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**NUCLEAR COUNCIL PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS TO DOE**  
**Continued Commitment Required to Strengthen U.S. Nuclear Industry**

*Washington, D.C.* — Industry leaders representing the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness met with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman to discuss a series of recommendations that would restore America as a leader in nuclear energy design, manufacturing, service and supply. Companies represented at the meeting included ATK, ConverDyn, EnergySolutions, General Atomics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, USEC Inc. and Westinghouse.

Council representatives commended DOE and the administration for their ongoing commitment to nuclear energy and urged them to take steps to restore the competitive position of the U.S. nuclear design, manufacturing, service and supply industry.

"As our need for energy will increase, so too does our need for nuclear power, and the Energy Department has a strong set of nuclear programs that we believe can create an environment for a nuclear renaissance." Secretary of Energy Bodman said.

Among the recommendations presented, the Council asked that DOE seriously consider the health of U.S. industry when deciding how to allocate funding for nuclear energy programs, notably for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, Nuclear Power 2010 and the Next Generation Nuclear Plant.

Westinghouse CEO Steve Tritsch said, "Under the leadership of President Bush and Secretary Bodman, DOE has established a strong set of nuclear energy programs that will help ensure U.S. technological leadership and growing U.S. employment in this vital field. Today we presented recommendations to help build upon the strong foundation that has been built in recent years."

Council representatives stressed that it is essential, for both national security and economic reasons, that a reinvigorated U.S. industry is able to compete in the global market from the dominant, preferred-supplier position.

"The commitment to nuclear energy by our nation's leaders highlights its economic and environmental importance to the U.S. This step in the right direction has set the stage for near-term plant construction," said General Atomics Vice Chairman Linden Blue. "In order to rebuild a vital, domestic nuclear industry, we encourage DOE to mirror the Department of Defense's example of stewardship by ensuring that government procurement decisions benefit American taxpayers and contribute to the growth of U.S. industry."

The Council recommended that DOE expedite the completion of the loan guarantee rules for nuclear energy projects and ensure the rules cover projects beyond new reactors that will restore the domestic nuclear energy design, manufacturing, service and supply industry.

"The loan guarantee provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 have served as a catalyst for the construction of new nuclear power plants in the U.S.," said EnergySolutions CEO Steve Creamer. "By ensuring these provisions cover other aspects of our domestic nuclear-energy infrastructure, we can start building new U.S. facilities and creating new U.S. jobs."

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On the international front, the Council supported the administration's efforts to secure agreements for nuclear energy cooperation with countries such as Russia and India, but cautioned that these agreements must not inadvertently undermine the resurrection of the U.S. nuclear industry.

"Cooperation with other nations is an essential part of our nuclear energy future," said USEC Inc. CEO John Welch. "However, in negotiating such agreements, we must remember that the presence of a vibrant U.S. nuclear energy manufacturing and supply infrastructure is essential if we are to successfully influence nuclear energy and nonproliferation policies in other countries."

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*Formed in 2005, the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks the return of American nuclear leadership to the world through the emergence of an U.S.-led global nuclear enterprise. The Council educates key audiences on the policies and technologies of an American nuclear renaissance, and summons public and private sector leadership to organize and promote such a transformation. For more information, visit [www.nuclearcompetitiveness.org](http://www.nuclearcompetitiveness.org)*