



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AREVA Partners with Newton Research Labs to Provide Industry-first Comprehensive Robotic Exam Technology**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 21, 2017** – AREVA NP signed an exclusive agreement with Newton Research Labs, Inc. to make Newton’s non-destructive evaluation (NDE) inspection technology available to the U.S. nuclear industry. The combined service will be the most advanced NDE tank inspection and robotic repair service currently available in the nuclear industry.

With this partnership, AREVA NP becomes the exclusive U.S. supplier for Newton’s “Inspector” robot technology for tank inspections. This semi-autonomous, underwater robot surveys the floor of a borated water storage tank without the need to drain or remove the tank from service. This allows utilities to complete these inspections faster and more efficiently, ensuring the continued safe operation of the nuclear power plant. Inspector robots can map and inspect more than 90 percent of a tank floor; this includes inspecting within close proximity to the tank’s wall edge.



“AREVA NP is an industry leader in providing phased array ultrasonic techniques and equipment for nuclear plant examinations,” said Craig Ranson, senior vice president of the Installed Base Business Unit in the United States. “Our proven inspection expertise combined with Newton’s robotics ingenuity will help us provide improved methods to enhance maintenance and safety in the nuclear energy industry.”

"The Inspector has a track record of success inspecting in-service water storage tanks both during outages and off-outage," said Eric Yates, sales manager of Newton Labs. "We are excited to work with AREVA NP to continue offering this comprehensive inspection and repair service, and we will work together to develop new ways to improve plant operations."

First deployed in 2014, Newton’s Inspector robots are a field-proven solution that allow for complete remote inspections in empty or full water tanks during operations or off-peak seasons. They employ a combination of autonomous machine vision navigation and direct operator guidance to accurately identify and map tank floor weld locations. This is followed by a detailed inspection on a per-plate basis, providing XYZ coordinate locations of any identified flaws in the tank floor using a

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**MORE ABOUT AREVA**

AREVA in North America (AREVA Inc.) combines U.S. and Canadian leadership to supply high added-value products and services to support the operation of the commercial nuclear fleet. Globally, AREVA is present throughout the entire nuclear cycle, from uranium mining to used fuel recycling, including nuclear reactor design and operating services. AREVA is recognized by utilities around the world for its expertise, its skills in cutting-edge technologies and its dedication to the highest level of safety. AREVA Inc.'s employees are helping build tomorrow's energy model: supplying ever safer, cleaner and more economical energy to the greatest number of people. Visit us at <http://us.areva.com> or follow us on [Twitter: @AREVAus](https://twitter.com/AREVAus).



phased array ultrasonic test. Using on-board sensors, locations of any identified defects are pin-pointed to within 1/8th of an inch (3 mm), allowing for a precision return for further inspection or repairs.

AREVA NP's inspection services agreement with Newton Labs combines the expertise of both firms: NDE testing and analysis by AREVA NP, and optical inspection, underwater laser scanning and robotics by Newton. The agreement is exclusive to North America, with global consideration on a case-by-case basis.

More information about the Inspector system can be found at [http://www.newtonlabs.com/robot\\_inspector\\_land.html](http://www.newtonlabs.com/robot_inspector_land.html)

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### **More About Newton Labs**

Based in the technology center of Seattle, Newton Labs is a privately held manufacturer of robotics, laser scanning, machine vision and optical automation systems. Originating out of MIT, the company has spent over 20 years building a diverse history of delivering innovative solutions across multiple industries, specializing in challenging environments like Nuclear, Subsea and Underwater Applications. Newton Labs has deployed more than 30,000 machine vision, robotic, laser scanning and automation systems worldwide. Read more at [www.newtonlabs.com](http://www.newtonlabs.com).