



Above, SNN, Romania CEO Cosmin Ghiță participates at the “Canada-Romania Partnership in Nuclear Technologies” virtual trade mission, March 2 and 3. The event featured nuclear organizations, academic institutions and government representatives from both countries. Image: OCNI

Canada-Romania trade mission illustrates long-standing relationship between the two nuclear nations

COG President Stephanie Smith highlighted the “long and beneficial,” relationship between CANDU Owners Group and its member, Societatea Nationala Nuclearelectrica, during a virtual mission that brought industry, government and academia together

MARCH 17, 2021 — CANDU Owners Group (COG) and member Societatea Nationala Nuclearelectrica (SNN, Romania) have a history of collaboration dating back more than 30 years.

COG President and CEO Stephanie Smith reflected on this and the future of COG-SNN collaboration as part of the virtual “Canada-Romania Partnership in Nuclear Technologies” trade mission event, March 2 and 3.

In fact, many of the presenters during the two-day virtual mission reflected on the integration between the Canadian and Romanian industries, in large part due to the shared use of CANDU technology.

The event was organized by Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI), ROMATOM (the Romanian Atomic Forum), Energynomics, SNN and the Embassy of Canada to Romania. It included leaders from industry organizations and academic institutions in both countries, including the University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE).

Driving the virtual trade mission, in part, were SNN, Romania’s refurbishment and new-build plans. In 2020, those plans were accelerated with the announcement of a [U.S.-backed finance deal](#) to support the two projects.

The plans include local Romanian industry, as well as COG supplier participants, AECOM, SNC-Lavalin and other Canadian and French partners. At the time, it was announced, AECOM, would lead the US \$8-billion project. COG is also supporting the projects through its Refurbishment Forum, related peer groups as well as information exchange and OPEX sharing.

During her presentation, Smith discussed how SNN, Romania had joined COG during construction of its two-unit Cernavoda CANDU plant in 1991. SNN is also COG’s only international member with voting status on the COG board due to the depth of its involvement in COG’s R&D, joint project and base programs. Smith also highlighted SNN’s leadership in shaping a “fleet mentality,” through COG’s CANDU-6 Fleet Forum.

Smith spoke to how COG and SNN, Romania’s long-standing collaborative relationship has set the foundation for future work together to strengthen outcomes in Cernavoda’s refurbishment and CANDU-6 new-build plans, as well as, continued operational excellence improvements.

This, coupled with promising developments globally in small modular reactor (SMR) development, which both countries have been actively engaged in, made a virtual trade mission beneficial for the nuclear industry of both countries.

[Click here](#) to read the full event announcement from OCNI.

[Click here](#) and [here](#) to watch videos from both days of the virtual trade mission event.

[Click here](#) to see Stephanie Smith’s presentation.

COG connections to Romania’s CANDU refurbishment and new-build

Romania’s plans for refurbishment and new-build at its Cernavoda Nuclear Plant have several connections to COG, first and foremost in SNN, Romania’s membership in COG, including participation on the COG Board of Directors and in several areas of COG research, training and information exchange.

As well, project lead AECOM is a COG supplier participant through its AECOM Canada division. AECOM is overseeing both projects at the site.

In January 2020, it was announced another COG supplier participant, SNC-Lavalin, had been awarded a \$10.8 million contract by SNN, Romania for engineering analyses and assessments on Cernavoda’s Unit 1 reactor.

As well, last month, COG member, Ontario Power Generation’s subsidiary, Laurentis Energy Partners, announced it had signed a \$4.86 million contract with SNN, Romania to support the refurbishment project. The contract calls on Laurentis to develop a conservation program to protect the integrity of Cernavoda’s Unit 1 reactor while it is drained of water during refurbishment.

[Click here](#) to read the full SNC-Lavalin contract announcement.

[Click here](#) to read the full announcement from Laurentis.