MANUEL ACERO

PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH NUCLEAR SOCIETY

In accordance with the Spanish Nuclear Society's Bylaws, after occupying his post for two years, the Vice President moves up to the post of President for another two years. At the present time, Manuel Acero is completing his first year in the presidency and is prepared to submit to the Society a program for his second year which will end in January 1990. Therefore, it is undoubtedly the proper time to take stock of the Spanish Nuclear Society's current situation and its plans for the future.

SNE. ITS PURPOSE

Manuel Acero asserts that «as we have often said, the fundamental purpose of the Society is to achieve successful communication between its members and between the professionals that make up the sector. This communication is provided through different means, the results of which we will discuss later. In addition, this is occurring at a time when the Spanish nuclear sector has completed the ten nuclear power plants and, in short, all the construction projects envisaged in the National Energy Plan currently in force, and is now in a period of net operation with an obvious reduction in the volume of activities. This has posed a problem, as the available resources must be adapted and the know-how acquired to date maintained, thus allowing the Spanish nuclear sector organization to sustain the necessary quality and projection both now and in the future in the event of new programs. Although this problem has still not been solved, it has attracted the attention of all the sectors involved -Government, Electrical Utilities, suppliers, engineering companies, etc.— and in spite of the difficulties in dealing with it, we trust that we will obtain results that will reassure us about the relaunching of the nuclear program, which we are convinced will happen».

ACTIVITIES

In order to inform readers about the current situation of the Spanish Nuclear Society, its activities throughout 1989 and, in short, what the SNE is capable of doing and what its goals are, the President will analyze its different lines of activity.

THE MAGAZINE

«As is known —comments Manuel Acero— the Magazine has always been one of the more positive features of our organization. It has been published with an enormous amount of collaboration, and the results insofar as quality, distribution and acceptance are concerned have exceeded our looking for expectations. This trajectory has continued throughout this year, and in addition some ideas on adaptation to this ever-changing sector have been introduced. For example, monographic articles have predominated to date because it was important for everyone to learn more details on specific projects, but now it seems that these types of articles have sufficiently covered this matter and the Magazine is now looking for other different forms of treatment, with an increase in the Fixed Sections and the inclusion of more national and international news and opening up to new areas. This is the path that we wish to follow. Thus, it can be seen that the Magazine not only continues to accomplish its goals, but that it is also alert and in pace with the times. We can conclude that this feature is solidly established in the Society, that it forms the fundamental basis of communication and contact with members and that it is fulfilling the goals that our times set for us.»

MEETINGS

The fundamental purpose of communication indicated above requires suitable forums that arouse interest and attract a significant level of attendance. «We believe that at the present time —says the President of the SNE— the Society is accomplishing its goal very well, as attested by the acknowledgment and conviction of those that attend the meetings. In other words, people do not attend solely to acquire technical know-how or information on specific technological aspects, but rather they are seeking precisely the communication inherent therein, both from a technological and human standpoint.

»Of these forums, the main event during the year is the Society's Annual Meeting. In addition to being the most important meeting point organized by the SNE, it also serves to sound out our performance and the Society's position with respect to our professional colleagues in the sector. This year's meeting, which was the 15th in our history, was held in Alicante and was again a success, as all the meetings have been from the very beginning. There was a large attendance and a large number of papers, and a significant aspect was the total occupation of the stands provided in the Exhibition. The quality of communication was excellent, the presence and support of the sector's institutions and personalities were absolute, and the Meeting has again proved the Society's vitality and the particularly positive moments we are living through.

»Aside from this Annual Meeting, other meetings are held on subjects that are deemed to be of current or technical interest. So far, the professionals in the field have welcomed these meetings, which we hope to hold on a bimonthly basis.»

In the field of international meetings, there was an important event this year: the International Conference on Availability Improvements in Nuclear Power Plants. In the words of Manuel Acero, «this was a new major test for the Society, as it was the fourth international meeting that it has organized and one of the most extensive that the Society has been able to carry out in its entire history. The presence of eighteen countries, more than five-hundred delegates and fifty-two stands reserved for companies from around the world give an idea of the transcendency and importance of this meeting, in which more than two-hundred papers stimulated a far-reaching dialogue regarding the subject of availability between the different countries, the level of which the attendees recognized as being very good. The meeting forced the Society to stretch its capacities to the limit. As we all know, these capacities include not only people who devote a certain amount of time to the Society, but also contributions provided by different companies, in particular the country's electrical utilities. Thanks to this collaboration, a good organization and two years of intensive work, the results were excellent. As I had the opportunity to say in the Meeting's closing ceremony, our Society plans on continuing these meetings in the near future, in view of the interest that the attendees showed in this subject and in the way we dealt with it.

»On the other hand, with regard to ENC'90, the SNE has taken the initiative in this matter through the European Nuclear Society, first to secure the participation of Spain's official organizations such as ICEX (Institute of Foreign Trade) and SERCOBE (Association of Capital Goods Companies), and also to put this offer within reach of Spanish companies in order to obtain as extensive representation as possible.»

STANDARDS

«This is one of the successes with which the Spanish Nuclear Society is most satisfied. With the establishment of standards based to a large extent on IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) documentation and other similar documents, the SNE has been developing a series of guidelines that, after being prepared and supervised by different groups of experts, have been handed over for comments to various companies affected by the standards in question. This has provided them with a solid base and credibility that is now bearing good results. In this sense, the efficient organization of the Technical Committee in charge of these standards is noteworthy, as well as the support that we again have been receiving from our associates. At this time, between sixty and one-hundred people, according to the circumstances, are generously devoted to activities of this type due to their professional desire to contribute to such a fundamental aspect as the development of standard guidelines.»

FOREIGN RELATIONS

«Last year, we singled out this aspect as being fundamental, having taken into account the increasing magnitude of our society and the current importance of communication between members of the nuclear community in as extensive a geographical range as possible. Obviously, we have our own links to Europe through the European Nuclear Society, and these communications improve as time goes by. Our Society intends to establish a presence in all the areas in which the European Nuclear Society works and to collaborate with them in as many activities as possible in order to strengthen this relationship.

»Along these lines, we have established much more direct and concrete relations with our colleagues in Central and South America, we have attended some meetings, there has been an exchange of information, and in one way or another the Society has extended its presence in this zone, in particular with the Latin American Section of the American Nuclear Society; in fact, a member of this organization's Board of Directors, attended our latest Annual Meeting.»

THE FUTURE

This year, the Board of Directors will be partially reorganized in accordance with the Bylaws, and in the next few days the new program will be set forth. «In this program —Manuel Acero comments— there are a multitude of new aspects to be considered and, within the framework of progress and creativity that the Society is experiencing at this time, the prospects are very interesting and encouraging, with a continuous demand for new actions that does issue exclusively from the Board of Directors but rather from all its members. In this sense, and to a certain extent to promote the Society as much as possible, it is worth mentioning that the number of members has increased and that the Society has continued to receive more subscriptions in the area of collective memberships.

»Therefore, the current focus is twofold. On one hand, the SNE has an established presence and is recognized for such, and on the other hand there is still a long way to go, as it is still possible for the Society to grow and enrich itself from those members that join it. In order to address this new situation, the Society has moved its headquarters to larger offices in order to accommodate its current needs, for which the old headquarters were too limited.

»I hope that I have explained, although briefly, the current situation of the Spanish Nuclear Society. The present management team is hopeful about the future and it is our wish to implement new ideas through our international contacts. One of our major concerns is our ability to change with the times and to address the demands of our members in the most professional and thoughtful way possible, so that we can show what a Society such as ours can offer on the basis of our own experience, of foreign experience and of our associates' requests.»