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Switzerland's Nuclear Industry

The Swiss Association for Atomic Energy points out that in spite of a national market that for a long time remained non-existent, in spite too of the keen international competition and an unfavourable monetary situation, several Swiss firms have succeeded, thanks to the quality of their products, in establishing themselves on the world market for equipment for nuclear power stations. In 1973, as in previous years, Swiss industry received many orders from almost all countries with projects for nuclear power stations. Brown Boveri, with a long tradition of specialisation in the electrical sector, has taken part in several European schemes and has, in addition, received its first orders for gas removal systems. It has also continued its efforts to gain a firm footing on the American market where, at the beginning of 1974, it achieved a decisive new success with an order for turbines from the Tennessee Valley Authority valued at 660 million francs. Sulzer, for its part, is the company that possesses one of the widest ranges of products in the field of components and systems for the nuclear industry. In particular it manufactures reactor vessels, safety housings, primary circuits, pressurisers, internal parts of reactors, valves, pumps and ventilating plant, etc. Apart from its success in Europe, this firm was officially approved in 1973 as a supplier of components for American power stations by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), which sets the standards in the USA. Apart from Sulzer, only six other foreign companies have so far been officially recognised as suppliers in the United States. George Fischer has gained a leading position on the international market of cast steels for nuclear power stations. Several other Swiss firms have joined the leaders among European firms in their specialised fields: the Charmilles Engineering Works (Geneva) for fuel exchange and handling equipment, Chemap (Mannedorf) for filtering equipment, Theodor Christ (Aesch) for water processing and ion exchange systems and Metrohm (Herisau) for appliances for the measurement of the boron concentration in pressurised water reactors. K. Rutschi (Brugg) has exported a whole series of special pumps for the nuclear industry, not only to many European countries but also overseas. Swiss engineering offices specialising in the nuclear sector, at the head of which come Electro-Watt and Motor-Colombus, worked on plans for the national schemes for nuclear power stations in 1973 and also received a large number of orders from abroad. (SODT).

A Swiss Novelty — The Automatic Shower

When one realises that a shower uses on an average 15 litres of water a minute, one can easily imagine, in the present energy crisis, the saving that could be made in a public swimming pool for example if the problem of the hot water wasted by certain inconsiderate swimmers could be solved. The solution has been found by a firm at Crissier (Vaud—Switzerland) specialising in particular in the manufacture of