



The articulated arm is handled by Alain Desmares, fitter at SPIE Nucléaire.

FRANCE

Technical performance for Areva

SPIE Nucléaire teams at Beaumont-Hague, in France's La Manche *département*, has designed and built a 5-metre long articulated arm weighing one tonne (*see photo*). Controlled from a remote control panel, this arm is to be used to recover underwater irradiating elements on the La Hague site where Areva reprocesses spent fuel from nuclear reactors. The full range of SPIE's competencies in design, mechanical engineering, sheet metal work and instrumentation were required to conduct this project, from design through to installation of the finished product, in just four months.

FRANCE

A first for SPIE Nucléaire

Many water/steam heat exchangers are subjected to high mechanical stresses in French nuclear power plants. With the ageing of plant units, these heat exchangers require a great deal of maintenance and increasingly frequent replacement. SPIE Nucléaire has therefore developed a new activity: the supply and installation of heat exchangers. In this context, the Nord energy production department designed, supplied and installed two heat exchangers for the EDF Gravelines power plant in less than seven months. The order was obtained in July 2006 and the second heat exchanger was installed in February this year. EDF was extremely pleased with the quality of the services provided by SPIE Nucléaire and, in particular, with the team's responsiveness.

