising the immense potential ahead, Grae added, "From our perspective as a foreign player, we anticipate a number of collaborative, partnering opportunities with private sector entities. We are confident that the private sector will play a key role in the development of India's nuclear industry."

Recently, Shyam Saran, a special envoy to the Prime Minister on the nuclear deal, delivering a speech at the two-day Indo-US Economic Summit in New Delhi, said that private players can examine participation in certain components of the nuclear programme through the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

Saran added that the Centre may allow private players to set up nuclear power plants only after they gain experience through collaborative projects with NPCIL.

Grae also cautioned that "as indicated by public officials, there are procedural steps that need to be implemented to amend the Atomic Energy Act; also, there are a number of regulatory and operational issues to



Seth Grae, President and CEO of Thorium Power, and Atul Punj, Chairman of Punj Lloyd Group, signing the MoU last month.

address. However, the prospect for private sector participation is a positive development."

In December 2008, Thorium Power signed an MoU with Punj Lloyd Group, and became the first US company to enter India following the passage of the 123 Agreement (visit [www.projectsmonitor.com/ENERGY/punj-lloyd-to-form-joint-venture-with-thorium-power-of-usa](http://www.projectsmonitor.com/ENERGY/punj-lloyd-to-form-joint-venture-with-thorium-power-of-usa)). The joint venture with Punj Lloyd will consider deployment of Thorium Power's nuclear fuel technology in the country along

with setting up an investment fund for investing in India and globally. Thorium Power will also explore the establishment of an operating company in India. "The new company would undertake fuel design for the reactors and provide services for building reactors for the nuclear power plants as well as advisory services in exploring development and investment opportunities in the nuclear energy sector," a company statement noted.

— Sandeep Menezes

Watch your profits grow with Everlast Aluminium Roofing Sheets

Everlast Aluminium Roofing Sheets are 100% maintenance-free with over 40 years of life. They are rust-proof and leak-proof and keep the temperature cooler, thereby increasing employee efficiency. Electricity bills are also reduced. This increases your bottom line. Everlast is time tested and repeatedly used by various sectors and organizations.

Come, choose Everlast and watch your profits soaring like never before.

NOTHING LASTS AS LONG AS EVERLAST

Look for the Everlast logo on the Aluminium Roofing Sheets

For more information, contact Head Offices • Mumbai: 97020 39678, 97020 34781 • West: 97020 78360, 97020 16518 • South: 90089 99449, 98847 11568, 99958 88505 • East: 98302 69102, 98360 55224 • North: 99902 03522, 99900 96555. E-mail: [marketing.everlast@adityabirla.com](mailto:marketing.everlast@adityabirla.com) Visit us at [www.hindalco.com](http://www.hindalco.com)

Network HE1293-08

Mechanisation & Automation in Construction

**SUSPENDED ROPE PLATFORM**  
Complementing Scaffolding in Constructions

- Used for external brick work, plastering, painting, aluminum & glass facade.
- Working height up to 150 mts. can carry loads up to 800 kgs.
- Varying platform lengths

ConMechAuto Consultants India Pvt. Ltd.  
Tel: +91-40-31901464, (M) 08246011464 Fax: +91-40-27611800  
Email: [mktg@cmac.co.in](mailto:mktg@cmac.co.in) [www.cmac.co.in](http://www.cmac.co.in)

Mechanisation & Automation in Construction

## Fagioli PSC lifts 50th boiler drum

A BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT .....

**FAGIOLI** PSC India Pvt. Ltd, a joint venture between Gemini Group, Fagioli SpA of Italy and Fagioli Ltd, UK, announced the successful and safe completion of its 50th boiler drum lifting project for JSW Energy Ltd at the upcoming 4x300-mw Jaigad power plant in Ratnagiri district.

With this, Fagioli PSC India has lifted a total of 9,890 tonnes of boilers, a company statement said. Lifting of a boiler drum is considered as an important milestone during the construction phase of a thermal power plant. Incidentally, Fagioli PSC India introduced the usage of strand jacks for boiler lifting when it entered the business



in late 2004. The old practice of using winches besides being time consuming is now considered unsafe universally.

Commenting on the occasion, Rajiv Sethi, Managing Director, Fagioli India PSC, noted, "In the current scenario, where the construction industry is experiencing a slowdown, this is indeed a huge achievement for us."