



EDF and Framatome launch a feasibility study for cobalt 60 production

On the occasion of the World Nuclear Exhibition (WNE), EDF and Framatome have announced the launch of a feasibility study aimed at producing cobalt 60 for medical applications in one of EDF's nuclear reactors. Cobalt 60 is a vital radioisotope used in healthcare, notably for the sterilization of medical devices and the treatment of certain cancers.

Cobalt 60 is a radioisotope produced in nuclear reactors from cobalt 59, natural form of the element. The study plans to insert capsules containing cobalt 59 in a pressurized water reactor (PWR) in France. This process will not affect the reactor's operation or its primary function.

Framatome will manufacture the specialized irradiation devices at its European facilities.

This initiative reflects the commitment of EDF and Framatome to foster innovation, contribute actively to public health, and address the growing demand for cobalt 60 in Europe while ensuring highest standards of safety and quality.

A first loading of demonstration capsules is scheduled for 2026, with the goal of validating technical feasibility before 2030.

"The production of cobalt 60 demonstrates the versatility of our nuclear reactors, which, beyond their primary role in generating low-carbon electricity, can also provide irradiation services. By supporting the sterilization of medical devices, we reaffirm our fleet's ongoing commitment to serving the public interest," declared Cédric Lewandowski, EDF Group Senior Executive Vice President with responsibility for the Nuclear and Thermal Generation Division.

"We are pleased to launch this study in collaboration with EDF, and proud to contribute to strengthening Europe's medical sovereignty," said Grégoire Ponchon, CEO of Framatome.

"Diversified, reliable, and sustainable supply chains are essential to meet the growing needs of the healthcare sector. Through this study, Framatome Healthcare will enhance its contribution to the sterilization of medical equipment and cancer treatment," added François Gauché, Vice President of Framatome Healthcare.

About EDF

The EDF Group is a key player in the energy transition, as an integrated energy operator engaged in all aspects of the energy business: power generation, distribution, trading, energy sales and energy services. The Group is a world leader in low-carbon energy, with an output of 520TWh 94% decarbonised and a carbon intensity of 30gCO₂/kWh in 2024, a diverse generation mix based mainly on nuclear and renewable energy (including hydropower). It is also investing in new technologies to support the energy transition. EDF's raison d'être is to build a net zero energy future with electricity and innovative solutions and services, to help save the planet and drive well-being and economic development. The Group supplies energy and services to approximately 41.5 million customers⁽¹⁾ and generated consolidated sales of €118.7 billion in 2024.

(1) The customer portfolio consists of electricity, gas and recurring service contracts

About Framatome

Framatome is an international leader in nuclear energy recognized for its innovative, digital and value-added solutions for the global nuclear fleet. With worldwide expertise and a proven track record for reliability and performance, the company designs, services and installs components, fuel, and instrumentation and control systems for nuclear power plants. Its more than 20,000 employees work every day to help Framatome's customers supply ever cleaner, safer and more economical low-carbon energy.

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