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Efforts for Next Generations Reactor Systems Development in the World

1 – Renewed interest in sustainable nuclear energy systems
2 – Generation IV International Forum and IAEA INPRO Initiatives
3 – R&D on Fast neutron Reactors & closed fuel cycles
4 – R&D on High Temperature Reactors & non-electricity applications
5 – Scientific challenges and perspectives for industrial deployment

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1

Sustainable energy development scenario (IAE - 2003)



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ENERGY TO 2050

Future

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Generations of Nuclear Power Systems



Sustainable Nuclear Fission Technology Platform (SNF-TP)

SNF-TP objectives & organization



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Sustainability

— > Resource utilization (t Unat/GWy)

> Ultimate waste form

- ✓ Direct disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel
- ✓ Vitrified waste package
 - Fission products + Minor actinides
 - Fission products only ?

Economic competitiveness

✓ Generating cost (€/MWh)

- Investment, Operating costs, Fuel cycle costs

- Safety + Security
 - ✓ Safety
 - Physical protection
 - Proliferation resistance

Integration in the socio-economic context

✓ Acceptation

✓ Social and economic impact

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Radiotoxicity and decay heat of TRU in spent fuel

>1st contributor : Pu

>2nd contributor : Minor Actinides (MA): Am, Cm ?, Np ??

Guidelines to optimize the management of nuclear spent fuel and waste: design of repository and environmental impact

LL Fission Products: P/T feasible but not very efficient for ⁹⁹Tc and non practically feasible for ¹³⁵Cs & ¹²⁹I



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Fast neutron reactors burn plutonium while converting U 238 (U dep & U rep) into plutonium that is burnt in situ (~1 t U/GWey) (Regeneration → Breeding of fissile fuel)

→ Existing Plutonium & Depleted Uranium in nuclear countries is worth ~5000 years of current nuclear production.

The Red Book 2005: Resources, Production and Supply 21st Edition by OECD/NEA (June 1, 2006)

MtU	<130\$/kg	Phosphates
RAR	3.3	
EAR-I	1.4	
Total	4.7	
EAR-II	14.8	22
SR		
Total	19.5	22

Uranium demand for the expected growth of nuclear power: 370 GWe LWR \rightarrow 1000-1300 GWe LWR by 2050 with 60y lifetime \rightarrow Need for 1,2 + 11/14.5 Mt Unat

→ Incentive to switch around 2050 to Fast neutron Systems that make a much more efficient use of Uranium than LWRs

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Uranium Demand & Supply

Demand > Supply

→ Additional resources (WPu, U_{rep}, MOX) used so far

Annual demand and supply of Uranium (1945 \rightarrow 2003)

Production annuelle d'uranium et besoins liés aux réacteurs (1945-2003)







9

If nuclear energy grows significantly, uranium resources could be engaged by 2050

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NEA Source 2006

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The GNEP Initiative Nuclear fuel supply & take back **Reactor States** National Law Repository Reactors Enriched Spent Thermal Fuel Uranium Reactor Fuel ORE Separate Repository Recycle Fast Fuel Reactor 貫 Fuel cycle States

Recognizes the benefit of treatment/recycling strategies:

- **Regional centers**
- Large scale facilities

Sets new requirements for future reprocessing needs:

- Address non-proliferation
- No pure plutonium



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Experience in Sodium cooled Fast Reactors

18 experimental or prototype Sodium Fast Reactors so far 385 Reactor x Years of cumulated operation in 2007

United States

- EBR-1 1951
- EBR-II (20 MWe) 1963 → 1994
- FFTF (400 MWth) 1980 → 2000
- Clinch River Project cancelled in 1983

Europe

- Rapsodie (20 MWth) 1967 → 1983
- DDFR (60 MWth)
- KNK-II (17 MWe) 1978 → 1991
- Phénix (250 MWe) 1973 → 2009
- PFR (250 MWe) 1975 → 1994
- SNR300 (300 MWe) never put into service
- Superphenix (1200 MWe) 1986 → 1998
- EFR Project cancelled in 1998

	Japan Joyo (140 MWth) Monju (280 MWe)	1994 ->
1983 3	 Russia & Kazakh BOR-60 (60 MWth) BN-350 (90 MWe) BN-600 (600 MWe) BN-800 (800 MWe) 	stan 1973 → 1999 1980 → 2012
	India - FBTR (40 MWth) - PFBR (500 MWe)	1985 → 2010
service 1998	China - CEFR (25 MWe)	2010





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Gen IV Vision of closed fuel cycle: integral & homogeneous recycling of actinides





Generation IV Forum: selection of six nuclear systems



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Governance of the Generation IV Forum



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Generation IV System selection



Status of the Generation IV International Forum

- Framework Agreement:
- Signed on Feb. 28, 2005 in Washington D.C.



- > System Arrangements:
- Feb. 15, 2006: SFR Arrangement signed
- Nov. 30, 2006: VHTR, GFR & SCWR Arrangements signed

Project Arrangements:

- March 2007: Signature of the SFR Advanced fuel Project
 SFR GACID & VHTR Materials, Fuel and fuel cycle, Hydrogen production to be signed by Dec.2007
- Russia & China join the Forum: Charter signed Nov. 30, 2006
- J. Bouchard as Forum's Chairman for 3 years (Nov. 2006-09)

INPRO: an initiative to specify and assess nuclear systems for IAEA member countries

<u>INPRO</u>: A unique forum for the development of nuclear energy in IAEA affiliated countries & strengthening cooperation between **Technology "Holders" & "Users**"



Sodium Fast Reactor (SFR)

- A new generation of sodium cooled Fast Reactors
- Reduced investment cost Simplified design, system innovations (Pool/Loop design, ISIR – SC CO₂ PCS)
- Towards more passive safety features
 + Better manag^t of severe accidents
- Integral recycling of actinides?
 Remote fabrication of TRU fuel



→ 2009: Feasibility – 2015: Performance → 2020+ : Demo SFR (FR, US, JP...)



A prototype reactor in France in 2020



President Chirac statement (Jan 06):

« A number of countries are working on future generation reactors, to become operational in 2030-2040, which will produce less waste and will make a better use of fissile materials. I have decided to launch, starting today, the design work by CEA of a prototype of the 4th generation reactor, which will be commissioned in 2020. We will naturally welcome industrial or international partners

who would like to get involved. »

Bill on a long-lasting sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste (June 28, 2006):

<u>Section 3.1</u>: « Research on Partitioning and Transmutation is conducted in relation with that on **new generations of nuclear reactors** mentioned in the Energy Policy Bill of July 13, 2005, as well as on **accelerator driven systems** dedicated to the transmutation of waste, so as **to have in 2012 an assessment of the industrial prospects of these reactor types** and to put a prototype into operation by the end of 2020 ».



Requirements for Gen IV Sodium Fast Reactors (1/2)

Economic competitiveness with Gen III LWRs

- Reduction of the *investment cost* through system simplification and increase of compactness
 - Pool concept
 - Loop system (with simplified or suppressed intermediate system)
- Optimization of operation with a design that alleviates as far as possible constraints associated with a metallic coolant
- Optimization of *in service inspection, maintenance and repair*



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Requirements for Gen IV Sodium Fast Reactors (2/2)

Enhanced safety

- Decrease or suppression of *risks of sodium/water interaction* through optimizing the Power Conversion System
 - Optimized Steam Generator
 - Gas Turbine (nitrogen/helium or supercritical CO₂)
- Practical exclusion of large energy release in case of severe accidents
 - → Reduced sodium void reactivity effect + Enhanced Doppler effect with a dense and high thermal conductivity fuel + Increased reliance on passive safety features



Flexible fuel cycle (U, Pu, MA) + Burning or Breeding > Resource saving > Waste minimization > Non-proliferation

Develop international non-proliferation standards to allow for diverse fuel cycle processes

Keep all options open as they could be deployed in sequence



TRU fuel tests in Phenix & Superphenix





R&D on spent fuel separation processes



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Co-conversion of actinides through the solgel process



Beads of U(VI)-Pu(IV) hydroxide gel

Oxalic co-precipitation of actinides



French Prototype 2020 and related fuel cycle facilities



Demonstration of Advanced reactor and recycling technologies (U, Pu, MA)





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32

Minimizing waste with advanced Actinide recycling





Summary of main results of NEA P&T study (ENC 2005)

Gen IV and P&T impacts



1a: Once-through cycle as reference.

1b: *full LWR park, Pu re-used once*

2a: full LWR park, multiple re-use of Pu

3cV1: *full fast reactor park and fully closed fuel cycle (Gen IV).*

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ETDR and GFR pre-conceptual designs (GFR)



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✓ System Arrangement LFR to be signed end-2007 or 2008

Lead Fast Reactor (LFR)

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Very High Temperature Reactor (V/HTR)

A nuclear system dedicated to the production of high temperature process heat for the industry and hydrogen

temperature

steam

Power to grid

ser for electrolysic

- 600 MWth T_{He} >1000 °C Thermal neutrons Block or pebble core concept
- Passive safety features
- I-S Cycle or HT Electrolysis for H₂

→ 2009: Feasibility – 2015: Performance
 ~ 2020: PBMR, NGNP & Other Near Term Projects



ANTARES: a multipurpose nuclear heat source for hydrogen and process heat production High Temp. Primary **Process** A-HTR Loop Heat ~550 to 800C **ANTARES** 600 MWt Gas PROJECT IHX Rx core Cycle Circulator He He or N₂/He Gas Water/steam turbine S.G. Med. Temp. **Process Heat** ~250 to 550C Steam Cycle Low Temp. Condenser **Process Heat** Generator ~30 to 250C **ANTARES** concept (600 MWt, 850°C)

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R&D on VHTR fuel manufacturing

GAIA fabrication line (CEA Cadarache) (under operation since mid 2005)



Sol-Gel apparatus Kernel manufacturing Nuclear Energy Division

UO₂ kernels



ZrO₂ TRISO SiC particle



Drying calcination furnace



CVD line

TRISO particle coating

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R&D on helium technology and components

Electric network **Dynamic He tightness** Generator systems Thermal insulation systems Turbine for hot gas pipe Core vessel helium 550°C 35 bar 1000°C 80 bar He components (heat exchangers, cooler, circulator, valves) Economizer 500°C Graphite oxidation in 80 bar HTR reactor core 150°C 80 bar 150°C 35 bar Control rods Cooler 40°C, 35 bar He quality management Compressor He compressor/circulator **Mechanical behavior** of welded junctions Wear and friction (operability of CRDM) **Static He tightness**

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Nuclear production of Hydrogen

R&D on two main processes

An important mile-stone in 2008 about feasibility and performances Many collaborations : Europe, Gen IV, USA, Japan



Very High Temperature Reactor (VHTR)

Potential applications of process heat for the industry



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Computational tools for current and future nuclear systems

Simulation: - Multi-physics, multi-scale modelling - Co-developed numerical platforms



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Simulation & Experimental Tools

Development of Nuclear experimental facilities

Research Reactors

- ✓ OSIRIS, ORPHEE, HFR, LVR-15...
- ✓ PHEBUS, CABRI
- ✓ EOLE, MINERVE, MASURCA
- Jules Horowitz Reactor -> 2014





> Hot laboratories ✓ LECI ✓ PE-LECI ✓ LECA-STAR ✓ ATALANTE...

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Strategic Techno for Sustainable Nuclear Systems (1/2)

Advanced spent fuel recycling processes

✓ <u>Stakes:</u> International non-proliferation standards

✓ <u>Status</u>: Experience of existing spent fuel treatment plant, R&D on advanced treatment processes, Pilot-scale demonstration facilities of these processes (~2017) to provide driver and experimental TRU fuels for the Fast Reactor Prototypes (> 2020)

Advanced fuels (incl. MA bearing fuels for Fast Reactors)

✓ <u>Stakes</u>: International non-proliferation standards

✓ <u>Status</u>: first tests of MA bearing fuels in Phenix, dynamic R&D, International demo of integral recycling in MONJU (GACID), Advanced recycling Demonstrations planned in Fast Reactor Prototypes (>2020)

Advanced materials for the core and reactor systems

- ✓ <u>Stakes</u>: techno breakthroughs for fast neutron & high temperature reactors
- ✓ <u>Status:</u> Active R&D on advanced steels (austenitic, ferritic/martensitic, ODS)

+ SiC_f-SiC & other composite ceramics: a synergistic R&D field with Fusion techno. *(key feasibility issues for the Gas Fast Reactor)*

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Strategic Technologies for Future Nuclear Systems (2/2)

Innovations for sodium & other Fast Reactors

✓ <u>Stakes:</u> innovations to advance sodium Fast Reactor systems and technologies beyond EFR, MONJU and the Indian PFBR (500 MWe)
 → Progress on 1 – Investment, 2 – Safety, 3 – Operation

✓ <u>Status</u>: experience derived from Phenix, Superphenix, BN600, FFTF... Current effort to select innovative design features by ~2012, to be demonstrated in Fast Reactor Prototypes or Technology Demonstrators (> 2020)

> Other innovations for nuclear systems (gas turbine power

conversion, co-generation of heat, hydrogen, synthetic hydrocarbon fuels...)

✓ <u>Stakes:</u> widening the range of nuclear applications; developing potential key technologies for future nuclear energy systems for the national and the international markets

✓ <u>Status:</u> medium term projects of V/HTRs (*PBMR, NGNP, GT-HTR300, PMR...*), dynamic R&D on V/HTR fuel, system technology, HT heat exchangers & power conversion, hydrogen technologies, production of synthetic fuel from coal or biomass...

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Next Generations Nuclear Systems International Development Summary and perspectives International cooperation on future nuclear systems (Gen IV, INPRO...):

- ✓ Fast Reactors & closed fuel cycles for sustainability, and
- ✓ High Temperature Reactors for co-generation (H_2 , Synfuels, Process heat)
- -> Updated goals: Competitiveness, Safety, Non-proliferation, Physical protection
- → A dual approach on Fast Neutron Systems: SFR + GFR, LFR...
- Development of V/HTRs by the industry (Customers & Vendors)
- Innovative concepts & technologies for LWRs (Fuels, Core, Systems)

Scientific challenges in MA-fuels, Recycling, Structural materials, System innovations (RCS, PCS...):

✓ Key role of Simulation and Large experimental facicilties (MTR, Hot Labs)
 ✓ Significance of international cooperation (R&D + Demos GACID...)

→ Demonstrations in Joyo/Monju, US-ARR, Prototypes FR-2020, JP-2025...

Towards a parallel & phased development of reactor & recycling technologies
 ✓ Federation of national initiatives into an international technology roadmap
 → Enhancing R&D and technology demonstrations (Gen IV, EU FP7...)
 → Progressing towards harmonized international standards (safety, PR & PP)

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