



SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY CORPORATION (Necsa)

And

NTP RADIOISOTOPES (Pty) Ltd

MEDIA RELEASE

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**SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANY BIDS TO BECOME SOLE SUPPLIER OF KEY NUCLEAR
PRODUCT TO UNITED STATES MARKET**

The Next Generation Nuclear Security Summit currently being hosted by President Obama in Washington is an unprecedented event. Forty-seven heads of State from the developed and the developing world have gathered to agree on measures to prevent nuclear terrorism and to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials. The pledge to achieve this over a four year period is a cornerstone of the Obama administration's nuclear security policy. Much of the discussion will revolve around radioisotopes, produced for health applications from highly enriched uranium in nuclear reactors.

South African Company NTP Radioisotopes (Pty) Ltd simultaneously is bidding to supply critical radioisotopes, used in medical diagnostics, to the United States market. The key nuclear product, molybdenum-99 (moly), is used in close to 50 million imaging procedures around the world each year, over 20 million of which are in the United States.

The US used to receive its entire supply of moly from the Canadian company MDS Nordion. However, the reactor supplying MDS Nordion has been in shutdown since May 2009, due to a coolant leak. This has led to a catastrophic supply shortage across the world, given that MDS Nordion was the leading global supplier. South African company NTP Radioisotopes, a subsidiary of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), has now become the dominant supplier of moly to the US market.

The technology used to produce moly has been centre stage in discussions at the Next Generation Nuclear Security Summit in Washington this week. This is because weapons grade uranium is customarily used in this process. With the Obama administration driving to eliminate the use of weapons grade uranium around the world, NTP's low enriched uranium (LEU) route to moly is receiving a great deal of attention in the US.

The United States Congress has moved to ensure a supply of moly from LEU in the future:

- The Markey Bill, No 116 of September 30, 2009 (HR 3276) authorizes funding and a clear road map to create an indigenous supply of Moly for US patients while also allowing for adequate time and safeguards for migration to LEU technology.
- The United States DoE has called for proposals for an LEU-based supply of Moly-99 for their market. This supply should reach 3000 6-day Curies per week by mid-2013.
- Tenders for this process close on 11 June 2010. Necsa/NTP intends to use the Next Generation Nuclear Security Summit to launch our bid.

Rob Adam, Chair of the Board of NTP and CEO of Necsa, said "Several years ago we realized LEU was the way to go. We have been gearing up for this opportunity and we are confident that our experience in industrializing nuclear technology over several decades will decide the procurement process in our favour."

Harvard university nuclear expert professor Matthew Bunn said at the summit that South Africa's competitors had been caught napping by these new developments and that the world now had no excuse for the continued use of HEU in the production of medical radioisotopes, when ground breaking technologies utilizing LEU fuel and target plates have been successfully applied by NTP, a subsidiary of The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), on an industrial scale. "South Africa's innovation has put the fear of God into the competitive isotope

market. It has converted its production processes to LEU and will rapidly ramp up its supply of LEU based radioisotopes to global markets”, said Bunn.

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