

"British Reported Set To Build World's First Nuclear Power Station" Newspaper Article, August 8, 1951

British Reported Set To Build World's First Nuclear Power Station

By the Associated Press

LONDON, Aug. 8. – The Daily Mail said today British atomic scientists are ready to begin building the world's first, nuclear power station.

All that is needed to get the project under way, the newspaper said, is approval of a government grant of £900,000 (\$2.5 million) to begin construction of the plant.

The Mail said the project would be entirely independent of coal supplies which now produce almost all of Britain's power. The plant will be located at Harwell, headquarters of government atomic research work.

The Mail quoted the Supply Ministry, which handles Britain's atomic research, as saying:

"The work . . . will be conclusive this year, if successful, it will also foreshadow important advantages in the use of atomic energy for ship propulsion."

Research experts plan to use the atomic power plant at Harwell to provide energy to supply electricity for a housing center there, the Mail said. It added that a full-scale experimental plant should be operating within about four years.

A week ago the government's scientific advisory council reported that development of British atomic power stations to any substantial degree "is likely to take a generation at least."