XV ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPANISH NUCLEAR SOCIETY

This year, the XV Annual Meeting of the Spanish Nuclear Society (SNE) was held on October 23, 24, and 25 in the Palace of Congresses of the city of Alicante, which is located on the Mediterranean coast in Southwest Spain.

There is no doubt that the high technical and social level attained in the last few Annual Meetings has helped the XV Annual Meeting keep the attention of professionals involved in nuclear activities, who once again came together in Alicante to exchange experiences and forge technical-commercial relationships.

Once the Meeting's host city was selected and the request for papers was distributed at the end of April, the Organizing Committee had no time to waste to successfully organize the meeting, as there was very little time (barely six months) to do so.

As has been the custom in the past, the request for papers was distributed through the same channels through which the SNE's magazine is distributed, and it was also included in the magazine Nuclear Europe of the European Nuclear Society to inform all the members of the different European Nuclear Societies, as well as the subscribers to this magazine, of the forthcoming meeting, requesting the participation of anyone who wished to present original work regarding practically the entire range of activities in the nuclear field.

The general interst in the Meeting resulted in the receipt of more than 220 papers before the deadline, covering all the areas detailed in the request. Some papers could be merged, so that in the end there were a total of 210 papers distributed among 24 technical sessions.

Another very important aspect in the success of the Meeting was the response of Companies to the Organizing Committee's invitation to present their products and services during the Meeting in an exhibition set up in the Alicante Palace of Congresses. The available space of more than 200 m² was requested and occupied by 16 companies, whose stands provided the opportunity for them to exhibit their latest novelties to the Meeting's attendees. The exhibition was a resounding success judging by the massive attendance of the delegates.

There were 423 registrations for the XV Annual Meeting of the SNE, along with 100 additional registrations for companions.

MEETING ORGANIZATION

The Spanish Nuclear Society's XV Annual Meeting was organized into 24 technical sessions and 3 plenary sessions, preceded by the opening ceremony and concluding with the closing ceremony. All these activities took place in Alicante's Palace of Congresses, which has the infrastructure required for these occasions.

In parallel, a series of social events was organized for all the attendees and their companions which began on Sunday the 22th with a golf tournament and a welcoming cocktail party, and ended with the official dinner on Tuesday night in the hotel where the Meeting attendees were staying.

At no time were the attendees' companions neglected, who in addition to participating in the social events, visited some of the most interesting and artistic areas in the province.

MEETING DEVELOPMENT

OPENING CEREMONY

This was chaired by Pedro Rivero, Vice President of UNESA (the Utilities Association of the Spanish Electrical Sector). After a welcoming speech and some comments on the Meeting's organization and some aspects of the Spanish Nuclear Society, as well as on the favorable disposition of the Regulatory Bodies toward these meetings which serve to increase and enrich relationships between the Government and those governed, delivered by the members of the chair which was constituted by Rafael Caro (Spanish Nuclear Safety Council-CSN), José Suárez (Hidroeléctrica Española), Manuel Acero (President of the SNE) and José M. Fernández Mesa (Chairman of the XV SNE Annual Meeting's Organizing Committee), the Chairman officially opened the XV Annual Meeting. Following this, Professor Antonio Sainz de Miera, Director of the University-Enterprise Foundation, grave a talk entitled "University Enterprise, a pending subject", which was very well received by the audience.

PLENARY SESSIONS

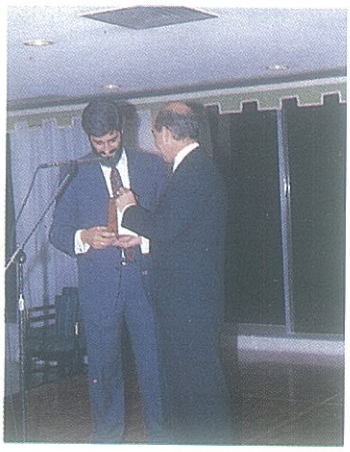
As mentioned above, three plenary sessions were held, one on each day of the Meeting. These sessions were widely attended, thus demonstrating the interest of the subjects approached which resulted in animated discussion between speakers and attendees.

The subject of the first Plenary Session was "Toward Unification of Nuclear Standards in Europe" and it was moderated by Aníbal Martín, Managing Director of the Valdecaballeros NPP.

This round table discussion stressed the importance of regulatory unification as a basic tool to improve the efficiency, quality and safety of Nuclear Power Plants. The debate centered on the steps being taken within the European Community, specifically in the European regulatory bodies, to create a system of common standards that encourage competition in the component market and the *de facto* adoption by member states of the same safety principles and criteria for the construction and operation of Nuclear Power Plants without encroaching on national responsibility for authorization and control during construction and operation. There was an animated discussion that left some questions open for the near future.

The second Plenary Session, entitled "Radiological Protection and Medicine in Nuclear Power Plants", was moderated by Enrique Malboysson, Director of Hidroelectrica Española's Medical and Safety Division.

This round table discussion touched on all the subjects that concern Medical and Radiological Protection professionals whose work is related to Nuclear Power Plants, from the organizational aspects of these services, with more or less functional dependence or independence, to the difficulties that have been arising in the implementation of the dosimetric license and that still requires an additional effort before it is considered more an operating document for the user than an administrative instrument of control. Other



1- *Opening Ceremony.* 2- *Exhibition.*
3- 4- *Award of SNE medal to Adolfo García-Rodríguez and José María Martínez-Val.*

medical subjects relating to industrial installations were also brought up, referring to the normal risks of thermal stress, sonorous environment, work schedules and rhytms, use of chemical products and electrical risks. The importance of the fact that the frequency and seriousness indices of accidents in Nuclear Power Plants are much lower than in conventional thermal plants was pointed out.

Lastly, the third Plenary Session, entitled "Service Companies. Their Operating Support", was moderated by Javier Pinedo, General Production Manager of Hidroeléctrica Española.

This round table discussion posed the problem of adequate collaboration between the Power Plants and service companies so that the latter can adapt their capabilities and resources to the ever changing requirements of the Power Plants. If the service companies were aware in due time of the Power Plants' requirements, this would improve the quality of their response to same.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

As previously mentioned, there were 24 technical sessions that covered the following subjects:

- Advanced and Fusion Reactor R & D.
- Operating Experiences.
- Measuring Radioactivity.
- Risk Analysis in Waste Management.
- Fuel Design and Reliability.
- Reloading Support Services.
- Waste Storage and Transport.
- Probabilistic Safety Analysis.
- Fuel Reloading and Management.
- Outside Operating Support Services.
- Material Technology R & D.
- APS-PHEBUS Applications.
- Computerized Operating Support.
- Life Span Extension.
- Waste Management.
- Severe Accident Analysis.
- Computing Method R & D.
- Modifications and Improvements (2).
- Operating Cost Management and Legal Matters.
- Transient and Accident Analysis (2).
- Core Analysis.
- Radiological Impact.

The high level of quality of the papers presented in each sessions is noteworthy. There was an average of 8.75 papers per session and a total of 54 hours were devoted to the sessions, with an average of 15 minutes per paper.

A significant aspect is the notable increase in the number of papers devoted to research and development subjects in several areas, as well as the combined participation of Spanish and foreign institutions in these sessions.

The foreign participation was high, with 24 papers from England, France, Germany, Italy and the United States, and another 11 papers jointly presented by Spanish and foreign organizations.

A summary of the papers was published and distributed and thus it is not necessary to expound in detail here on these sessions.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The social events of the SNE meeting contributed significantly to its success, if we consider that the Annual Meeting is not a Congress in which a series of experts meet, but rather a forum for professionals and friends united in a common activity to come together and form personal relationships that serve to widen and enrich the technical problems posed during the sessions.

On this occasion, the Organizing Committee could count on excellent support to stage some brilliant social affairs which helped the participants thoroughly enjoy the three days of the Meeting.

The first event was on Sunday, when a golf torunament was held for the fans of this sport, the number of whom keeps growing from Meeting to Meeting. The tournament was sponsored by Tecnatom and was kept at an informal level in which each participant did the best he could (some more than others). The winners were awarded prizes during the welcoming coktail party. Congratulations!

On Monday, the Organizing Committee offered a buffet for the attendees and their companions in the Meliá Hotel during which a wine labelled especially for the XV Meeting was served.

On Monday night, the Alicante City Hall offered a reception for the attendees and their companions in the Santa Bárbara Castle, which is an historical monument closely linked to the city's life and development since the 3th century. Later, there was a performance of "habaneras" by the choirs of Salinas de Torrevieja sponsored by the Caja de Ahorros Provincial of Alicante, which delighted all those present (practically everyone registered for the Meeting).

On Tuesday, the official Meeting dinner was held in the Meliá Hotel, at the completion of which the SNE medal for maximum distinction was awarded to Adolfo García Rodríguez and José M. Martínez-Val Peñalosa, both expresidents of the Spanish Nuclear Society, for their decisive contribution and dedication to the Society in the last several years. This moving act was much celebrated by those present. After dinner, there was a very good and beautiful performance of typical dances of the province, which was also sponsored by the Caja de Ahorros Provincial of Alicante.

CLOSING CEREMONY

This was chaired by Iñigo de Oriol e Ybarra, the President of Hidroeléctrica Española, the corporate sponsor of the XV Annual Meeting.

This ceremony included the participation of the Vice President of CSN, Eduardo González, the Vice President of the SNE, Francisco Vighi, who made a summary of the XV Annual Meeting, and the President of the SNE, who encouraged those present to return to the Meeting next year. Afterwards, academician Pedro Laín Entralgo gave a talk on "Technology's Inhumanity and Humanity", which put the final touches on the SNE's XV Meeting to the approval of the audience.