

BACKGROUND

As nuclear safety and security have become a growing concern to the international community, it is essential that the technical and scientific basis for regulatory decisions reach the highest level of quality and reliability.

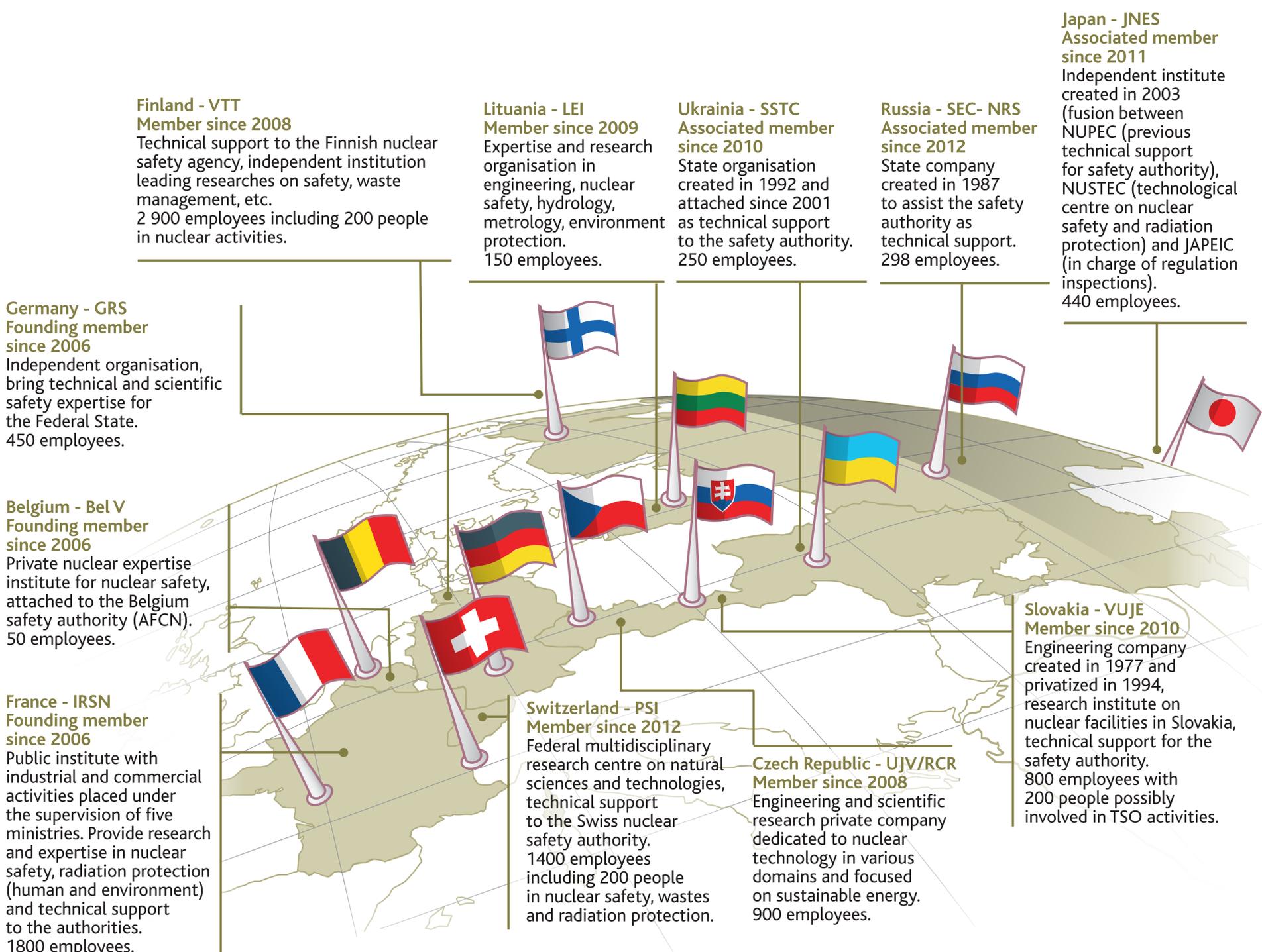
The development of Technical Safety Organisations (TSOs) brings a decisive contribution to this objective, as they provide a wide knowledge based expertise in nuclear and radiation safety.

DEVELOPMENT OF ETSON

The European States and the European Union devoted significant resources over the last decades in order to help build up a sustainable TSO capacity. The European TSOs progressively carried out common scientific and technical co-operations in the field of nuclear safety.

The creation of ETSON in 2006 through a Memorandum of Understanding emphasized the contribution of this network for harmonization of nuclear safety assessment practices in Europe, and to encourage initiatives to define and implement coherent European research programmes.

Becoming an Association under French law in February 2011, ETSON involves nowadays eleven TSOs: eight members (IRSN/France, GRS/Germany, Bel V/Belgium, VTT/Finland, UJV/RCR/Czech Republic, LEI/Lithuania, VUJE/Slovakia and PSI/Switzerland) and three associated members (SSTC/Ukraine, JNES/Japan and SEC-NRS/Russia). The association will further develop and non European TSOs are also invited to share the ETSON activities as associated members or observers. Jacques Repussard (IRSN) has been elected for two years as president of ETSON.



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