



## February 2026 Collaboration Update

Dear Conexus members, participants and partners:

The nuclear industry is at an inflection point. Delivering new builds, accelerating SMRs, sustaining social license, and closing the skills gap will require a step-change in collaboration. The on-time, on-budget refurbishments at Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power prove that complex nuclear projects can be executed with disciplined governance, integrated supply chains, and rigorous project controls.

These life-extension programs have upheld safety and cost performance while aligning utilities, vendors, regulators, trades, and researchers under shared delivery models. That coordination materially de-risks new builds and SMRs, preserves critical expertise, and sustains a capable workforce and robust supply chain.

But execution capability alone is insufficient. Public trust must be earned continuously through transparency, engagement, and demonstrated performance. At the same time, workforce renewal demands deliberate attraction, development, and retention strategies.

These priorities are all interdependent. Shared operating experience, joint R&D, harmonized regulatory approaches, and pooled innovation reduce duplication, lower risk and cost, and improve fleet performance.

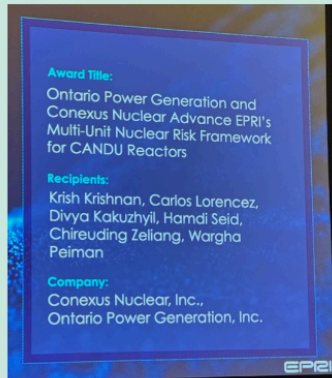
Conexus exists to enable this alignment - advancing new technologies, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring Canada remains positioned to deliver nuclear projects at scale, safely and competitively.

Let us work together to build a strong, sustainable future for the nuclear industry in Canada and around the world – a future powered by innovation, collaboration, and a shared commitment to a cleaner, more secure energy future.

Rachna Clavero  
President and CEO

**EPRI Nuclear Technology Transfer Award: Advancing Multi-Unit Nuclear Risk Assessment**

Assessing risk at multi-unit nuclear sites demands efficient and consistent evaluation of reactor interactions. Recent collaborative work led by Conexus Nuclear and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has significantly strengthened how risk is modeled and applied for CANDU reactors, earning recognition with an Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Nuclear Technology Transfer Award.



### The Benefits:

**Improved Accuracy:** More realistically represents reactor interactions.

**Reduced Effort:** Eliminates time-consuming, phased assessments.

**Future-Ready:** Establishes best practices applicable to current and next-generation reactors, including SMRs.

### Collaboration in Action:

OPG provided critical operational data and expert insights, while Conexus facilitated engagement across the industry, ensuring alignment and broad applicability. This collaborative model delivered a technically robust and operationally realistic framework.

### Industry Impact:

With over 90% of the world's reactors operating at multi-unit sites – including many Conexus members – this work provides operators with clearer, more efficient tools to evaluate risk, strengthening the industry's collective approach to nuclear safety.

This EPRI award recognizes the power of Conexus' collaborative approach and reinforces the value of industry teamwork in driving safety-focused innovation.

## McMaster University's Research Reactor: Advancing Canada's Nuclear Future Through Collaboration

As nuclear energy gains momentum, McMaster University is emerging as a national hub for nuclear research, education, and innovation. Driven by its unique on-campus research reactor and expanding programs, McMaster is attracting increased investment in nuclear science and training.

At the heart of this progress is the McMaster Nuclear Reactor, a versatile facility supporting research ranging from materials science to medical isotope production. It also provides critical hands-on experience for the next generation of nuclear professionals.



Recognizing the value of research reactors, Conexus recently launched a Research Reactor Membership category to strengthen collaboration between operators and leading institutions. McMaster University's Nuclear Enterprise is the inaugural member, creating a direct pathway for impactful participation in Conexus programs.

This collaboration is already yielding tangible results. Conexus is partnering with McMaster researchers to enhance radiation monitoring within CANDU reactors. This project, led by professors Soo Hyun Byun and Carmel Mothersill and supported by a combined \$2.6 million investment from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Conexus, will develop more accurate, real-time radiation detection instruments and improve understanding of low-level radiation exposure.

For Conexus members, this partnership demonstrates how research reactor collaborations can translate innovation into operational reality, ensuring research aligns with real-world needs and benefits nuclear facilities and communities.

## NSPG–CNSC Directors Meeting: Advancing Technical Alignment on Nuclear Safety

For over 20 years, the Conexus Nuclear Safety Peer Group (NSPG) has fostered a vital technical exchange between industry experts and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). These meetings provide a focused forum for discussing emerging nuclear safety issues, methodologies, and evolving regulatory considerations.

The latest session, convened by Conexus Nuclear Inc. on February 4, 2026, brought together specialists to review advancements in key areas, including Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident analysis, Neutron Overpower methodology, hydrogen production under severe accidents, and a new CSA standard on external hazards.

Co-chaired by Elnara Nasimi (CNSC) and Derek Mullin (NB Power), the full-day meeting facilitated detailed technical discussions and ensured continuity in understanding as methodologies and standards evolve.

By proactively addressing emerging issues, the NSPG-CNSC meetings strengthen the technical basis for nuclear safety and support continuous improvement across the industry.



## International Collaboration

### KHNP Leadership Meeting

In January, Conexus welcomed senior leaders from Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP) to Toronto for a strategic leadership meeting.

With participation from Conexus' Research and Development, Joint Projects & Services, Information Exchange, and executive teams, the discussions reinforced the strength of international collaboration across the CANDU network.

As members continue to focus on life extension, refurbishment, and innovation, Conexus remains committed to connecting expertise and enabling shared solutions that support long-term operational excellence.



### Welcome Mihai Bogozi

We are pleased to welcome Mihai Bogozi to Conexus Nuclear Inc. on a six-month secondment from Societatea Nationala Nuclearelectrica (SNN), where he serves as Equipment Reliability Support Programs Superintendent at the Cernavodă site.

Mihai brings more than 29 years of experience and has held senior engineering leadership roles supporting equipment reliability and plant performance. During his secondment, he is focused on learning Conexus' working methods

across Information Exchange, R&D, JP&S, and L&D, with an emphasis on equipment reliability practices.

He will be based out of the Conexus Toronto office and will primarily engage with Information Exchange and related programs.

## Conexus Welcomes New Supplier Participants

Conexus is pleased to welcome Everllence Canada Ltd., Sulzer Pumps (Canada) Inc., Risktec Solutions (Canada) Ltd., RadSafe Canada Ltd. to its Supplier Participant Program.

Each brings specialized expertise and a shared commitment to collaboration and innovation that strengthens the CANDU supply chain and supports industry resilience.

**SULZER**

**Everllence**



## Conexus Leadership Updates



### Conexus Welcomes New CNL Voting and Board Members

Conexus welcomed Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) President and CEO Dennis Carr as its newest Voting Member and John Osborne, CNL's Vice-President, Central Technical Authority and Chief Nuclear Officer, to the Conexus Board of Directors. John brings more than 25 years of operational and leadership experience across Canada's nuclear sector, with oversight of nuclear operations, safety, regulatory compliance, and engineering at CNL. Dennis leads more than 4,000 employees delivering CNL's science and environmental missions across Canada and brings decades of executive experience from national laboratory programs in Canada and the United States. Their appointments strengthen Conexus' governance and reinforce the organization's collaborative leadership across the nuclear industry.

Read more [here](#)





### Aninda Dutta Ray - Program Manager, SCOP, CANIAC & Technical Programs

Aninda Dutta Ray has joined Conexus as Program Manager – SCOP, CANIAC & Technical Programs for Joint Projects & Services. In this role, he will lead the planning and delivery of key supply chain and technical programs in support of Conexus members. Previously, Aninda worked with the International Atomic Energy Agency supporting nuclear operators and governments. He holds a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo and a Master of Engineering (Nuclear) from McMaster University.



### Thanuja Janathasing - Program Manager, Fuel Channels

Thanuja Janathasing has moved into the role of Program Manager – Fuel Channels at Conexus. In this role, she will oversee fuel channel initiatives across the Joint Projects and R&D portfolios, supporting collaborative programs among CANDU owners and partners. She brings nearly 18 years of nuclear industry experience and previously served as Project Manager and subject matter expert for Conexus' fuel channel programs. Thanuja holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Toronto.

## Upcoming Conexus Events

### 2026 Technical Committee Meeting

Join Conexus and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, October 27-29, 2026, for a focused forum driving global nuclear safety and performance.

This meeting brings together senior leaders, technical specialists, and research partners to share operating experience, address common challenges, and refine industry best practices.

**Key topics include:** safety culture, performance monitoring, plant reliability, and the strategic application of digital and AI technologies.

**Benefit from:** peer-to-peer dialogue on emerging risks, proven mitigation strategies, and actionable insights to enhance facility resilience and long-term reliability.

Vienna, home to the IAEA, provides an ideal setting for fostering international collaboration and advancing shared nuclear priorities.

To learn more or express interest in participating, please contact Rick Manners at [rick.manners@conexusnuclear.org](mailto:rick.manners@conexusnuclear.org)



## 18th Conexus/ IAEA Technical Committee Meeting

### Save the Date: October 27-29, 2026

Hosted by the International Atomic Energy  
Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria

#### Nuclear NOW: Powering a Sustainable Future – Reliability, Resilience, and Innovation

- Safety culture
- Performance monitoring and continuous improvement
- Plant reliability
- Digital and AI strategies to support operation, maintenance and long-term operation

**Who should attend:** Present and future corporate and site leaders responsible for improving plant performance and developing nuclear knowledge and skills.

**Why attend:** Equip yourself with strategies and tools to enhance your facility's resilience, ensure long-term reliability, and navigate the evolving challenges of the nuclear industry. Collaborate in-person with international colleagues to develop solutions and exchange best practices.

**Note: Conexus will be hosting a C6 meeting October 29-30.**

Questions? Contact Rick Manners  
[Rick.Manners@conexusnuclear.org](mailto:Rick.Manners@conexusnuclear.org)



#### 2026 Fuel Channel Seminar - September 15-17, 2026, Ajax, ON

Conexus' Fuel Channel Seminar is the industry's premier forum dedicated to fuel channel performance, ageing management, and long-term operation - the defining factors in the safe and economic life of a CANDU unit.

Fuel channels are the operational boundary between continued generation and premature shutdown. As one utility expert noted, "Fuel channels are the heart of the reactor. If we cannot operate fuel

channels past a certain point, that determines when a station shuts down.” The technical, financial and strategic implications are significant.

This seminar brings together utility engineers, materials scientists, inspection specialists and designers to address the most pressing challenges: fracture toughness margins, hydrogen ingress, garter spring behaviour, inspection capability, fitness-for-service assessments, and refurbishment strategy integration. It is a venue where emerging research meets operating reality; where data, degradation mechanisms and inspection findings are scrutinized in a peer environment focused on actionable outcomes.

Participants consistently highlight the value of connecting laboratory research, in-field inspection data and fleet-wide operating experience. That integration strengthens confidence in life-extension decisions, informs regulatory engagement, and reduces uncertainty in long-term asset planning.

For organizations committed to maximizing fleet reliability and extending unit life safely and predictably, the Fuel Channel Seminar is more than a technical workshop. It is a strategic forum that directly influences the future operating envelope of CANDU reactors.

For event details and registration information, visit [here](#).



## Industry News



### **SMR Nuclear Canada Summit**

A national platform advancing dialogue on SMRs, clean energy, and Western Canada’s nuclear opportunities. Conexus’ Rachna Clavero will open the program on Tuesday, March 3 in a fireside discussion with Candu Energy Inc.’s Carl Marcotte.

### **Ontario Secures Agreement to Advance World’s Largest Nuclear Generating Station**

Ontario has secured an agreement between Ontario Power Generation and Port Hope to advance new nuclear generation



at the Wesleyville site, supporting 10,500 jobs and strengthening the province's clean, reliable electricity supply.



### **Darlington refurb completed ahead of schedule, under budget**

The refurbishment of the fourth and final Candu reactor at the Darlington nuclear power plant in Ontario has been completed and the unit is expected to be restarted later this month, four months ahead of schedule.



### **Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Natural Resources of Canada and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine on Strategic Cooperation in the Energy Sector**



### **Saskatchewan to evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies**

The Government of Saskatchewan and utility SaskPower have announced plans to formally evaluate large nuclear reactor technologies for use in the Canadian province. Saskatchewan already has plans for the deployment of small modular reactors.



### **The NWMO submits Initial Project Description for Canada's deep geological repository, entering regulatory decision-making process.**



**Unit 3 MCR construction phase completed on plan, focus shifts to returning unit to service to power Ontario's future.**

Bruce Power has successfully completed the construction phase of its Unit 3 Major Component Replacement (MCR) project, which remains on budget and ahead of schedule.



**NB Power explores feasibility and economic benefits of medical isotope harvesting at PLNGS**

NB Power is assessing the feasibility, regulatory requirements, and economic potential of producing medical radioisotopes at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station to support cancer diagnosis and treatment while creating a new long-term revenue stream.



**SN Nuclearelectrica SA approved the final investment decision for the Doicești SMR Project.**

The project will deliver 462 MW of clean power, replace a former coal plant, and create around 4,000 jobs while strengthening energy security and decarbonization.

## Stay up-to-date on Conexus News and Information

- Conexus has a [YouTube channel](#) – watch our videos.
- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for weekly news and updates.
- Visit [ConexusNuclear.Online](#), our one-stop collaboration tool and information access portal with more than 45,000 OPEX data entries, a calendar of events, and a workspace for peer teams, forums and committees.

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