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## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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### À propos de l'Andra

L'Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs (**Andra**) est un établissement public à caractère industriel et commercial créé par la loi du 30 décembre 1991. Ses missions ont été complétées par la **loi de programme du 28 juin 2006** relative à la gestion durable des matières et déchets radioactifs.

**Indépendante des producteurs** de déchets radioactifs, l'Andra est placée sous la tutelle des ministères en charge de l'énergie, de l'environnement et de la recherche.

**L'Andra met son expertise au service de l'État** pour trouver, mettre en œuvre et garantir des solutions de gestion sûres pour l'ensemble des déchets radioactifs français **afin de protéger les générations présentes et futures du risque que présentent ces déchets.**

## Launch of European-wide cooperation on plugging and sealing technology for deep geological repositories

Fourteen nuclear waste management organizations and research institutes, from eight European countries, are participating in a technology development project for testing plugging and sealing systems for radioactive waste disposal in deep geological repositories - the DOPAS project ("Demonstration Of Plugs And Seals"). The project is built around a set of full-scale underground demonstrations, laboratory experiments, and performance assessment studies.

The project budget is €15.7 million, and is financially supported by the EURATOM's Seventh Framework Programme (€8.7 million). The project is running over a 4 year period, and is being coordinated by Posiva Oy, the Finish nuclear waste management company.

The impetus to the cooperation comes from the Strategic Research Agenda of the Implementing Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste - Technology Platform (IGD-TP).

4 industrial tests will be carried out at full scale in research facilities representative of varying geological environments in Finland, the Czech Republic, Sweden and France.

*"As a participant to the DOPAS Project, Andra will carry out, in a surface workshop located in Saint-Dizier, a full scale test of a seal as designed for a horizontal drift, in the French repository concept (called Cigéo) : a swelling clay (bentonite) core between two concrete containment plugs", says Jean-Michel Bosgiraud, Andra's representative within the DOPAS Project. "The design and construction of the drift model have started, material formulations are well advanced. The seal construction as such should take place by mid-2013."*

*In 2016, the DOPAS project team will organize an international seminar on plugging and sealing technology for geological disposal of radioactive waste.*