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Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs

**Framework Agreement for International Collaboration on Research and Development of  
Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems**

I have pleasure in making a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in support of the above Framework Agreement. My submission is attached together with a short CV which provides my relevant credentials.

With kind regards

**Martin H Thomas AM FTSE HonFIEAust HonFAIE**

Attachments: Submission to Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
MH Thomas Short CV

## **Framework Agreement for International Collaboration on Research and Development of Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems**

### **Submission by Martin H Thomas AM FTSE HonFIEAust HonFAIE to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in support of the above Framework Agreement**

My credentials in making this submission stem primarily from my membership of the 2006 Uranium Mining Processing and Nuclear Energy Review (UMPNER) report of the then Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, sometimes known as the Switkowski Report. UMPNER Chapter 10 drew attention then to the potential contribution Australia could make to the GIF and, by implication, the value it could draw from such membership.

The values that I believe will accrue to Australia from GIF membership include:

- 1 International technology collaboration in a fast-moving advanced technological domain - earning Australia a respected 'seat at the table'.
- 2 Enhanced capitalisation of relevant Australian (ie ANSTO) RD&D strengths, e.g. metallurgy, HLW encapsulation (Synroc), OPAL beam line material analysis capabilities and more. Australian technological RD&D is held in high regard in the international arena – this became clear in the overseas meetings of the 2006 UMPNER review.
- 3 Enhanced Australian nuclear engineering degree course relevance through international linkages. Note that ANSTO already provides teaching staff, materials and a degree of hands-on access to its current RD&D programs for the UNSW Masters degree in Nuclear Engineering and the ANU course in Nuclear Physics.
- 4 Development of supply chain opportunities for specialist Australian businesses, most likely in commercial collaboration with host country suppliers seeking capable regional business presence. Note, for example, that supply chain development is being strongly followed in respect of SMRs in the UK.
- 5 Useful technological positioning for future developmental work in the thorium and fusion domains, noting ANSTO's evolving international R&D linkages in the former the ANU's strong position in the latter.

I trust the above points are of value to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

**Martin H Thomas**  
**24 April 17**