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Press Release:

Saanio & Riekkola acquires world-class expertise in the disposal of spent nuclear fuel**B+Tech Oy, already part of the A-Insinööri Group, is now 100% Finnish-owned**

Saanio & Riekkola Oy, a part of the A-Insinööri Group, has acquired 50% of the share capital of B+Tech Oy, a company specialised in the processes used for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel, from the Sweden-domiciled Clay Technology Sweden Ab on 30 June 2015. With the purchase, B+Tech Oy's entire ownership share was transferred to Saanio & Riekkola Oy.

High demand for expertise as the world waits for decisions on nuclear waste management

“Besides significantly strengthening A-Insinööri's expertise in the final disposal of nuclear waste, the acquisition facilitates the growth and internationalisation of our operations as a part of the A-Insinööri Group's export strategy. The unique high-level know-how we send to other countries enables us to solve the challenges associated with repository management in the most environmentally friendly and responsible ways possible,” says A-Insinööri's CEO **Jyrki Keinänen**.

The internationally well-known B+Tech Oy has an important and far-reaching mission whose objective is to responsibly guarantee environmental safety far into the future by engineering the technical systems used in the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. Finland is the first country in the world to initiate the final disposal of nuclear waste in deep underground bedrock; B+Tech Oy's internationally renowned team of specialists in fields such as physics, chemistry, geology, geotechnology, and building construction has developed the systems and tested their safety. “The now-completed transaction strengthens B+Tech Oy's international growth jointly with Saanio & Riekkola and A-Insinööri by providing new opportunities for existing as well as new customers,” states B+Tech Oy's Managing Director **Jorma Autio**.

Saanio & Riekkola has previously exported its expertise in radioactive waste disposal to countries such as South Korea, Canada, Japan, and Sweden. In recent years, the demand for expertise has increased substantially, particularly in China. “In most of the world, solutions related to repository management are still unrealised. A substantial portion of the waste is currently located in temporary storage facilities, but the problem will not go away by sweeping it under the rug; it has to be addressed safely and systematically. Worldwide there are about 450 nuclear power plants in over 30 countries. The final disposal of the spent fuel generated by these plants is either unplanned or unbuilt. And in certain cases, it hasn't even been decided how the matter will be managed. That's where B+Tech Oy comes in – with the world-class expertise we can provide for these power plants,” explains Saanio & Riekkola's CEO **Timo Saanio**.

“We have concluded a multi-year joint agreement with Clay Technology that continues our cooperation. There aren't too many of these kinds of resources in the world, so there is plenty of demand,” adds Jorma Autio.

Posiva Oy, managing the disposal of spent nuclear fuel for Teollisuuden Voima Oyj and Fortum Power & Heat Oy, will receive the world's first building permit for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel deep underground at Olkiluoto during 2015. A-Insinööri, Saanio & Riekkola, and B+Tech participated in the engineering of a new technology that has never been used for high-level waste anywhere in the world.

Further information:

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Founded in 1962, **Saanio & Riekkola Oy**, now a part of the **A-Insinöörit Group**, is a consulting office specialised in the planning of subsurface rock engineering projects, as well as expert tasks related to nuclear waste management. The company's most recent rock engineering-related design projects include the construction of the West Metro's tunnels, the Pissararata, Helsinki's central tunnel and the city centre's underground service passage, the Tampere Rantaväylä tunnel implemented as an alliance project, and the underground parking facility P-Hämppi in Tampere. With respect to the engineering of systems for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel, the company has been a pioneer in Finland and the rest of the world. Saanio & Riekkola Oy and B+Tech Oy employ approximately 80 experts.

B +Tech Oy, a company specialised in the processes used for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel, has concentrated on the development of Engineered Barrier Systems (EBS), particularly the use of bentonite-based technology in nuclear waste management. Bentonite's ability to form a long-term technical buffer around spent nuclear fuel capsules makes it an important component of the final disposal process. Similar materials are also used for the filling of repository facilities. Besides Finland, the company has also carried out important projects in other countries such as Sweden. The laboratories facilitating B + Tech Oy's pioneering development work are the only labs in the world designed for bentonite research only. The company, which also provides geotechnical testing, is located in Helsinki and currently employs approximately 18 persons, most of whom are highly trained researchers and foreign experts.

A-INSINÖÖRIT is a pioneer and creator of new cooperative models in construction management, structural engineering, infrastructure engineering, as well as rock and environmental engineering. We operate nationwide in Finland and globally in export projects. In 2014, our turnover exceeded EUR 45 million. Currently we employ almost 600 highly skilled professionals. A-INSINÖÖRIT's operations begin with the customer's needs; the goal of every project is customer satisfaction, the best customer experience. A-INSINÖÖRIT aims at being its customers' unique expert partner whose operational methods are humanly scaled and committed. Our notable ongoing projects include the West Metro, the Tampere Rantaväylä tunnel alliance, the Pirkanmaa Hospital District's extensive TAYS 2020 renewal programme, as well as the Naantali CHP power station and Järvenpää healthcare facility alliance projects.