

MHI Wins Order for Control Rod Drive Mechanisms from Sweden

On August 21, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) announced that it had received an order from Ringhals AB of Sweden, which operates the Ringhals NPS, for a replacement set of control rod drive mechanisms (CRDMs) for use in the Ringhals-4 NPS (PWR, 965MW).

Ringhals-4, where the CRDMs ordered this time will be installed, commenced operation back in 1983. Last year, MHI received an order for replacement CRDMs at Ringhals-3 (PWR, 965MW), meaning that two of the three PWRs now in operation in Sweden are using MHI-made CRDMs. The mechanisms for Unit 4, which are slated for delivery in May 2008, will be manufactured at MHI's Kobe Shipyard & Machinery Works.

Besides the CRDMs ordered this time, MHI also previously delivered three replacement vessel heads to Ringhals AB between 1996 and 2005 for use in Units 2, 3, and 4. The mechanisms ordered this time will be installed in the same vessels. Several major European and American manufacturers had also bid for the production of the CRDMs, but MHI won the order in the end thanks to its successful record supplying Ringhals AB with various pieces of equipment so far.

In Europe and the United States, the governmental approval for the extension of the operational life of existing nuclear power plants (NPPs) has created an upsurge in demand for the replacement of major components, such as vessel heads and steam generators (SGs). MHI expects to continue to mount an active campaign to win further orders for such parts.

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