

NUCLEAR GROUPS TO CO-OPERATE MOVE TO EFFECT ECONOMIES

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JOINT TENDERS PLANNED FOR NEW POWER STATIONS

By Our Scientific Correspondent

Two of Britain's five nuclear power station construction groups are to collaborate in the building of future nuclear generating stations, it was announced yesterday. Negotiations on the detailed form of co-operation are still taking place.

The two groups are the Nuclear Power Plant Company (whose members include C. A. Parsons and A. Reyrolle) and the A.E.I. John Thompson Nuclear Energy Company. Purpose of the move is to effect economies in research and in tendering costs. A tender can mean an outlay of between £150,000 and £250,000 according to the size of the station.

A joint tender is planned for the Dungeness, Kent, 500 megawatt nuclear power station based on a common design. A similar procedure will be followed subsequently for the Sizewell, Suffolk, 600 megawatt station.

Tenders for the Dungeness station will be asked for by the Central Electricity Generating Board this autumn. And before the two groups submit their tender, it is expected that they will form a new joint company.

So Christopher Hinton, chairman of the C.E.G.B., has been informed of the decision made by the two companies. This collaboration will extend into every field of nuclear energy, including

by Associated Electrical Industries and one-third by John Thompson. It has an agreement with the U.S. General Electric Company concerning the design and construction of small nuclear power reactors for use in ships, or as small land-based power stations.

In May this year the company submitted a proposal to the Admiralty for a 22,000 shaft horse power ship propulsion system for a nuclear-powered fleet.

RATIONALISING ATOM POWER

The announcement yesterday that two of the five nuclear power station construction groups are to collaborate in