October 2023

Dr. Steven Aumeier Idaho National Laboratory

Perspectives on Partnerships to Facilitate Deployment of Advanced Nuclear Energy

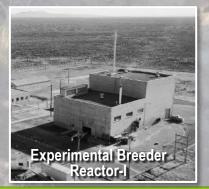
Prepared for
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October 2023

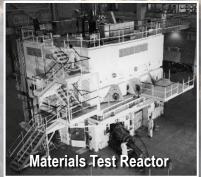


Idaho National Laboratory: The Nation's Nuclear Energy Laboratory

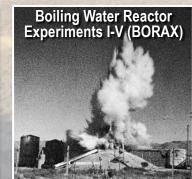
Over Seventy Years of Leading Into New Frontiers:

- First nuclear power plant
- First U.S. city to be powered by nuclear energy
- First submarine reactor tested; training of nearly 40,000 reactor operators until mid-90s
- First mobile nuclear power plant for the army
- Demonstration of self-sustaining fuel cycle
- Basis for LWR reactor safety
- Aircraft and aerospace reactor testing
- Materials testing reactors



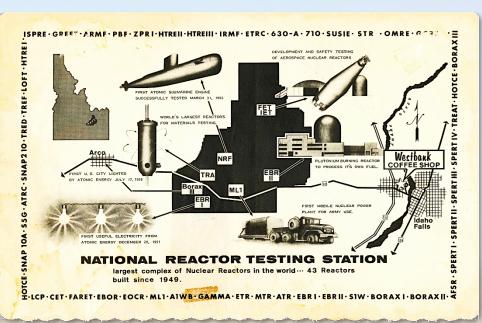












A New Frontier of Economic Opportunity – and Competition

- A mature industry and simpler, appropriately sized reactors intersect emerging market demands for low emission, reliable energy
 - Heat and power Beyond bulk grid applications
- State energy, policy, and regulatory officials will need to know the landscape -Classes of Reactors, Size, Purpose, and Terminology
 - What's available and what's new
 - Why
 - Attributes and terms, what's hype, what's real, where are the risks
- Disruptive new business models and applications an opportunity and imperative for U.S. leadership
- The way forward leading into the new global economic frontier will be led by state and community innovation

A Regional-to-Global Path

Why do we care?

Emissions Content of Products Is Being Monetized ... This Will Disrupt Global Competitiveness And Security



Projects to cut carbon emissions from steel manufacturing are being driven by consumer demand and government subsidies, according to BloombergNEF, a research firm.

-- NPR, June 27 2023



Russia- Year-round navigation of eastern part of Northern Sea Route planned for 2024 (Powered by nuclear)

Europe Reaches Historic Deal to Put Pollution Price on Imports --- Bloomberg December 13, 2022



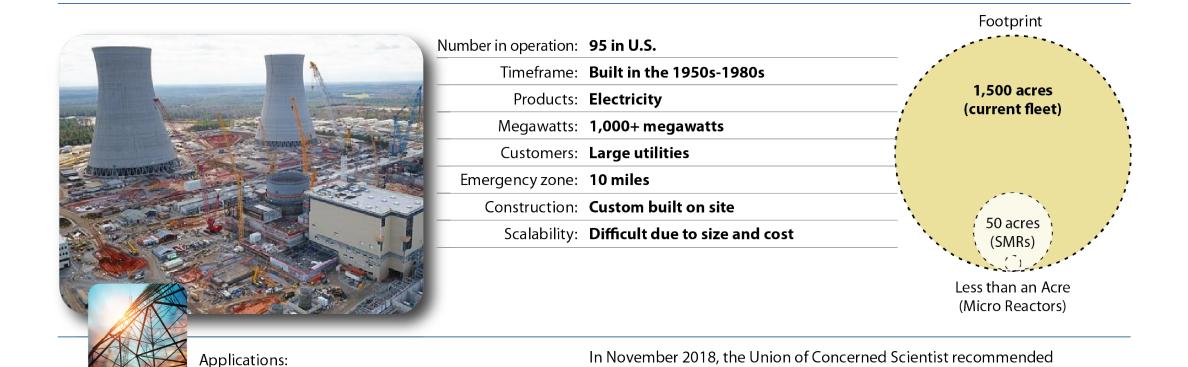
U.S. floats new steel, aluminum tariffs based on carbon emissions

--- Reuters December 7, 2022. 9:23 PM.



The New Global Frontier of Economic Competition and Security

Existing (large) nuclear reactors



that federal and state governments adopt policies to preserve the low-carbon electricity the current fleet of nuclear reactors provides.

Did you know?

Baseload electricity; 24/7

Coming soon: Hydrogen production

Small modular reactors



Number in operation: None*

Timeframe: First reactors expected by 2029

Products: Electricity, heat, and steam

Megawatts: 60-300 megawatts per module

Customers: Large utilities; municipalities; industry

Emergency zone: .19 miles

Construction: Factory built; assembled on site

Scalability: Reactor modules added as demand increases

1,500 acres
(current fleet)

Less than an Acre
(Micro Reactors)

Applications:

Baseload electricity, industrial heat, industrial processes such as hydrogen production

*NuScale SMR has completed NRC design approval with plan to start operation on INL site in 2029

Microreactors



Number in operation: **None**

Timeframe: First reactors expected by 2025

Products: Electricity, heat, and steam

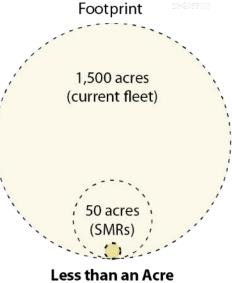
Megawatts: 20 megawatts or less

Customers: Military; municipalities; industry

Emergency zone: Less than 1 acre

Construction: Factory built; assembled on site

Scalability: Reactor modules added as demand increases



Less than an Acre (Micro Reactors)

Applications:

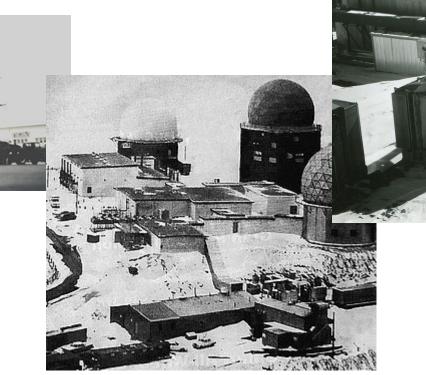
Power for remote locations, maritime shipping, military installations, mining, space missions, desalination, disaster relief Sen. Lisa Murkowski,

R-Alaska, April 4, 2019 Op-Ed in the Anchorage Daily News. Improvements in nuclear technology "are enabling the emergence of so-called "microreactors" that could be a perfect fit throughout our state. As the name suggests, these smaller reactors can be right-sized for dozens of Alaska communities and will have off-grid capability that could solve the challenge of providing clean, affordable energy in our remote areas."

Microreactors, Transportable Reactors – Back to the Future!

PM-1 – Sundance Wyoming

- Transportable reactor powered military radars 1962-1967



Size of the Prize - Establishing U.S. Leadership on the Frontier The Development of Microreactor Markets

Lead Market- Military (First-Tier Pricing)



Military Operations

Second Tier Market- Remote



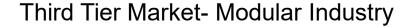
Microgrids (remote communities, islands)



Mining



Shipping & Ports





Data Centers

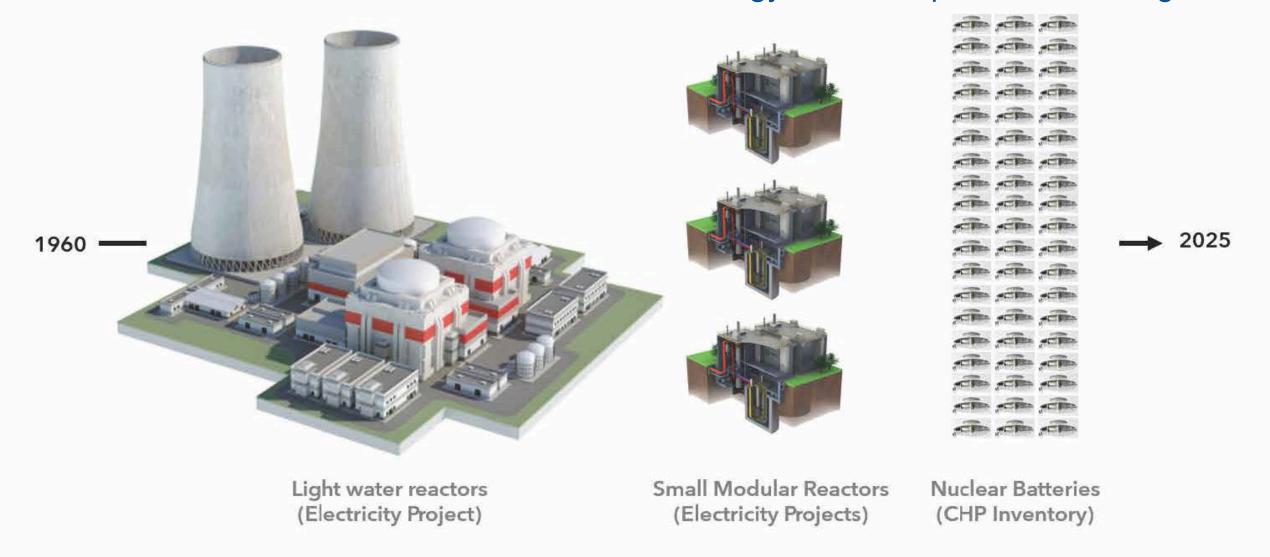


Desalination



Modular Industrial Plants

The March Toward "Embedded", Localized Energy As A Competitive Advantage



^{*} All nuclear batteries are microreactors, but not all microreactors are nuclear batteries



Innovative Partnerships: The Frontiers Initiative

- Help first-mover states innovate, accelerate, lead
 - A catalyst for advancing US leadership
 - Focus on advanced nuclear energy as a key to enable competitive edge
 - Bring best information to key stakeholders, e.g.
 Nuclear 101, connect suppliers to load owners and innovators, envision "art of the possible"
- Key Partnerships: Government, Industry, Academia, NGO, Finance, etc
 - The Atlantic Council
 - Utah
 - Alaska
 - Wyoming
 - Idaho
- A Regional-to-Global Approach States as the catalyst of deployment innovation

Initiative Elements

- 1. Frontiers Collaborations
- 2. Frontiers Project
- 3. Frontiers Global
- 4. Frontiers Global Security

Other Slides of Possible Interest

Licensing Commercial Power Reactors

- All commercial power reactors operate under NRC licenses
 - Originally issued for 40 years
 - Subsequent licenses extended to 60 and 80
- NRC has sole licensing authority; but states have permitting authorities necessary for plant operation
- 3 basic licensing paths
 - 10 CFR 50 − Construction licenses followed by Operating License (EACH ~ 36 months)
 - 10 CFR 52 –Combined Construction and Operating License refencing a certified design (~30 months)
 - 10 CFR 52 Combined Construction and Operating License NOT referencing a certified design (~36 months)
- Design certification is NOT licensing don't mix the two up

Licensing – Past and Future

- Recent Experience
 - NuScale SMR 42 months for design certification (completed!)
 - Oklo Aurora Microreactor 10 CFR 52 36 month planned review period; recently NRC denies license application w/out prejudice (i.e. they are welcome to start again)
 - Vogtle Combined license with certified design
- NRC is Considering "Risk-Informed, Technology Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors" – i.e. a new "Part 53"
 - This is a long, in-depth rule making process
- NRC is Analyzing Microreactor Licensing Strategies Using Existing Authorities
 - Key elements of consideration
 - Standardized design, standard site conditions
 - Factory manufactured license the manufacturing process
 - Operations standardized
 - No spent fuel storage at operations location
 - Generic EIS

Microreactor concepts and developers (2023)

			Power Output			
Developer	Name	Type	(MWe)	Fuel	Coolant	
Alpha Tech Research Corp.	ARC Nuclear Generator	MSR	12 MWe	LEU	Fluoride Salt	
BWXT	BANR	HTGR	17 MWe	TRISO	Helium	
General Atomics	GA Micro	HTGR	1-10 MWe		gas	
HolosGen	HolosQuad	HTGR	13 MWe	TRISO	Helium/CO2	
Micro Nuclear, LLC	Micro Scale Nuclear Battery	MSR/heat pipe	10 MWe	UF4	FLiBe	
Nano Nuclear	ZEUS	FR/HTGR	1 MWe	UO2	Helium	
NuGen, LLC	NuGen Engine	HTGR	2-4 MWe	TRISO	Helium	
NuScale Power	NuScale Microreactor	LM/heat pipe	< 10 MWe	Metallic	Liquid Metal	
Oklo	Aurora	SFR/heat pipe 1.5 MWe		Metallic	Sodium	
Radiant Nuclear	Kaleidos Battery	HTGR	1.2 MWe	TRISO	Helium	
Ultra Safe Nuclear	MicroModular Reactor	HTGR	5 MWe	TRISO	Helium	
Westinghouse	eVinci	Heat pipe	5 MWe	TRISO	Sodium	
X-energy	Xe-Mobile	HTGR	7.4 MWe	TRISO	Helium	

Microreactor Cost Assessments and Licensing

Preliminary estimates for cost of electricity - Not Including credits

Timeframe		Cost Targets at Cumulative Number of Builds					
1st Units	Profile Markets	1-9	10	100	1,000	10,000	
2020-2030	FOAK units/ DoD Units	<\$0.60/kWh					
2030-2035	Remote Operations		<\$0.50/kWh	<\$0.35/kWh	<\$0.20/kWh	<\$0.15/kWh	
2035-2040	Distributed Energy			<\$0.35/kWh	<\$0.20/kWh	<\$0.15/kWh	
2040-2050	Resilient Cities				<\$0.20/kWh	<\$0.15/kWh	

Credit: DOE Microreactor Program, Shropshire, Black, and Araujo; 2021, Global Market Analysis of Microreactors, INL/EXT-21-63214.

- AK Remote Applications Present Cost: \$0.54 / kWh (average)
- Capital cost estimates for MRs range from about \$6K/kWe - \$30K/kWe.
- Costs are uncertain, and achievement of cost targets critical for competitiveness in markets.
- Key is VALUE incremental provisioning, reliability, zero carbon, security, etc

- MIT Study Findings:
 - Adding CHP (Combined heat and power) is key for MRs competing against diesel and natural gas.
 - Modest carbon emissions caps raise the capital cost ceiling and make MRs viable beyond isolated markets.
 - Additional tax treatment, investment and credits (e.g. IRA, BIL, DPA) being determined
- NRC Assessing Licensing Strategies
 - High degree of design and ops standardization
 - Generic EIS streamlines site env. review
 - Factory manufactured
 - No spent fuel storage