

## Welcome address by the Chairman of the NERS 2024 Conference on 27 November 2024

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is my honor to welcome you on the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference NERS 2024, the only dedicated annual conference on nuclear energy in the Czech Republic.

So far, not only in the case of the NERS conference, we have focused on evaluating cutting-edge nuclear technologies and their suppliers, and on how to select the best solution for implementation in the Czech Republic. But this is changing this year – with the government's decision in July on the preferred bidder for two new units in Dukovany and an option for two more units in Temelín, Czechia in fact is entering a new era of nuclear energy development as the first in Europe. It is clear that 2024 year is a break-even point in the history of Czech nuclear power.

This is the focus of this year's conference. We are now paying attention to all activities that will enable the smooth and successful implementation of the nuclear program and, in particular, the launch of the first new unit in Dukovany in 2036. This includes legislation, financing and training of personnel, including the entire educational process and, last but not least, the integration of our companies into the supply chain. This is a huge challenge that our industry should take up and thus in aggregate achieve a position among the best European technology companies.

If we manage all this, then it will be true that Czechia is one of the leading nuclear countries in Europe. And of course, it will become true that Czechia will be a country primarily creating its GDP through the most advanced technologies and processes. And that is the message that this year's NERS conference is sending to our public.

Dear colleagues, this conference could not have taken place without the material support of a number of major companies and corporations. The logos on our banners and roll-ups identify them. I would like to thank them very much for their interest in our nuclear future, which they show not only through their own activities, but also through their helpfulness and support of our conference. They are two main partners – ČEZ and Korean Hydro & Nuclear Power, and VUJE and HOCHTIEF as partners. Thanks also to all of you who accepted to participate in NERS 2024.

I hope that you will find everything we have prepared for today's conference interesting and helpful in your future work.



*Jiří Marek*  
27-11-2024