



WANO

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN NUCLEAR SAFETY

NEW UNIT ASSISTANCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WANO.INFO

MEMBERS.WANO.ORG

1. How does New Unit Assistance (NUA) work?

WANO's NUA modules can be tailored to a unit or company's specific needs, and the methods of delivery are varied to ensure the member receives the right information for them at the right point in time. This could be via training materials, sharing of best industry practices, benchmarking or use of operating experience (OE), including from the construction phase.

The focused support provided by the NUA service helps members to build-up an appropriate operational mindset through three key phases of the overall project timeline.

PHASE 1

Support is provided at the **first phase** of the project predominantly through learning and development opportunities, such as seminars, workshops and training alongside other WANO members.

PHASE 2

During the **second phase**, learning and development opportunities are supplemented by support missions on various subjects relevant to the stage of the project and considering the needs of the company as it builds the capacity of its operating organisation.

PHASE 3

The **third phase** of the NUA timeline allows for more tailored support missions at the request of the plant, in response to any particular issues of concern or areas of specific interest for the member.

At the end of the three phases, and shortly before first criticality, WANO provides operational readiness assistance missions (ORA), pre-startup peer reviews (PSURs) and crew performance observations (CPOs), to help members determine their assets and crews' readiness to safely operate the new unit.

2. Who can access NUA support?

The WANO NUA service supports all members with new nuclear power plants, whether they are newcomers or in expanding countries.

3. We are building the first nuclear power plant in our country and are working with an internationally known supplier, so we will adopt their national regulations. What value can WANO add in this context?

Construction of new build in a country or area adding nuclear to its energy mix for the first time comes with a unique set of challenges for the new utility.

These can include:

Building a pool of knowledge, expertise and competency to cover new build specific topics; this often happens in parallel with the project development, which is a huge challenge in terms of human resources.

Language and cultural barriers.

Differences in general industrial standards.

WANO members have accumulated a vast library of global operating experience from the commissioning of units in different countries and areas. These experiences and lessons learned are documented in WANO OE database and in Guidelines and Good Practice documents. This information is readily available to all members, including new industry entrants.

Subject matter experts are also available to support newcomers via bespoke Member Support Missions (MSMs). Additionally, benchmarking and operators exchange visits enable the transfer of practical experience to the new entrant's personnel, which is especially valuable between nuclear power plants of similar design.

4. Why is early engagement with WANO so important?

Full and effective engagement with the NUA programme can significantly reduce the risk of a delay to start-up or a setback during the construction phase.

Lessons learned from pre-startup peer reviews have been incorporated into the NUA modules, to enable WANO members to learn from past challenges and ensure their construction and commissioning projects are as successful as possible.

WANO members are also encouraged to share operating experience events from the construction and commissioning phase, which allows each member to benefit from access to thousands of OE reports from plants across the world. These exist to provide information on how to spot and prevent common problems, enabling WANO members to become more efficient, safe and reliable.

Through early engagement with WANO, new units or entrants have the opportunity to identify important safety gaps prior to start-up and amend them, so by the time they reach first criticality, their operation is safe and reliable.

5. What does effective early engagement with WANO look like?

Effective early engagement can be assured through:

1. Agreement with WANO London Office (LO) prior to an affiliation with a Regional Centre (RC)
2. Assignment of a WANO Representative (WANO Rep) from LO
3. Access to WANO OE database and other products (SER, SOER)
4. Member support missions (at the plant's request)
5. Access to WANO Guidelines and Good Practices
6. Participation in selected workshops and seminars
7. Participation in the WANO Biennial General Meeting (BGM), the key event in the WANO calendar, at which the CEO and other senior executives can meet and network with other CEOs from all over the world
8. Development of a NUA action plan - assistance will be tailored to address specific plant needs during the design, construction and commissioning phases.

6. What is a member support mission? Are there different types of support missions?

Member support missions identify solutions to a specific challenge facing a WANO member company, plant or facility. Typically, a WANO member will request support from WANO to help close a performance or safety-related gap. In response to this, WANO assembles a group of experts to visit the plant and provide recommendations on how to address the gap.

WANO offers the following types of support missions:

Expert mission: Focused solely on the plant's request and on information received in preparation for and during the mission, experts provide recommendations to the member's staff on how to resolve the specific issue covered by the mission.

Assist visit: During the visit, experts perform observations and interviews, and based on the information obtained, define the problem statement and provide recommendations for the process to be improved. During assistance missions, the problem area should be clear and the problem statement defined based on the information gained during the mission before starting to address the core issue of the problem.

Benchmarking: Experts from a particular member/station visit a high-performing plant to observe good practices, high-level experience and possibly develop recommendations or actions to be implemented at their own plant or organisation to help close performance gaps.

Training: WANO provides support to a member/plant via a combination of classroom and practical exercises. WANO facilitates discussions and provides a methodology for reaching a requested objective but does not necessarily provide a specific set of recommendations.

Other: WANO regional centres can conduct support missions of other types to assist their members. Examples of such missions include OE Caravan events or exchange visits.

Support mission teams consist of experienced, knowledgeable nuclear personnel from the regional centres and other members/stations or industry organisations. During each mission, the team applies its collective experience to assess the plant status relevant to scope of the mission, and to propose solutions to the problems, issues or areas for improvement. WANO provides a report based on the experts' recommendations to the member after the mission.

Member support missions are systematically used to close gaps in the safety and reliability performance of plants. The focus of these missions should be to help stations, nuclear facilities and corporate organisations solve difficult issues in order to improve their overall levels of safety. Use of member support missions is one of the most effective ways to benefit from WANO membership.

7. How do I find out more?

For more information, please contact one of our experts at nua@wano.org



WANO

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN NUCLEAR SAFETY

ATLANTA
LONDON & HONG KONG
MOSCOW
PARIS
TOKYO

WANO.INFO
MEMBERS.WANO.ORG