

Dome installed at Ningde 3

07 September 2011

Construction of the third unit at China's Ningde nuclear power plant has reached a major milestone with the dome of the reactor building being lowered into place.



Installing the lid on Ningde 3 (Image: CNECC)

Plant constructor China Nuclear Engineering and Construction Corporation (CNECC) announced that the reactor dome was successfully lifted by crane and placed on top of the containment building on 26 August. This, the company said, was 80 days ahead of schedule. Construction of the unit officially began in January 2010.

Four Chinese-designed CPR-1000 pressurized water reactors are currently under construction at the Ningde site, near Fuding city in Fujian province. Work on the first Ningde unit started in February 2008, with construction of units 2 and 4 beginning in November 2008 and September 2010, respectively. All four units at the site are scheduled to come online between late 2012 and 2015.

The construction of two further CPR-1000 reactors is planned for Phase II of the Ningde plant.

The CPR-1000 is a standardized Chinese design developed from the two Areva PWRs imported for the Daya Bay plant in Guangdong province, starting up in 1994. Those units were built to the French three-loop

standard, outputting 944 MWe. The CPR-1000 builds on that to produce 1080 MWe.

The CPR-1000, along with Westinghouse's AP1000, is a mainstay of China's planned near-term nuclear capacity expansion, with 18 CPR-1000s already under construction.