



WRITTEN TRANSCRIPTION OF FRANÇOIS MARTIN PODCAST



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This is the written transcription of François Martin Podcast <https://www.syntec-ingenierie.fr/actualites/podcast-francois-martin-travaille-a-la-construction-de-lepr-dhinkley-point-c/>

Journalist

It is currently one of the largest construction projects in Europe...

The Hinkley Point C EPR project in the South West of England.

And it is a project to which François Martin is fully committed, and we're giving him a call today at his office in Montreuil (France)...

Sonal Skype

François Martin is the Nuclear Director of the Egis Group - a global player in construction engineering.

François Martin

Hinkley Point C accounts for 8% of England's carbon-free electricity. That's an impressive figure! We are in a consortium of engineering companies, led by Egis, and we bring together 500 people in this consortium - this gives you an idea of the sheer scale of the project - to carry out the civil engineering studies for the power station.

Journalist

The nuclear industry... François Martin arrived in the sector almost by chance following his brilliant academic studies at the Ecole Centrale in Paris.

And even engineering, if you ask him what led him down this path... the answer is not... immediate...

François Martin

Through the family environment, not really... I was in a family where there were a lot of teachers. I had a grandfather who was an engineer, I must admit. And when I was young, I used to play with Lego a lot, so maybe something was instigated back then, to do with designing, reasoning, to do with structures. And it's true that I felt attracted by construction, which what I chose as my major in the last year of my degree. And within construction, I was more attracted by intellectual activities than by the construction site itself.

Journalist

Reasoning, designing... that's exactly the task of François Martin and his teams on Hinkley Point C, through a world first for a nuclear power plant - a complete digital model of the civil engineering.

François Martin

Our activity as an engineer is to deliver a digital model which is used by the construction contractor on the site to build from. In the past, we used to produce 'paper' plans, but the digital model replaces and is even much richer than paper plans. We talk about a "digital twin": it is really a virtual copy of the power plant. It has everything in it. Engineering has more work than before. It does a much more ambitious job with digitalisation. This is important because it is sometimes said that digitalisation destroys jobs and so on. We are doing more than before!

Journalist

Working in the nuclear industry also means working on long-term issues! Here, people design and build for the long term... and this is also what fascinates François Martin!

François Martin

We work on flagship projects. A nuclear power station supplies electricity to X thousand homes. I was talking about England and the case of Hinkley Point earlier... So these are not superfluous projects, they are more than just "useful" projects, they are often strategic, geostrategic projects, they are an investment for 100 years...

We are about to enter a presidential campaign in France, and there will once again be a debate around nuclear power. We are dealing with major investment projects, infrastructure projects for countries, for France in particular. I find this more exciting than working on more ephemeral and less strategic projects.

Journalist

Engineering in the nuclear industry... Nuclear power is a much-debated subject in France...

And at a time when there is a lot of talk about global warming, the climate aspect has substantiated his decision to work in the nuclear industry.

François Martin

The question of the climate came up more recently with the IPCC reports, quite alarming reports, where we started to compare the different energies, making the link between nuclear power and the climate quite recently... From a personal perspective, it reassured me in the career choices I had made.

In France, nuclear energy is a rather divisive issue, it is a tricky subject for the general public. But I think that it will come back into the debate with the question of the climate. We will try, I think and I hope, to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages and to realise, particularly for a country like France, which has real know-how, real academic and engineering skills, that it is an asset. In a country like France, which has mastered this technology...

Journalist

A graduate in engineering, he is now Director of a major activity for a global group like Egis. François Martin never forgets what he considers to be an essential dimension of engineering: teamwork.

François Martin

Ultimately, the engineer's dimension, our educational background, our state of mind, our way of thinking... we are constantly reminded of it! Both through projects... and what's more, our engineering training also helps us as managers. There's an expression which has become commonplace, we say "project mode". It comes from engineering! It's almost always teamwork. It's a profession which offers a lot of personal fulfilment... You meet a lot of people, you obviously see clients, you meet the authorities... I would like to emphasise this dimension, which offers many career opportunities and fulfilment through meetings with our peers.

Journalist

François Martin, Nuclear Director: this position covers different dimensions of engineering... industrial, commercial, managerial... It's his fusion!

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