

## Nuclear Power Plants for the 21st Century

### PREFACE



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NUCLEAR power is an important source of energy accounting for roughly 20% of electric power production in the world. In the 21st century, nuclear power will continue to play an important role in the generation of electricity not only as a highly economical source of energy but also as a means of solving environmental problems and providing energy security. From this perspective, the provision of highly reliable nuclear power technologies has become an important mission for us at Hitachi, and we continue in our efforts to develop highly effective technologies and products in a wide range of nuclear-power fields and to expand business in these areas.

In the development of light-water reactors, for example, Hitachi has been improving the performance and reliability of its advanced boiling water reactors (ABWR), and at the same time, has been developing middle- and small-size reactors to meet diversified needs for power. Hitachi is also contributing to ways of improving plant availability by developing technologies that will raise the reliability of operating plants and by enabling a wide range of preventive-

maintenance technologies to be applied. In the fuel cycle, Hitachi is developing various technologies related to reprocessing and waste disposal.

To meet the growing demand for greater cost efficiency in conjunction with the deregulation of nuclear power, we are developing and applying information technologies (IT) throughout the work cycle of design, manufacture, construction, and maintenance. We are also pursuing extensive rationalization from design to production and working to shorten lead time by upgrading our pipe-manufacturing plant to state-of-the-art facilities and constructing a new module assembly plant.

Hitachi was reorganized in April, 1999 and made sweeping changes to its system with the aim of responding promptly and effectively to customer needs and making customer satisfaction a priority. We will continue in our efforts to provide our customers with the “best solutions” to their nuclear power needs including the development of application technologies.