



Source : <https://www.sortirdunucleaire.org/Framatome-Gets-Go-Ahead-To-Resume-Manufacture-Of>

Réseau Sortir du nucléaire > Archives > Revue de presse > **Framatome Gets Go-Ahead To Resume Manufacture Of Forgings At Le Creusot**

28 janvier 2018

## Framatome Gets Go-Ahead To Resume Manufacture Of Forgings At Le Creusot

26 Jan (NucNet) : Framatome has received the green light from the French nuclear regulator ASN and state-controlled nuclear operator EDF to resume the manufacture of forgings for the French nuclear fleet at its Le Creusot site.

Framatome, the nuclear reactor manufacturing unit that EDF bought from fellow state-owned Areva, said the decision means it can continue ramping up its production with a target of 80 ingots per year.

Framatome said the authorisation is the result of the improvement plan implemented from the beginning of 2016 following a series of quality audits at Le Creusot, in central-eastern France.

"With the completion of all the actions necessary for the resumption of production for the French nuclear fleet and overall progress of 90% to date, the plan will be fully closed out in the first half of 2018," Framatome said in a statement on 25 January 2018.

Framatome said it had invested €7.5m (\$9.3m) at Le Creusot in 2017 to make the facility a "centre of excellence" for the manufacture of forgings for the nuclear industry.

In April 2015, following the discovery of what Framatome called "methodological discrepancies" in the performance of tensile tests carried out during the manufacturing process, Areva began a quality audit at the site.

ASN said "major technical and organisational dysfunctions" had come to light in 2015 and 2016. The quality audit showed about 400 irregularities in 9,000 fabrication files for both nuclear and non-nuclear components. About half of the first 400 irregularities examined

involved nuclear components.

An audit is continuing of all records relating to forgings produced for the nuclear industry. Framatome said the analysis of these findings will continue until the end of 2018.

At two other facilities, Jeumont and Saint-Marcel, audits were completed last year and showed no deviations.

Le Creusot is one of only a few facilities capable of producing the large forged parts required for nuclear power plants. Since the beginning of civil nuclear programmes in the 1970s, the facility has supplied some 3,000 forgings and castings for the reactor coolant systems of nuclear facilities around the world.

*See also ASN (Safety Authority)*

<https://www.french-nuclear-safety.fr/Information/News-releases/Creusot-Forge-plant-production-to-resume>

## **ASN considers that the steps taken by Framatome allow production to resume at the Creusot Forge plant**

Published on 25/01/2018 • 05:08 pm

Information notice

ASN informed Framatome and EDF that it considers that the steps taken at the Creusot Forge plant allow the production of components intended for French nuclear facilities to resume under certain conditions, more particularly, the surveillance of the activities.

In 2015 and 2016, major technical and organisational shortcomings that had occurred in the Creusot Forge plant in the past were brought to light. In April 2017, ASN informed Framatome (Areva NP at the time) and EDF of the preconditions it considered necessary for forging operations to resume.

In response to the ASN requests, Framatome identified the underlying causes of the failures observed in its plant and implemented an improvement plan concerning the organisation, skills, quality and safety culture prevailing within the plant. EDF has modified and reinforced its surveillance of this plant.

The Framatome improvement plan led to a certain number of concrete measures, including :

- safety culture assessments and training ;
- reinforced metallurgy training ;
- steps contributing to process control, such as research and development on measurement uncertainties ;

- the identification of 12 key positions, which were filled in 2017 ;
- the restructuring of surveillance ;
- the production of test pieces designed to ensure the plant's ability to produce in compliance with all the requirements ;
- investments of several million euros in 2017 and 2018.

In October 2017, Framatome informed ASN of its intention to resume forging of nuclear pressure equipment components for French nuclear facilities in its Creusot Forge plant.

ASN analysed the steps taken by EDF and Framatome and carried out several inspections in this plant. On the basis of its own inspections and the information transmitted by Areva NP and EDF, ASN considers that the results of the steps taken are satisfactory and offer sufficient guarantees of the quality and regulatory compliance of the future production by this plant.

When production resumes, forging of each type of component (shell, dome, pipe, etc.) shall undergo prior technical qualification examined by ASN, in order to verify the plant's technical capability.

At this stage, ASN is maintaining reinforced surveillance of the Creusot Forge plant.

To find out more :

Consult the letters sent to [Framatome](#) and [EDF](#) [in french]

Consult the [page containing the information published so far by ASN](#) on the failures detected within Framatome's Le Creusot plant.



Garanti sans virus. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)