

Washington Group awarded contract for uranium enrichment facility

Nuclear Business is alive and well.

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Louisiana Energy Services has awarded a contract to Washington Group International Inc. (NASDAQ: WGII) to provide construction management services for a uranium enrichment facility in Eunice, New Mexico.

LES, owned by a European consortium of the British and Dutch governments and two German utility companies, has broken ground on the \$1.5 billion uranium enrichment facility near Eunice, about 20 miles south of Hobbs.

The National Enrichment Facility (NEF), which is expected to be complete in 2009, will provide the U.S. with "an alternative domestic source of the enriched uranium" necessary to the operations of the country's commercial nuclear power plants, according to a news release.

The facility eventually is supposed to create more than 200 permanent jobs and approximately 400 multi-year construction jobs in southeastern New Mexico.

"Washington Group has maintained a substantial core of expertise in nuclear services since the inception of the commercial nuclear era, and providing this essential nuclear fuel will help reduce the nation's dependence on the worldwide energy market," says Lou Pardi, president of the company's Power Business Unit, in the release.

Just last week, Washington Group International was identified as the winning bidder for a U.S. Department of Energy contract to make containment units and lift fixtures needed by Washington TruSolutions, the managing and operating contractor of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, to store and transport waste safely to WIPP.

Based in Boise, Idaho, Washington Group employs approximately 24,000, with more than \$3 billion in annual revenue.