

UNENE

University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering



www.unene.ca

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Dr. Thomas Jenkins
Chair,
Research and Development Expert Panel
1200-270 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 5G8

Dear Dr. Jenkins and Distinguished Panel Members

UNENE: A Partnership between Industry and Universities

It is with pleasure that I submit the attached paper and annexes in support of the Panel's call for input, and its quest for increased contribution of the R&D community to economic growth and business and job creation.

University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (known as UNENE) was created in 2002 as a not for profit partnership between the nuclear industry and universities. Its objectives are to establish nuclear related R&D in universities to advance knowledge in areas of interest to industry, develop a sustainable supply of highly qualified personnel to address continuing demographic gaps and create a respected pool of scientists for industry and public consultation.

The attachments to the letter note some of the realized outcomes of this partnership with respect to knowledge and technology transfer and other benefits noted in the attached submission. The derived knowledge when applied to industry issues helped address regulatory queries and optimization of refurbishment timing and replacement of key nuclear power plant components.

Some of the elements that have led to such outcomes are:

- 1- Equal funding share between Industry and Government (an annual budget of \$2.8 M between Industry and NSERC)
- 2- Placing Industrial Research Chairs in member universities as "anchors" for building a strong research team. Most IRCs came from industry and are well respected scientists within the industry and internationally. Their intimate knowledge of industry needs was instrumental in defining the framework of the required research.
- 3- A close integration of the University research with other industry programs. This was fostered through different forums; a Research Advisory Committee, Technical Advisory Committees and regular workshops and meetings. All intended to confirm direction of programs and assure of it meeting industry objectives.

UNENE continues its quest for excellence in all of its programs and we certainly look forward to the panel recommendations in the near future for a continual improvement in the effectiveness of UNENE and similar partnerships.

We sincerely wish that the Panel give due consideration to an increased level of funding from NSERC beyond the current \$1.4 M. Should our request be granted the UNENE Board of Directors will seek matching funds from industry. Such funding increase will yield an increased level of research and innovation at universities with its potential for contributing to the successful delivery of the future build of two nuclear power plants planned in Ontario.

In closing, I sincerely wish the Panel every success in its review and deliberations for an improved effectiveness of R&D in Canada.

Sincerely,



Basma .A. Shalaby
B.Sc., M.A.Sc., D.Eng. (Hon), P.Eng.
UNENE, President & CEO

Attachments:

- Submission to the R&D Review Panel, UNENE; Its Role in Nuclear Research, Innovation and Education
- Annex1: UNENE Benefit Report, Rev0, October 2010.
- Annex2: UNENE Annual Report (Sept 2007- April2009)