



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Nuclear Energy

Small Modular Reactor Project in the United States of America

*Debate on Dispersed Nuclear Energy
An Opportunity for Poland?*

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U.S. Department of Energy**

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Committed to “*All of the Above*” Clean Energy Strategy



*“By 2035, 80% of America’s electricity will come from clean energy sources. Some folks want wind and solar. Others want **nuclear**, clean coal and natural gas. To meet this goal we will need them all.”*

~2011 State of the Union

*“Electricity generation emits more carbon dioxide in the United States than does transportation or industry, and **nuclear power** is the largest source of carbon-free electricity in the country.”*

~ Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz





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Meeting Clean Energy Goals will Require a Shift in Electricity Production

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2035</u>	
<u>Source</u>	Elect (TWhr)	CO ₂ (Gton)	Elect (TWhr)	CO ₂ (Gton)
Natural Gas	1000	0.4	1520	0.5
Coal	1730	1.7	1800	1.8
Coal (CCS)	0	0	0	0
Nuclear (Large)	790	0	870	0
Nuclear (SMR)	0	0	0	0
Hydro	325	0	300	0
Renewable	200	0	440	0
Petroleum/Other	50	0.04	40	0.03
TOTAL	4095	2.2	4970	2.2 1.0

2010 U.S Electricity Consumption
and CO₂ Emissions. EIA **CE=42%**

EIA Reference
Projections 2035
CE=43%

Source: EIA, Annual
Energy Outlook 2013



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SMRs can be Game Changers

"I believe small modular reactors could represent the next generation of nuclear energy technology, providing a strong opportunity for America to lead this emerging global industry."



*U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resource
Confirmation Hearing on April 9, 2013*

"We are committed to fostering the safe and secure contribution of nuclear power to the global energy mix."

~ IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security – July 1, 2013



Light Water-Based SMR Designs

■ Well-understood Technology

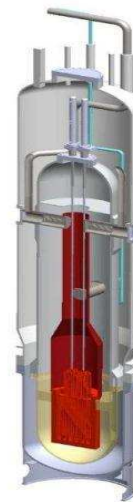
- Uranium Oxide fuels
- Regulatory and operating experience

■ Commercial Interest

- At least 4 LWR vendors
- Vendor/Utility coalitions being established

■ Manufacturing industry involved

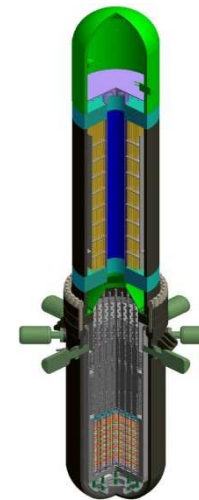
- Could revitalize U.S. nuclear infrastructure and create new industries



NuScale



Holtec



Westinghouse



MPower



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Design Features that Improve SMR Safety

■ SMR designs share a common set of design principles to enhance plant safety and robustness

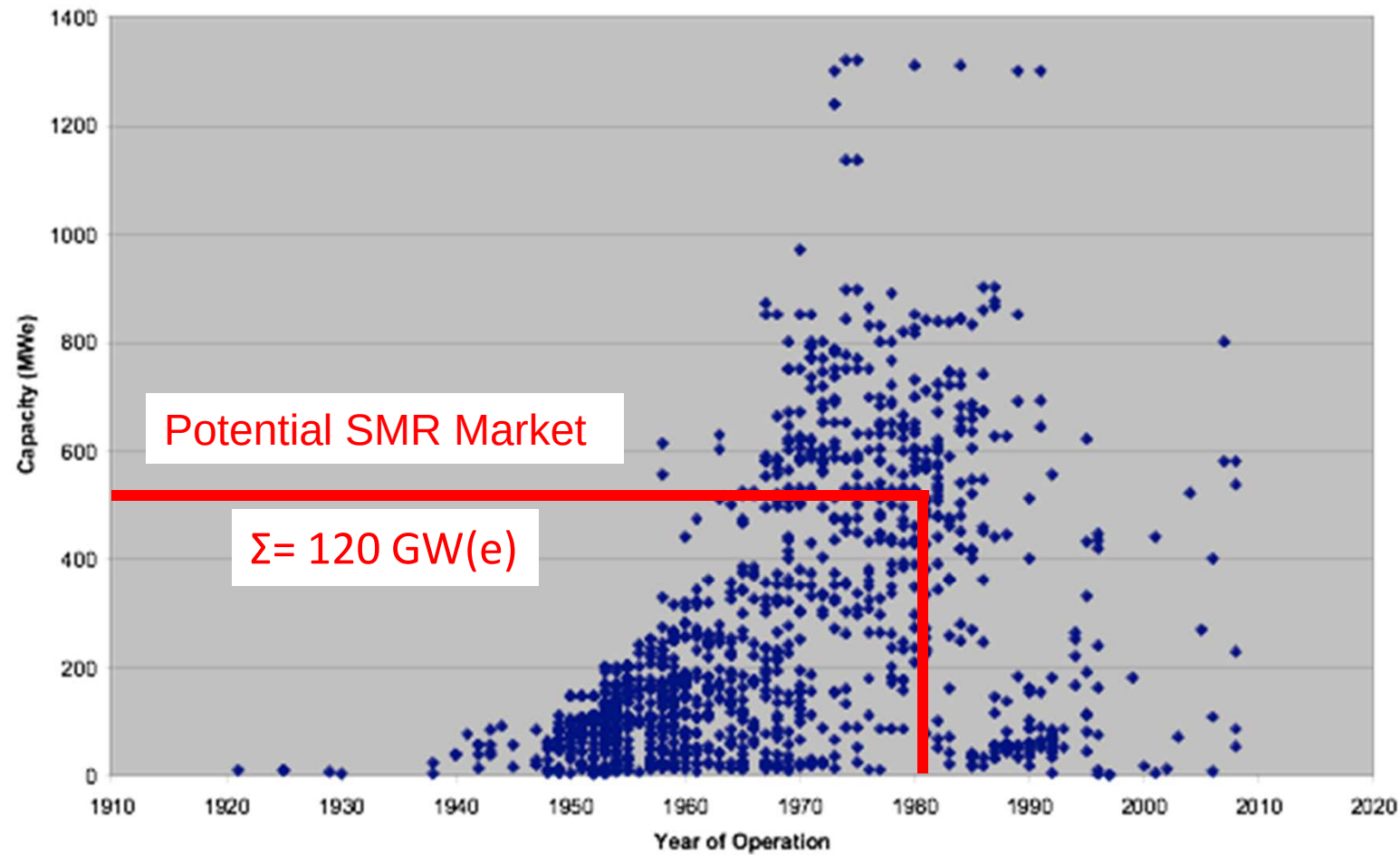
- Incorporation of primary system components into a single vessel
 - Eliminates large pipe break accidents
- Increased ratio of water inventory to decay heat
 - More effective decay heat removal
 - Much longer “coping time”
- Vessel and component layouts that facilitate natural convection cooling by gravity of the core and vessel
 - Eliminates need for electrical power to drive cooling systems
- Below-grade construction of the reactor vessel and spent fuel storage pool
 - Enhanced resistance to seismic events
 - Improved security



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SMRs Could Potentially Replace Retiring Coal Plants





Economic Considerations

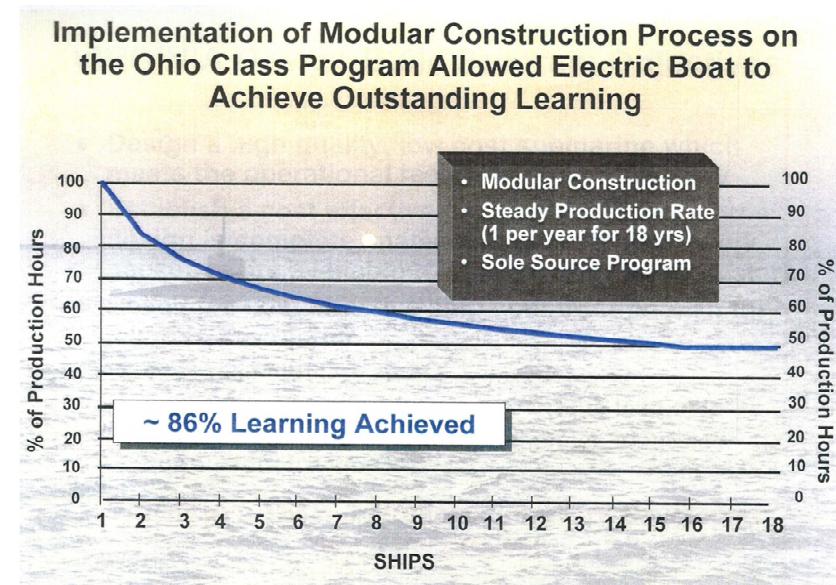
■ Capital cost comparison

- New AP1000 reactors in the U.S. are \$5B - \$7B
- Estimate for SMRs are:
 - \$4,700 - \$6,000/kWe or
 - \$900M - \$1200M for 200 MWe plant

■ Naval reactor industrial experience shows significant learning

- Assembly line replication optimizes cost, schedule and quality through greater standardization of components and processes

■ Preliminary conclusion is that “economy of mass production” can be competitive with “economy of scale”



DOE Program to Support SMR Design Certification & Licensing

- In 2012, DOE initiated a 6 year/\$452 M program
- Accelerate commercial SMR development through public/private arrangements
 - Deployment as early as 2022
- Provide financial assistance for design engineering, testing, certification, and licensing of promising SMR technologies with high likelihood of being deployed at domestic sites
- Funding being provided to industry partners through cost sharing
 - Generation mPower selected on the first funding opportunity
 - Currently reviewing applications for the second funding opportunity
- Exploring additional mechanisms for SMR fleet deployment

The U.S. Government wants to support the safest, most robust SMR designs that minimize the probability of any radioactivity release



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Generation mPower Progress on Certification & Licensing

- Commissioned Integrated Systems Test Facility in 2012 to analyze plant performance & response
- Established fuel fabrication & testing facility in 2013
- Conducting component prototype testing on reactor coolant pumps & control rod drive mechanisms
- Site characterization sampling at the Clinch River Site
- Significant pre-application interactions with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Design Certification Application (Oct 2014) and Construction Permit Application (Jun 2015) on schedule





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Strategic Vision for SMR Deployment

- Our long term goal is to enable deployment of a fleet of SMRs, not just 1 or 2 units
- Envision need for >50 GWe capacity in coming decades based on coal plant replacements alone
- Long term vision is that SMRs would evolve through anticipated deployment phases
 - Regulatory (*where we are today*)
 - Early adopters (*first 20 units*)
 - Full-scale factory production (*20 – 40 units/year*)



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Summary – SMR Technologies are of Great Interest in the U.S.

- Further improve passive safety technology
- Reduce capital cost and project risk
- Regain technical leadership and advance innovative reactor technologies and concepts
- Create high-quality domestic manufacturing, construction, and engineering jobs
- Become global leader in SMR technology based on mature nuclear infrastructure and NRC certified designs



Challenge to SMR fleet deployment:
Prove economy of mass production is competitive
with economy of scale