

ADVERTISING



EXPERIENCE MUSIC PROJECT.

Win tickets
to Experience Music Project to see:

annie
leibovitz
AMERICAN
MUSIC

NWSOURCE.com®
We find it. You do it.

A Service of The Seattle Times Company | NWsource | NWclassifieds | seattletimes.com

The Seattle Times | seattletimes.com | **NATION & WORLD** | Home delivery | Contact us | Search archive

Today's news index | Site map | Weather | Traffic | Alerts | Movies | Restaurants | Today's events

Thursday, November 06, 2003 - Page updated at 12:00 A.M.

- LOCAL
- BUSINESS/TECH
- NATION/WORLD
- In Focus**
- Politics
- EDUCATION
- OBITUARIES
- SPECIAL PROJECTS

Nuclear venture aims to employ Russian scientists

By **H. Josef Hebert**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. company for the first time will participate in a joint commercial venture in one of Russia's closed nuclear cities, eventually providing jobs for as many as 400 former Russian nuclear-weapons scientists and engineers, the two countries announced yesterday.

-  [E-mail this article](#)
-  [Print this article](#)
-  [Search archive](#)

The joint venture marks a significant step in U.S. and Russian efforts to develop civilian job opportunities for Russian nuclear workers and reduce the possibility that some of these scientists and engineers might be tempted to help terrorists or rogue nations because of economic hard times.

"This significant partnership gives us a blueprint for future collaboration between U.S. companies and the talented scientists in the former Soviet Union," Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said.

The joint venture between Numotech, a Northridge, Calif., manufacturer of sophisticated medical devices, and Spektr-Conversion, a Russian research and development firm, will focus on making life-changing medical products that would be sold worldwide, according to the Energy Department.

The federal Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico will provide technical assistance to the program, officials said.

The joint venture "is expected to create over 400 permanent jobs" when it is in full operation, officials said. Spektr-Conversion currently employs about 100 former Russian nuclear workers in civilian technologies in the Ural Mountain city of Szhnezhink, which was created to serve the former Soviet nuclear-weapons program.

While there have been other joint ventures involving nuclear workers, this is the first to allow a foreign company into any of Russia's so-called closed nuclear cities, Abraham said.

Russia's 10 closed cities once were at the heart of the Soviet Union's nuclear-weapons production complex. Built in the 1940s and 1960s, the cities once had more than 170,000 people, both nuclear workers and their families.

The workers and families once lived prosperous lives under the Soviet

NATION/WORLD NEWS SEARCH

Today | Archive

[Advanced search](#)

ADVERTISING

Subscriber Rewards
E-VANTAGE

Great things are just an e-mail away




Sign up Today!

ADVERTISING

THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO SELL YOUR CAR.



NWclassifieds
nwclassifieds.com

government. But since the end of the Cold War and the retrenchment of Russia's nuclear program, thousands of these workers and scientists have fallen on hard times and many have had difficulty finding new careers.

The U.S. program is aimed at developing joint ventures in Russia involving U.S. companies to provide jobs for more than 30,000 Russian weapons scientists, engineers and technicians and reduce the possibility that they might be persuaded to help terrorists or rogue states obtain nuclear material or develop nuclear-weapons technology.

The program has aided about 15,000 such workers in their transition to a civilian economy, officials said.



Copyright © 2003 The Seattle Times Company

[More nation & world headlines](#)

Related Advertising Links

[Support UCP today](#)

and make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

www.ucp.org

[Grow wild](#)

Discover how to turn your backyard into a wildlife haven.

www.nwf.org

[seattletimes.com home](#)

[Home delivery](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Search archive](#) | [Site map](#) | [Low-graphic NWclassifieds](#) | [NWsource](#) | [Advertising info](#) | [The Seattle Times Company](#)

[Copyright © 2004 The Seattle Times Company](#)

[↑ Back to top](#)