

Commercializing Advanced Nuclear Energy

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EESI Briefing: *The State of Play for Nuclear Energy in the United States* Dr. Patrick White (pwhite@nuclearinnovationalliance.org)

Who is Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA)?

- NIA is a "think-and-do" tank working to ensure advanced nuclear energy can be a key part of the climate solution.
- NIA identifies barriers, performs analysis, engages with stakeholders and policy makers, and nurtures entrepreneurship through its Nuclear Innovation Bootcamp.



Takeaways on Commercializing Advanced Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy can play a major role in creating a clean energy economy

Advanced reactors have a wide array of different commercial use cases

Developers are leveraging DOE support to accelerate reactor deployment

Continued federal support and incentives can catalyze private investments



Advanced nuclear energy is an important complementary clean energy source to help fully decarbonize U.S. energy production





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Large (and growing) group of private companies are developing advanced nuclear energy to meet clean energy needs



Utility partners and industrial energy users have expressed interest in deploying advanced nuclear energy



Public-private partnerships are accelerating the demonstration and deployment of first-of-a-kind advanced reactors



Developers are preparing to submit a large number of formal license applications for review to the NRC in FY23

Site-Specific Applications

- Kairos: Hermes (in progress)
- ACU: NEXT MSR (in progress)
- X-energy: Xe-100
- TerraPower: Natrium
- GEH: BWRX-300
- Oklo: NCSFR-1
- Oklo: NCSFR-2

Design-Specific Applications

- NuScale: VOYGR (complete)
- NuScale: NPM-20 (in progress)
- Terrestrial Energy: IMSR
- Westinghouse: eVinci

Pre-Application Interactions

- NuScale: UAMPS (COL)
- Holtec: SMR-160 (CP)
- GA: EM2 (CP)
- BWXT: BANR
- FLiBe: LFTR (ESP)
- ARC: ARC-100
- Radiant Energy: Kaleidos
- USNC: UIUC MMR (CP)
- TerraPower: MCFR
- GA: FMR (CP)

Pathway from first-of-a-kind to widescale deployment requires an orderbook, on-time and on-budget delivery, and supply chains



Successful commercialization could dramatically increase demand for advanced nuclear energy for a wide variety of applications



Figure from 2023 DOE Report Pathways to Commercial Liftoff - Advanced Nuclear



2022 Nuclear Energy Institute survey of 19 member utilities:

- More than 300 new SMRs deployed for electricity generation by 2050
- More than 90 GW of new nuclear generation by existing owners alone
- Evaluations of sites that currently host operating or retired coal plants for new nuclear reactors

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Continued federal support and incentives can catalyze private investments in advanced nuclear energy



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Back-up Slides

Advanced nuclear energy adds flexibility and versatility in comparison to conventional nuclear through innovative design

Conventional Nuclear Energy Advanced Nuclear Energy Predominantly Large: Versatile: **Reactor Size** More than 1000 MW_e 1.5 MW_e to 300+ MW_e Wide Variety of Predominantly **Reactor Technology Light-Water Reactors Reactor Technologies** Flexible and Primarily Baseload Generation Type **Dispatchable Generation** Generation **Designed with Active** Designed with Inherent Safety Approach Safety Systems Safety Systems

Definition of advanced nuclear energy includes a variety of nuclear technologies with different advantages



Gas-cooled fast reactor (GFR)

An evolution of HTRs, GFRs operate at very high temperatures while using a more sustainable fuel cycle

Sodium-cooled fast reactor (SFR)

Fast Fission

With many existing experimental reactors, SFRs offer increased fuel efficiency, reduced waste, and passive safety features

Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR)

Similar in design to SFRs, LFRs are advantageous as lead is operationally safer than sodium

Variety of reactor sizes and low-carbon products enable integration of advanced nuclear into future energy systems



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Both NRC and companies play a role in improving licensing under current rules and creating a new regulatory framework



Advanced reactor commercialization requires coordination and planning across all stages of a sustainable fuel cycle



Some advanced reactor technologies will require nuclear fuel cycles with higher uranium enrichment levels



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Advanced reactors that require HALEU or recycled fuels will need new fuel cycle infrastructure and facilities



Stakeholders can get up to speed on advanced nuclear energy and engage with policymakers on clean energy deployment

