

Welcome address by the Chairman of the NERS 2023 Conference on 19 October 2023

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is my honor to welcome you on the 15th International Conference (NERS 2023), the only dedicated annual conference on nuclear energy in the Czech Republic.

I would like to stress the somewhat different atmosphere concerning of nuclear power development. At the beginning of last year, only several voices were talking about nuclear energy. And now – there is a so-called 'nuclear alliance' of 16 European countries. Something has changed. Within a year, we have witnessed a nuclear renaissance. France is planning six to fourteen new units, Sweden is declaring up to ten new nuclear builds, Poland at least six - and finally in the Czechia we are bidding for four new units. The renaissance has become a reality.

It is easy to declare it. But there is another side of the coin - a huge responsibility. The massive development of nuclear energy is a huge challenge. A challenge for the energy sector, technological research and development, industry and construction, and last but not least for education and training of highly qualified manpower. I have no doubt that we can do it.

At today's conference, top experts will present their opinions and views on all aspects of nuclear energy development – top

supplier technologies, added value for industry and society, the necessity of education and training, top technical support for preparation and construction, and international cooperation in nuclear safety. The discussion will also cover energy concepts, international cooperation, the use of the European taxonomy as well as financial aspects of nuclear energy development.

Dear colleagues, this conference could not have taken place without the material support of a number of major companies and corporations. The logos on our banners and roll-ups identify them. I would like to thank them very much for their interest in our nuclear future, which they show not only through their own activities, but also through their helpfulness and support of our conference. They are these main partners (in alphabetical order) – ČEZ, EDF, Korean Hydro & Nuclear Power and VUJE as a partner. Thanks also to all of you who accepted to participate in NERS 2023.

I hope that you will find everything we have prepared for today's conference interesting and helpful in your future work.



Jiří Marek
19-10-2023