(From left to right) Tim Freeman, SNC-Lavalin, David Usher, Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay, Omar Semmoloni, Nucleoeléctrica Argentina, Sergio Russomanno, CANDU Owners Group and Matthew Ross, Senior VP, Operations, SNC-Lavalin celebrate Embalse Nuclear's return to service.

Celebrating Embalse Nuclear's return to service

Plant expected to operate for 30 more years after refurbishment completed in January

Staff at Nucleoeléctrica Argentina (NA-SA) had reason to celebrate as three years of hard work was recognized May 30, following January's completion of the Embalse Nuclear Power Plant life extension.

NA-SA held a special event, attended by government officials, project leads, international dignitaries and suppliers, to mark the return to service of the Córdoba province plant.

In attendance at the event was Argentina's undersecretary of nuclear energy and newly appointed NA-SA President Julián Gadano as well as Gustavo Lopetegui, the country's secretary of energy. Omar Semmoloni, the life extension project director, served as master of ceremonies. Sergio Russomanno represented CANDU Owners Group (COG) at the event.

The Embalse plant, which entered commercial operation in 1984, was reconnected to the grid following a full refurbishment and modernization project that began in December 2015 and was completed earlier this year. The project was one of Argentina's most significant engineering undertakings of the last decade. COG supported the effort through the sharing of OPEX and by coordinating information exchange and lessons learned amongst utilities.

The project employed more than 3,000 people in Argentina. In addition to extending the plant's years of service, the project increased the plant's electricity output by 6 per cent and ensures continued safe and reliable electricity for more than 3-million residents across the country.

(Left to right) Gustavo Lopetegui, Argentina's secretary of energy and NA-SA president Julián Gadano at Embalse Nuclear's return to service celebration. (Source: NA-SA media)