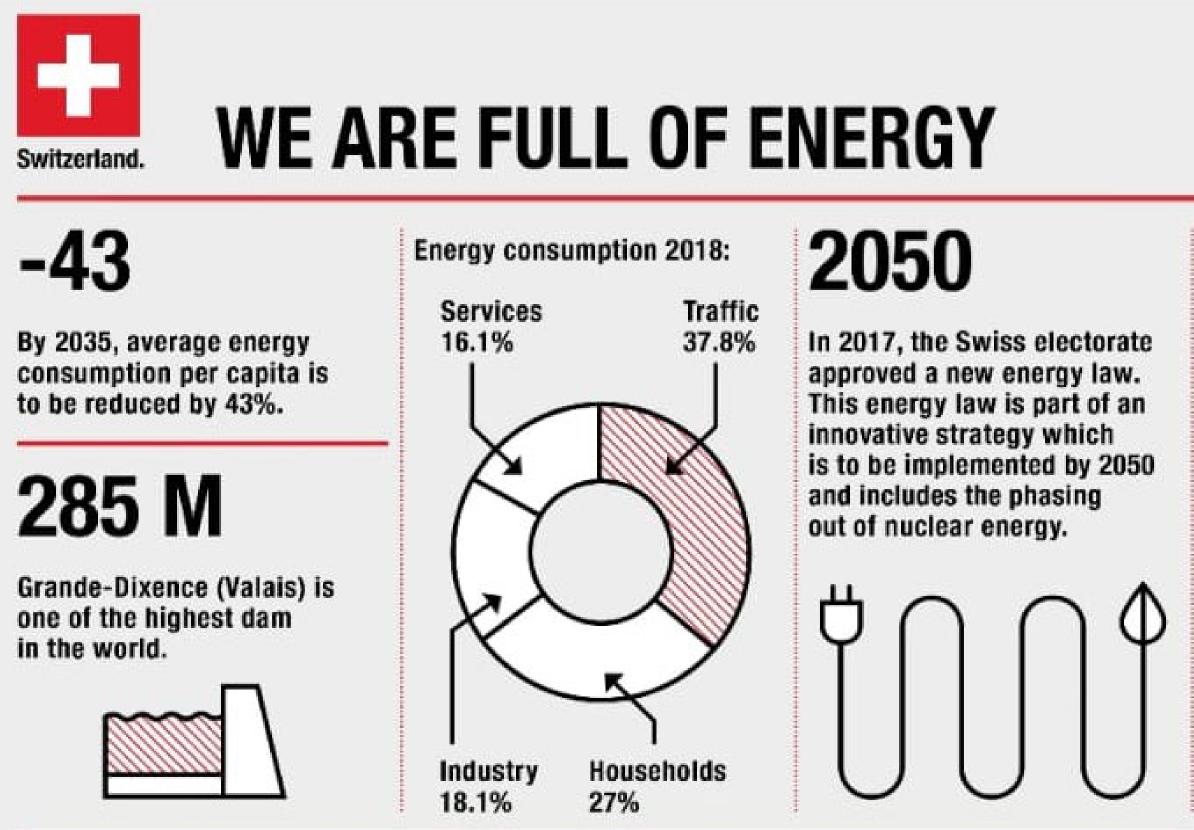


## Newcleo's Lead-cooled Fast Reactor: a potential game changer for a sustainable Swiss energy transition

**Swiss Nuclear Forum** A. De Min 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## The genesis (2021)



C FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org



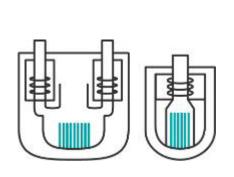
## WATER

Hydroelectric power, which provides just under 60% of total electricity production, is the most important domestic source of renewable energy.

**Energy sources:** 

Petroleum	- 39.8%
Nuclear energy	- 24.3%
Hydroelectric power	- 12.3%
Gas	- 10.9%
Other	- 12.7%

### A new, innovative player in nuclear energy



### REACTOR DESIGN: Small Modular (SMR) + Lead-cooled Fast Reactors (LFR) = AMR

*new*cleo is working to design, build, and operate Gen-IV Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) cooled by liquid lead



### FUEL MANUFACTURING: Mixed Uranium Plutonium Oxide (MOX)

MOX and Fast Reactors allow the multi-recycling of nuclear waste into new fuel with no new mining for generations

### **INTRINSICALLY SAFE**

power production

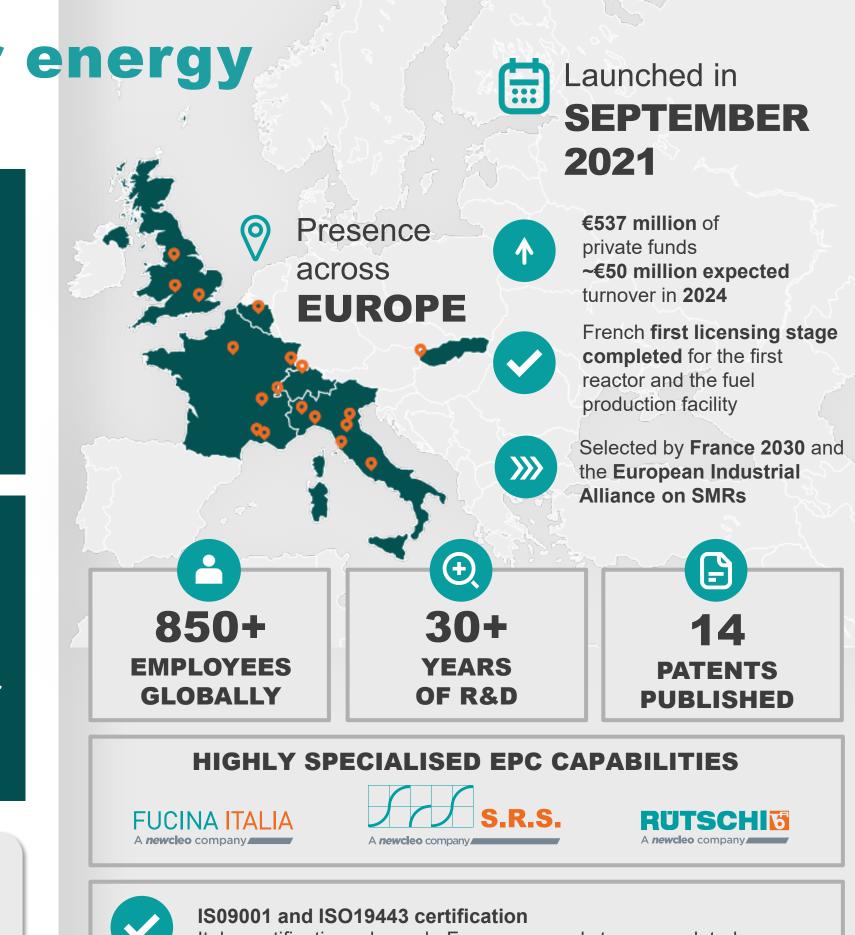
CIRCULAR

nuclear waste recycling

COMPETITIVE

energy cost





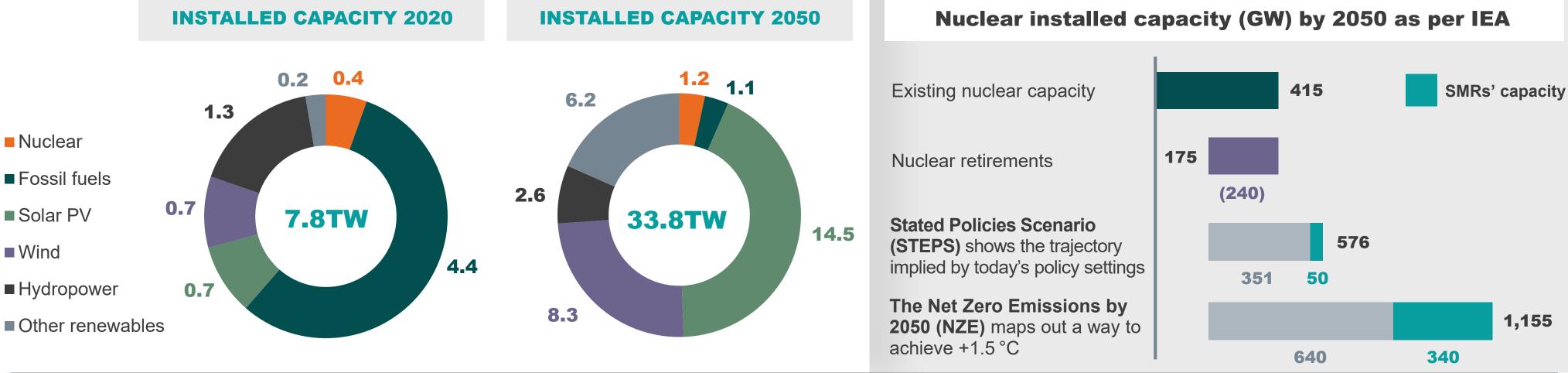
Italy: certification released - France: second stage completed

## **Nuclear energy's critical role in energy future**

### **Decarbonisation and energy security dilemma**

- Growing energy demand •
- Decarbonisation objectives •
- Increasing installed intermittent • renewable sources
- Higher electrification of end-uses

- Higher volatility of fossil markets
- Geopolitical security of supply
- Critical materials scarcity



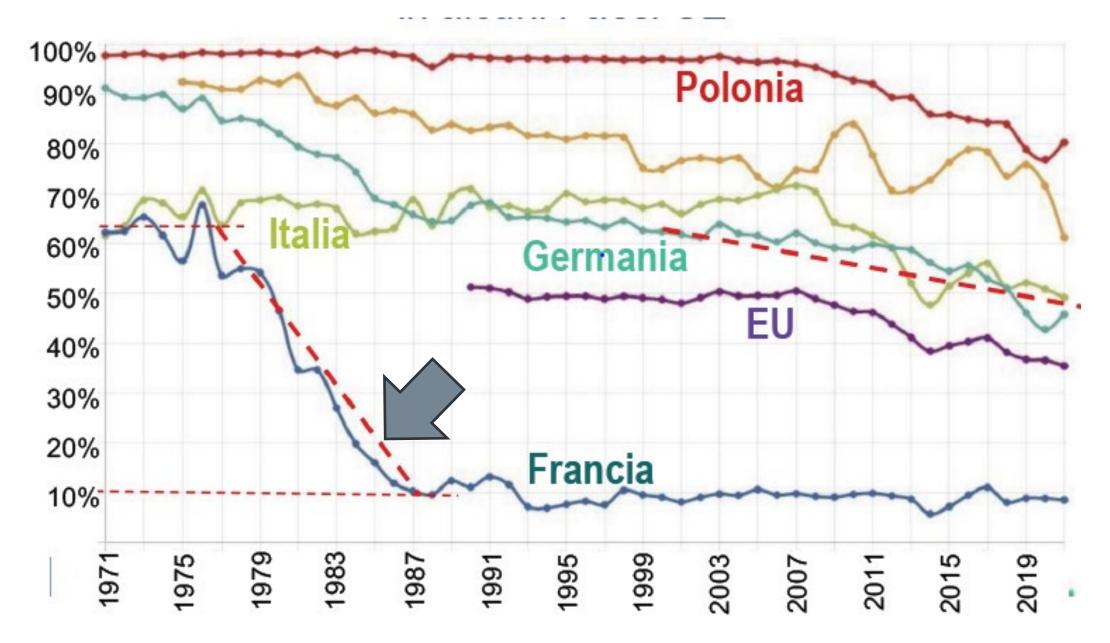


### **Fission can be the answer:**

- Reliable and dispatchable, complementing intermittent renewable sources
- Dense, with small footprint on the environment and large availability of fuel supply
- Enables energy security and independence
- No direct CO<sub>2</sub> or pollutants emission

### **Nuclear is essential for decarbonization** France has decarbonized its energy sector in 15 years @ low electricity prices

Fossil fuel contribution to electricity generation\*



Carbon intensity in electricity production (2023):

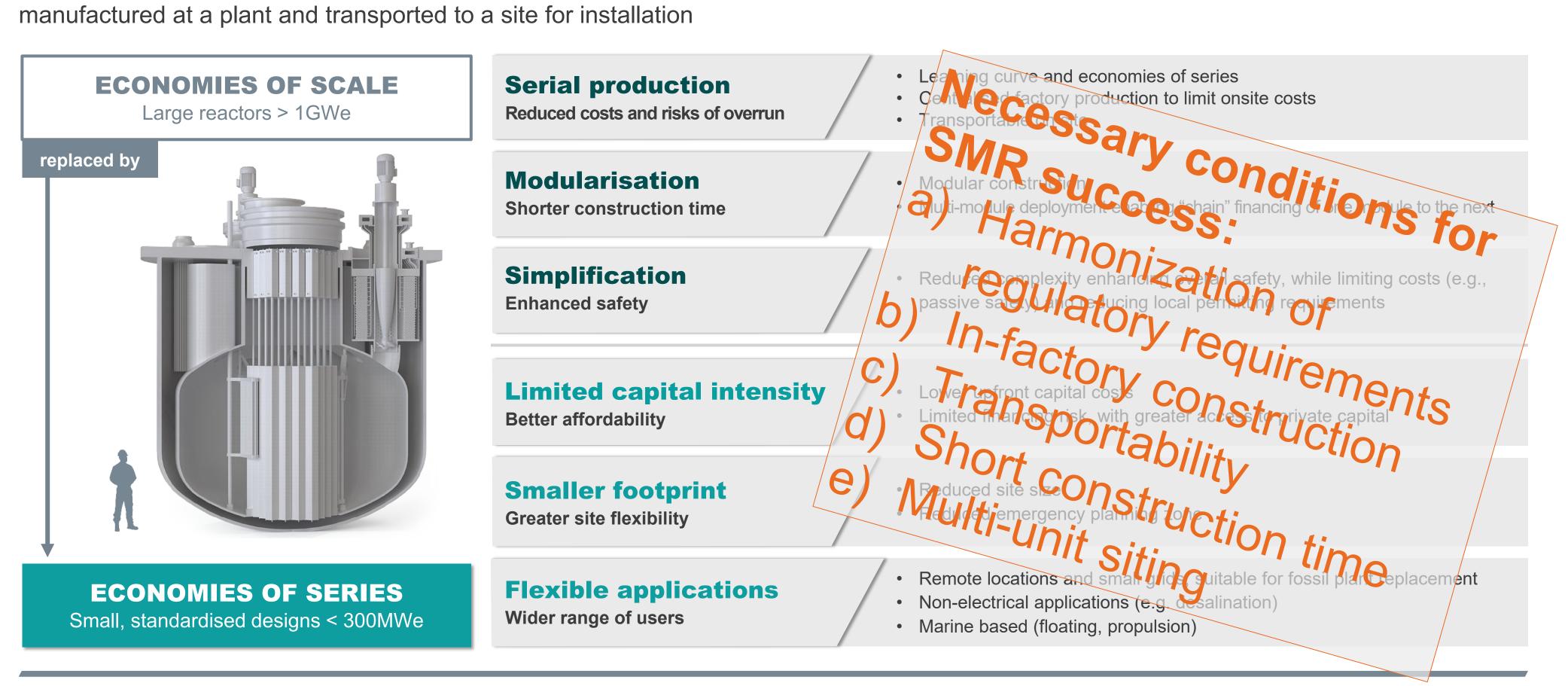
- France: 45 g/kWh
- Germany: 425 g/kWh

\* G.Zollino, University of Padova, Scenari energetici italiani a zero emission, September 2024



## SMRs improve economics and flexibility in nuclear

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are nuclear fission reactors. Smaller than conventional nuclear reactors, they are designed to be manufactured at a plant and transported to a site for installation





### **Advanced Modular Reactors: Generation IV (Gen-IV) can further improve economics and sustainability of nuclear**

**Advanced Modular Reactors** (AMRs) explore the use of alternative cooling fluids.

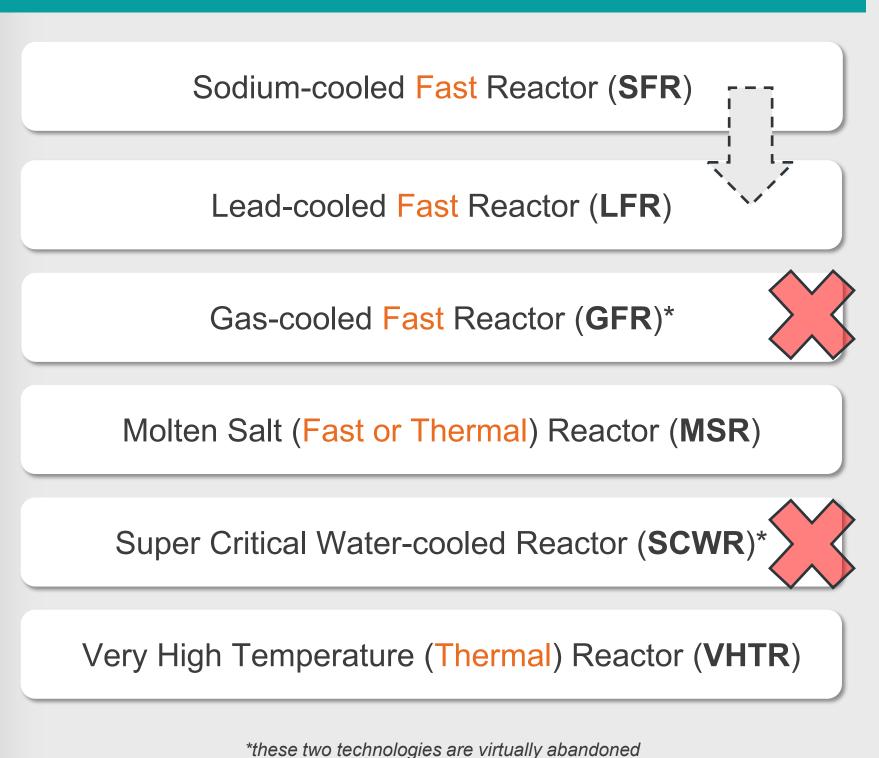
Since 2000, an international forum coordinated by the Office of Nuclear Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE) has prioritised **six Generation IV** nuclear technology systems for development.

### Why LFRs amongst the Gen-IV technologies?

- Only Fast Reactors (like the LFRs) allow closing the fuel cycle, a sustainable use of nuclear energy as it recycles the nuclear waste. This because in Fast Reactors neutrons maintain very high energy and can more easily fission the elements heavier than Uranium which, instead, accumulates in Thermal Reactors where neutrons are very slow and tend to be captured and create long lived waste
- LFRs are an evolution of the (well known) SFRs but decrease costs and exhibit intrinsic safety in any accident scenarios
- Lead does not interact chemically with water or air unlike sodium.
   Lead works at atmospheric pressure. Lead is an excellent shield for gamma radiation. LFRs can be simplified and made more cost competitive compared to other Advanced Nuclear Reactor designs

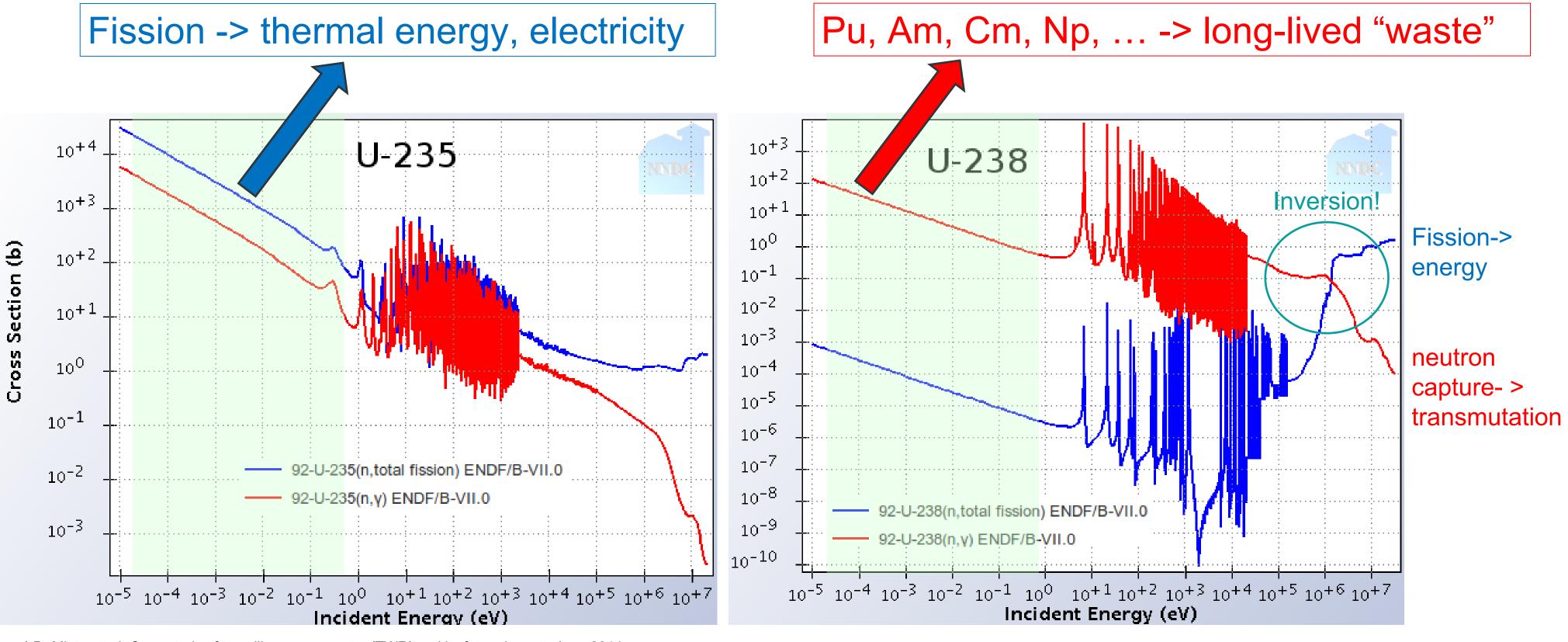


**Gen-IV categories:** 



### **Slow neutron reactors**

### Conventional slow neutron reactors (water cooled) use U235 (~5%)+U238 fuel:

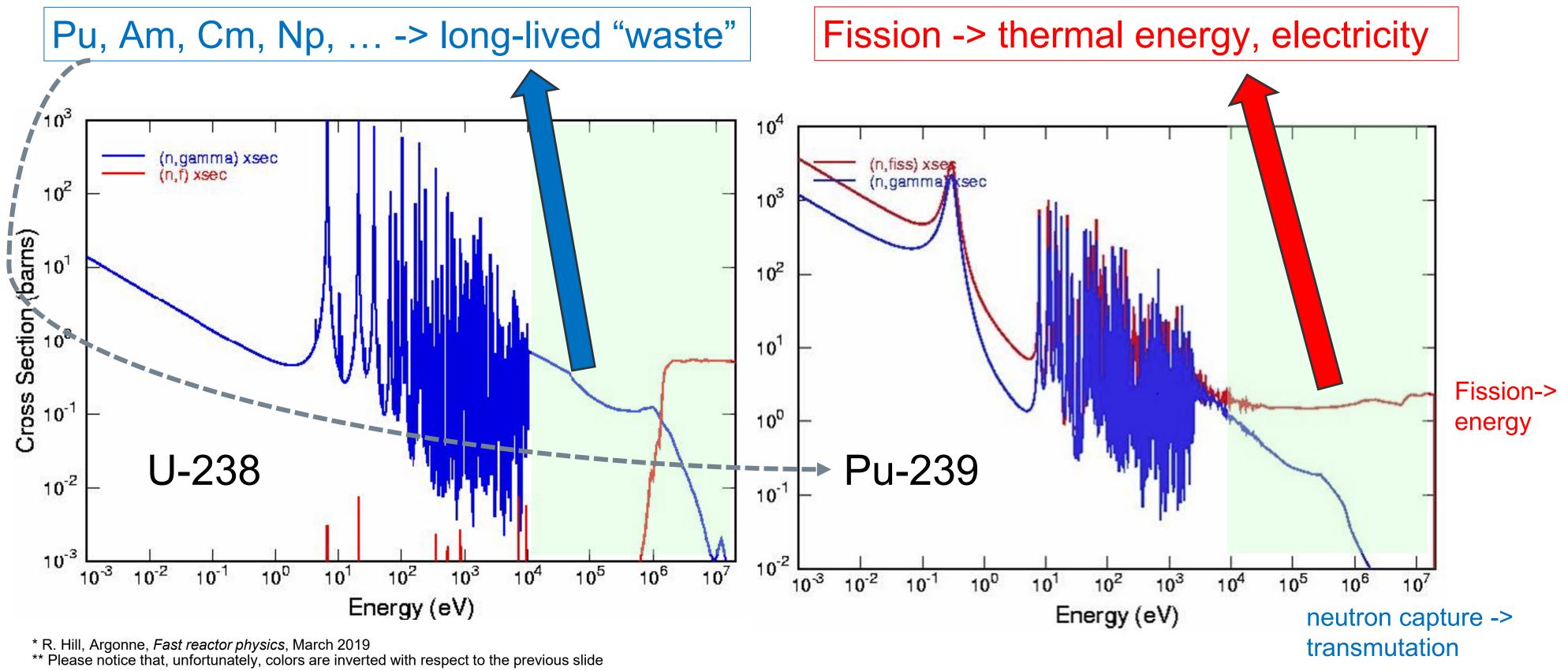


\* D. Mistry et al. Case study of travelling wave reactor (TWR) and its future impact, June 2014



### **Fast neutron reactors**

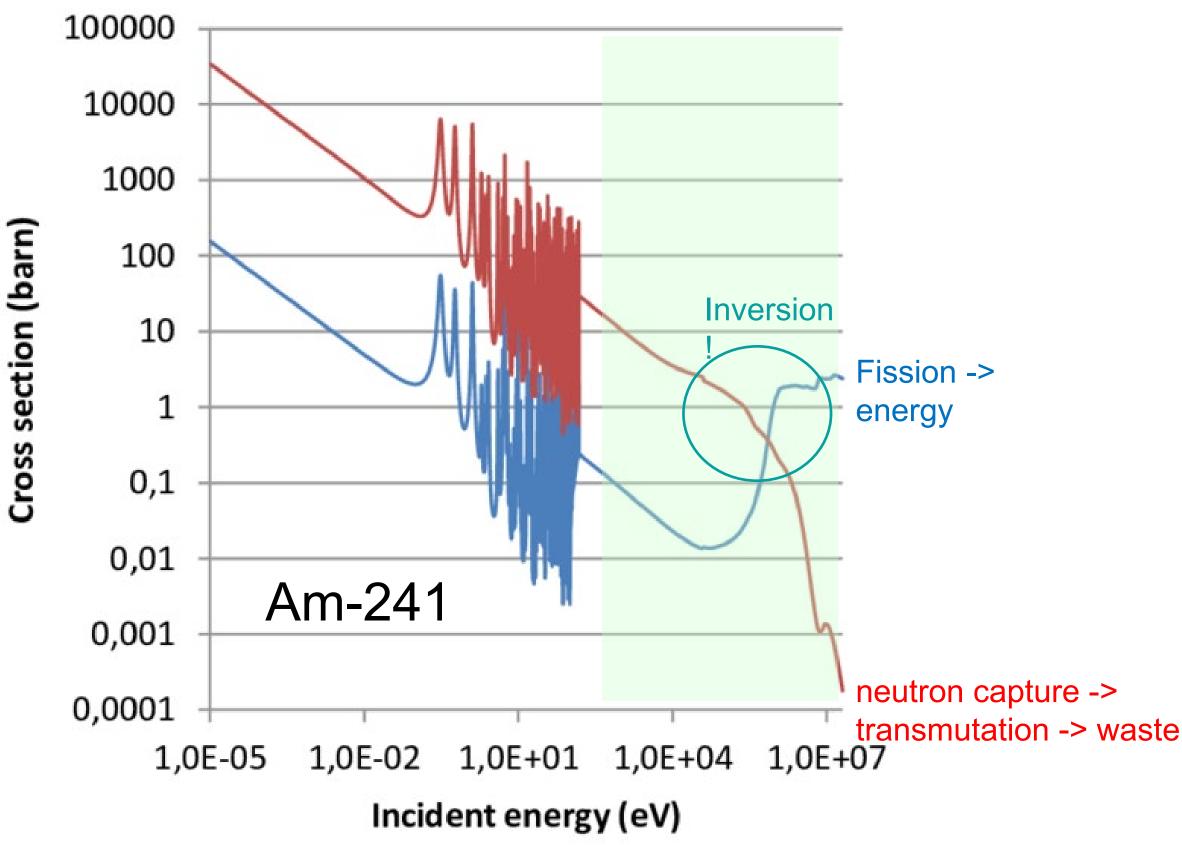
Fast neutron reactors (no water cooling) use (normally) Pu239 (~20%) + U238 fuel (MOX fuel):





### **Fast neutron reactors: burning of long-lived nuclear waste**

### The case of Am-241



\* A. Mueller, ACM Consult, Transmutation of nuclear waste and the future MYRRHA demonstrator, October 2012



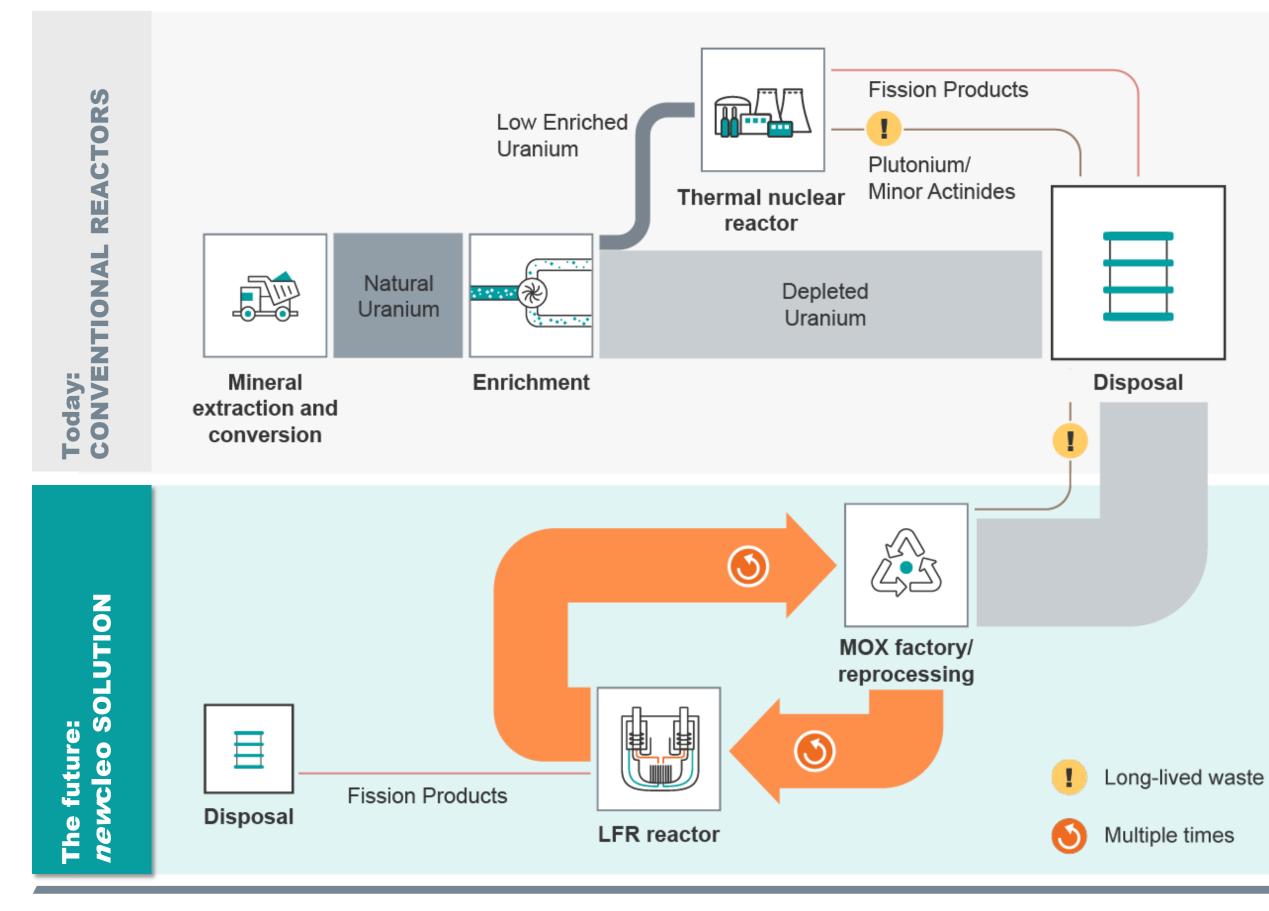
The other actinides

Fission / neutron capture ratio**				
Isotope	Fast Reactor (Metal fuel)	Thermal Reactor		
U235	0.80	0.81		
U238	0.17	0.10		
Np237	0.27	0.02		
Pu238	0.70	0.08		
Pu239	0.86	0.64		
Pu240	0.55	0.01		
Pu241	0.87	0.75		
Pu242	0.52	0.02		
Am241	0.21	0.01		
Am243	0.23	0.01		
Cm244	0.45	0.06		

\*\* R. Hill, Argonne, Fast reactor physics, March 2019

## **Closing the fuel cycle: MOX**

Including MOX (Mixed Pu-U Oxides) for cost effective, cleaner, and virtually inexhaustible production of nuclear energy, with no need of mining





Thermal fission reactors use a very small portion of the extracted uranium: an average 1GWe LWR uses every year 200t of mined uranium of which only 1t is fissioned (Fission Products), the rest is not used High-level waste has become an expensive liability 104 Transmutation Separation of Minor Actinides of Pu and U 103 Relative radiotoxicity 10<sup>2</sup> Fission Products 10<sup>1</sup> ~ 10,000 a 250 a ~ 250,000 a Natural Uranium Pu, U and Minor Pu, U removed Actinides removed 10 10<sup>3</sup> 104 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10 10<sup>€</sup> Time [years]

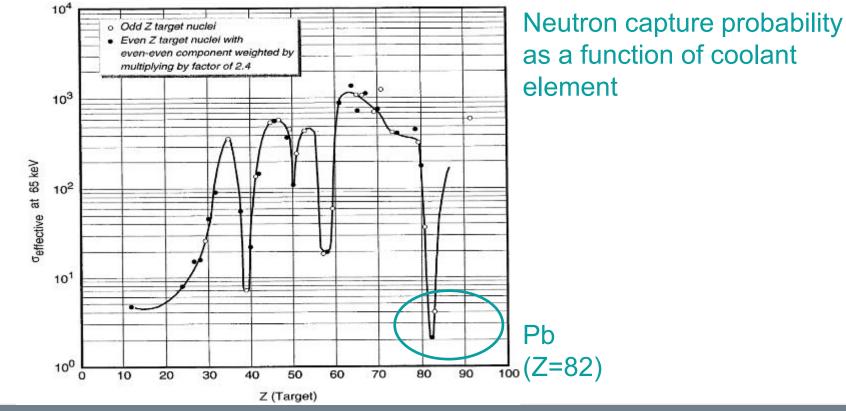
**Fast Reactors and fuel reprocessing** can extract energy from existing material and at the same time reduce radiotoxicity of residual waste to dispose: Fission Products return to value of the natural uranium ores after ~250 years

## **Significant advantages of Lead-cooled Fast Reactors**



Lead properties enable design simplification (hence economic benefits) and a high degree of inherent safety:

- Operating at atmospheric pressure, hence thick forging not needed as in traditional Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs)
- No significant energy release in case of vessel failure, hence **high pressure-resistant** containment not needed
- Favourable chemical properties, hence extra safety provisions can be avoided, no intermediate loop, possible use of low-cost water or air loops for Decay Heat Removal (DHR)
- Coolant boiling practically eliminated, hence no safety injection systems needed
- Significant thermal inertia in case of a loss of cooling helps the reactor to switch off naturally with no damage
- Lead fission product retention capability, gamma radiation shielding
- High plant energy conversion efficiency (40-50%)
- High operating temperature enables non-electrical uses





### Unique properties for fast reactors design

Absorption cross-section	Boiling Point	Heat transfer properties	Density @400°C
Low	1737°C	Good	10580 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Large fuel pin lattice, low core pressure losses	No loss of core cooling	Reduced risk of fuel cladding overheating	No risk of core compaction

#### **Critical properties that discouraged some** designers were solved by newcleo

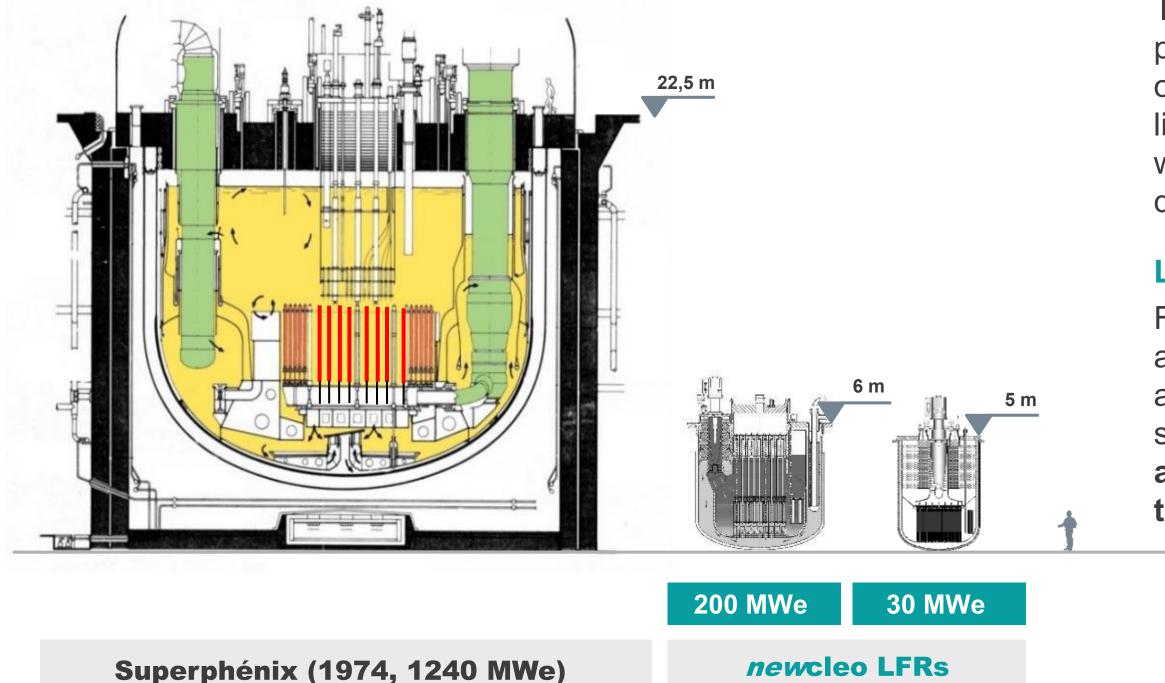
Density @400°C	Melting Point	Opacity	Compatibility with structural materials
10580 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	327°C	Yes	Corrosive at high temperature
Significant weight in earthquakes	Risk of freezing	Difficult operations inside	Need of new materials

80 effective reactor-years of experience with Lead-Bismuth reactors: 15 reactors operated among landbased and submarines in Russia starting in the 1950s

A new LFR construction started in Jun-2021 in Russia

### **Evolution of Fast Reactors**

From old-generation SFRs to a new generation of small, modular LFRs





The development of Sodium Fast Reactors (SFRs) particularly amongst other Fast Reactors has been an area of huge investment in recent years, but there has been limited deployment. Sodium is chemically reactive with both water and air; safety issues required complications to design which made SFRs expensive.

### Learning from the past

Fortunately, the **experience** acquired with SFRs can be almost entirely used for the development of LFRs. They use a similar fuel, behave in a similar way functionally, present similar thermal-hydraulic and mechanical aspects. LFRs are much more promising in terms of cost and safety than SFRs.

## **Configuration of** *new***cleo's LFR**

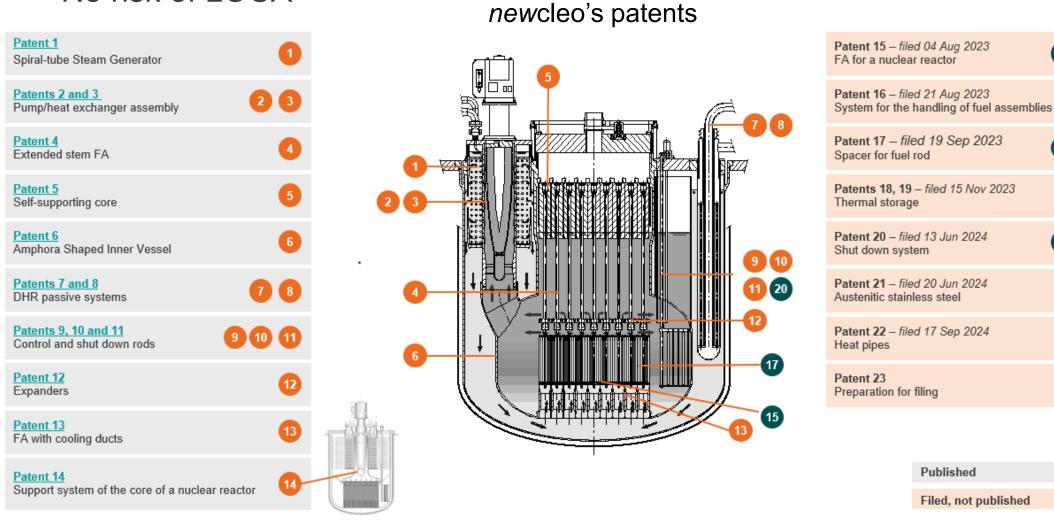
### **Economics**

### **Compact primary system**

- Innovative components
- Elimination of components no more needed
- Reversal of traditional engineering solutions

### **Compact reactor building**

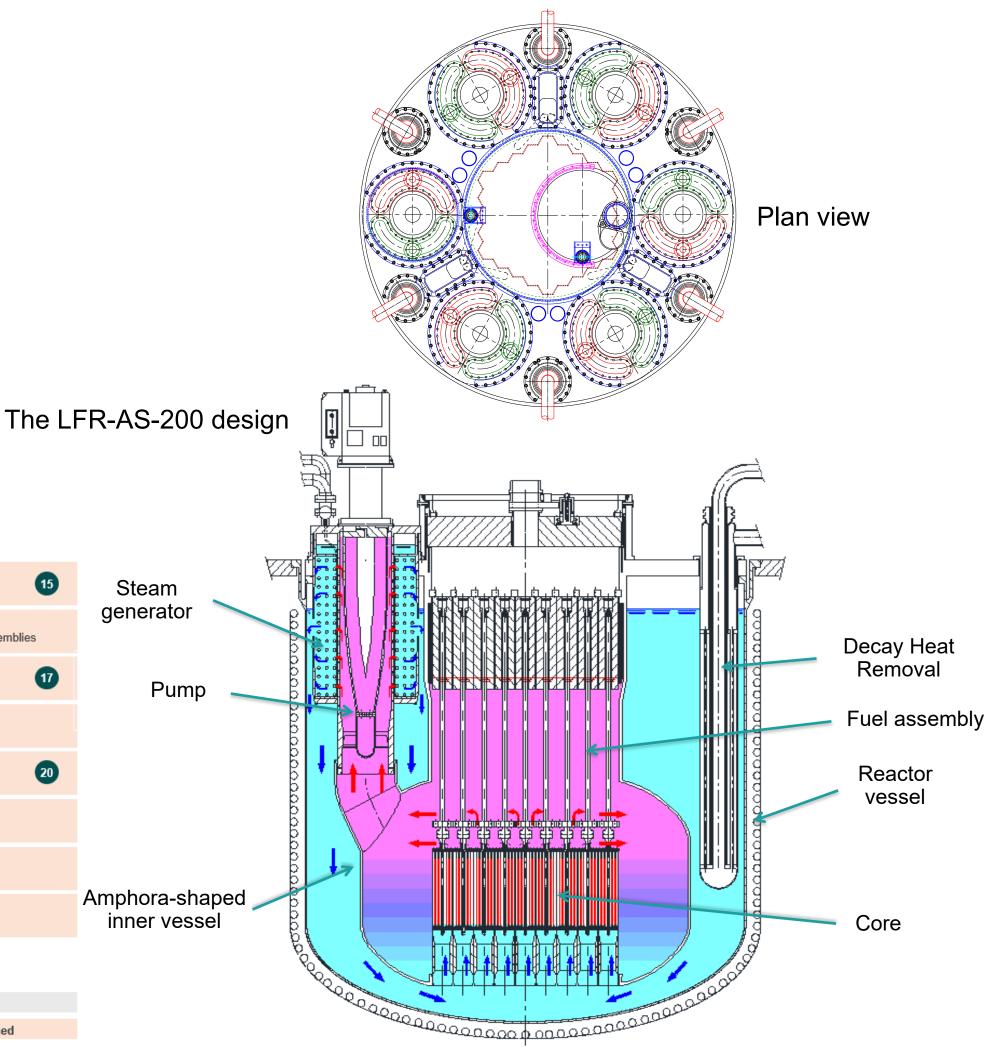
- No intermediate loops
- Compact primary system
- No risk of LOCA



15

17

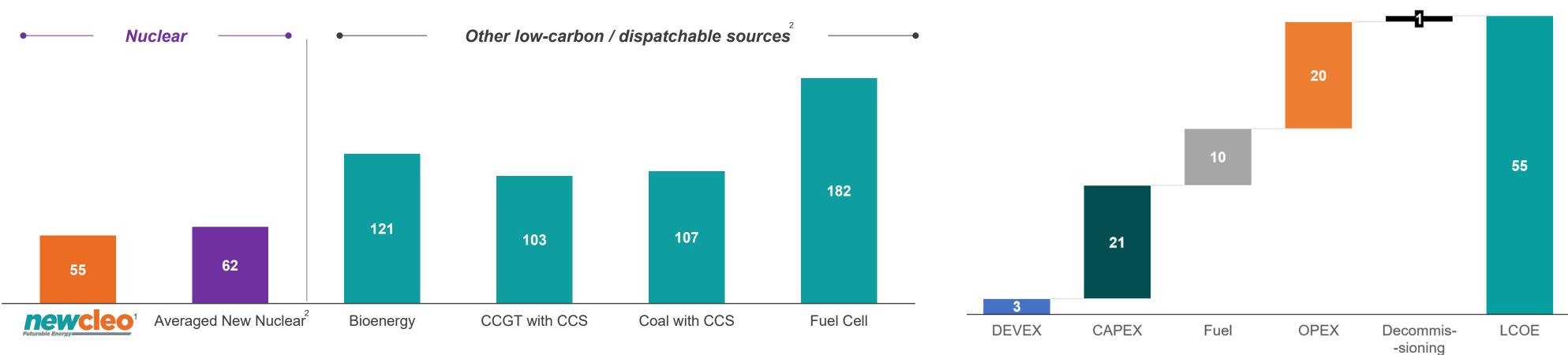
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# *new*cleo will be an LCOE-competitive dispatchable low-emission source

### *new*cleo's LCOE will be lower than other $CO_2$ - free dispatchable sources

€/MWh LCOE (2024)



- newcleo LFR can be a competitive programmable and scalable zero-carbon source featuring a LCOE projected to be less than €60/MWh<sup>1</sup>
- Alternative low carbon dispatchable energy sources (e.g. Gas with Carbon Capture and Storage and bioenergies) are physically limited due to geological storage sites or feedstock growth
- Moreover, MOX<sub>LFR</sub>-fuelled nuclear power ensures independence from both fossil fuel supplying countries and Uranium suppliers for fresh nuclear fuel fabrication

Source: 1 €55/MWh refers to a *new*cleo LFR-AS-200 site consisting of 4 x MOAK self-sustaining, high-temperature reactors with 93% capacity factor and 5% discount rate; <sup>2</sup> LCOE data for other sources obtained from: <u>https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/data-tools/levelised-cost-of-electricity-calculator</u> with a common discount rate of 5% applied to match newcleo LCOE calculation

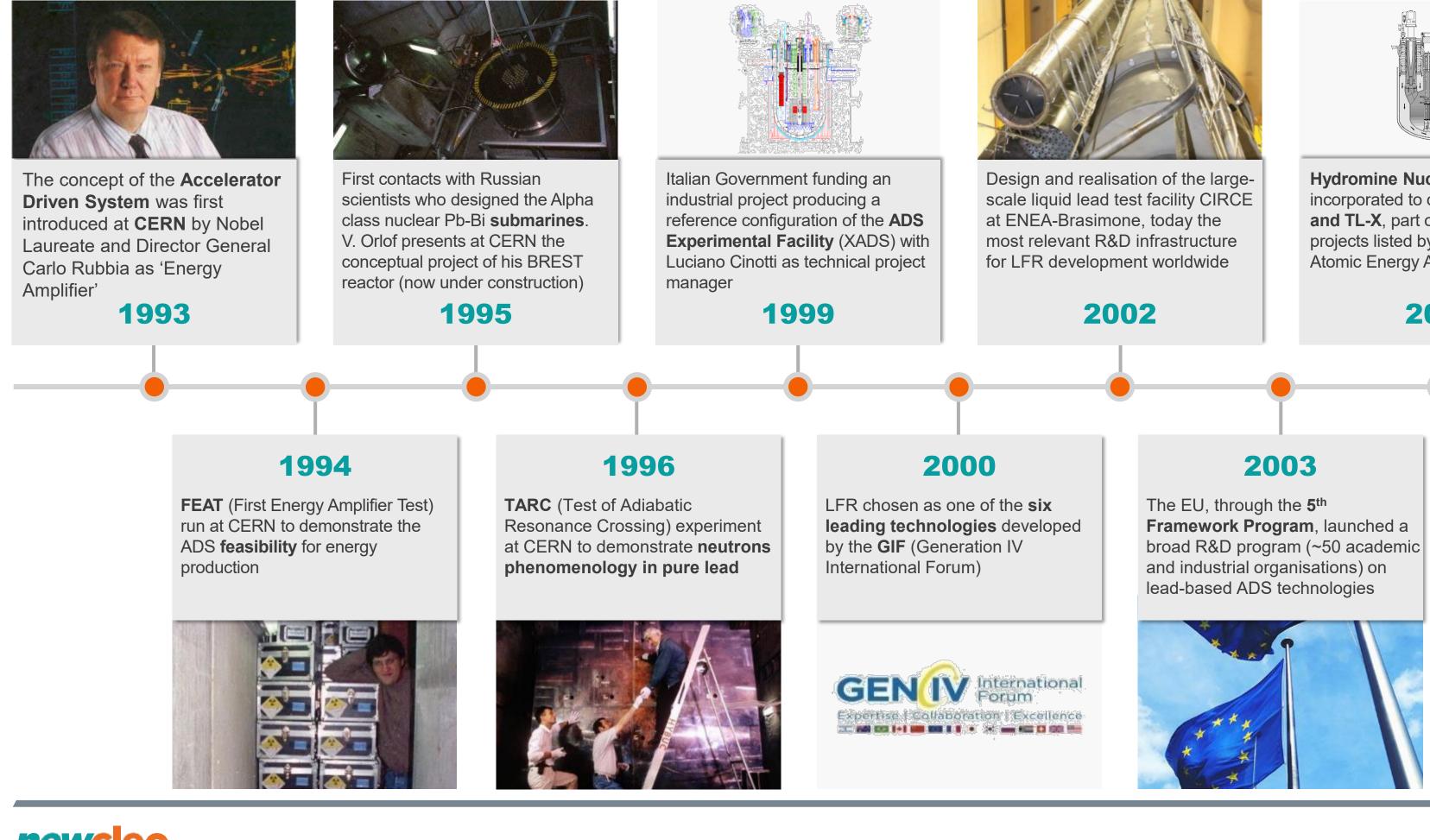


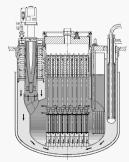
### *new*cleo's LCOE build-up<sup>1</sup>

€/MWh, LCOE (2024)

- LCOE of a many-of-a-kind 4-units site of LFR-AS-200MW
- Key cost drivers for LCOE are **capex**, **opex and fuel costs**
- Devex cost for site is shared among units
- Capex optimisation is assumed for a reactor fleet
- Operational staff costs and central management overhead are shared among several units

### newcleo relies on 30+ years of international research efforts





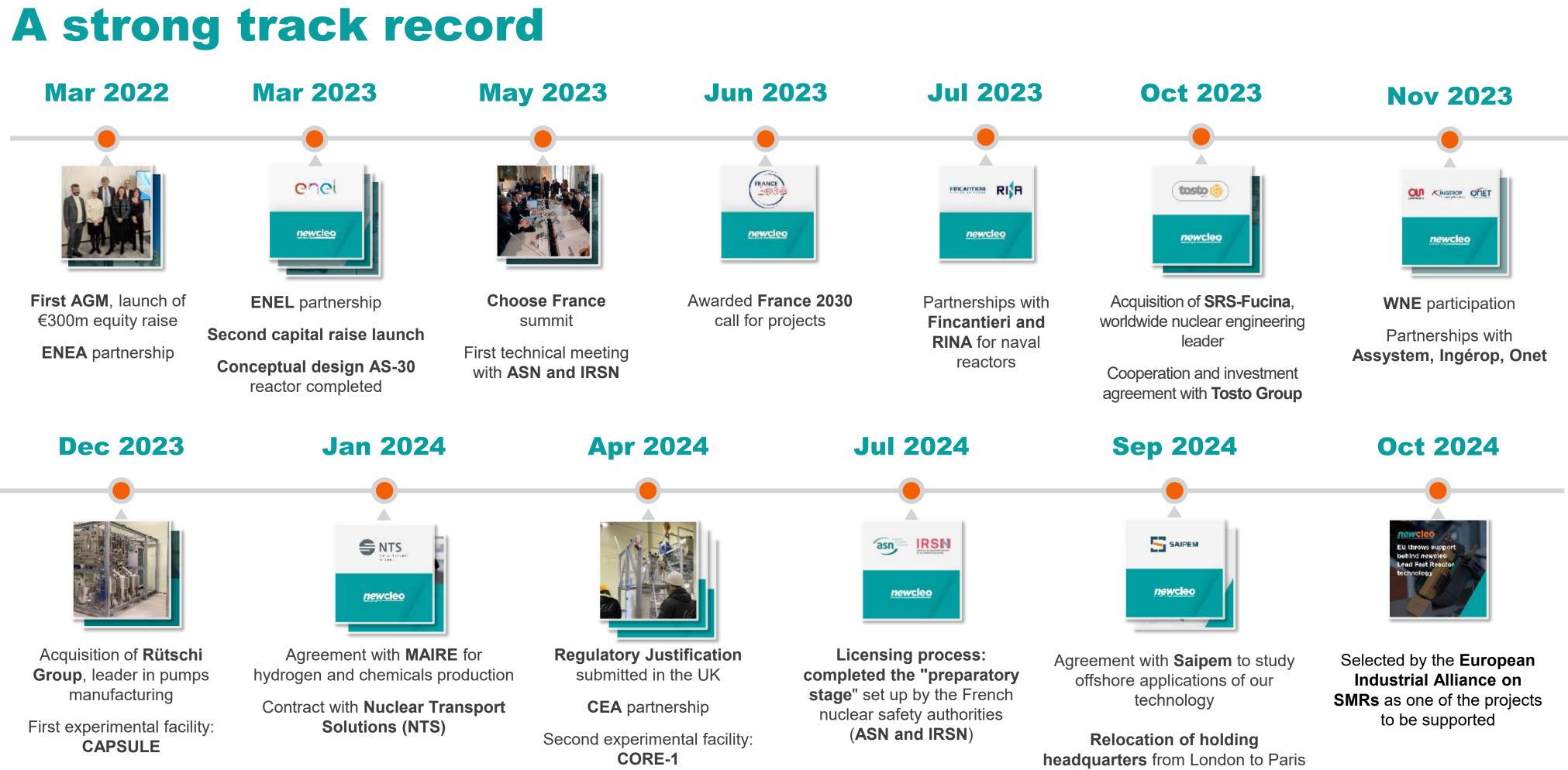
Hydromine Nuclear Energy incorporated to design the **AS-200** and TL-X, part of the Gen-IV projects listed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

### 2013

### 2021

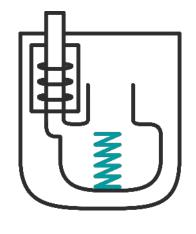
newcleo incorporation and acquisition of Hydromine Nuclear Energy with its set of international patents Capital raise: €100m







### A well-defined roadmap to achieve tangible development goals





2026

### 2030

### **R&D and Precursor**

Several R&D and gualification facilities, and a **10 MW non-nuclear** reactor with turbo-generator (Precursor) built in ENEA-Brasimone

**Design**, manufacturing and operation in progress

### **MOX** production

**FR-MOX** production facility, starting from available (separated) material in France

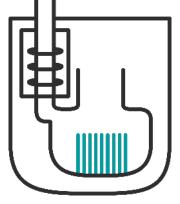
## 2031 2033 **LFR-AS-200** LFR-AS-30

**30 MWe** nuclear irradiation reactor with core outlet at 440°C and later 530°C in France

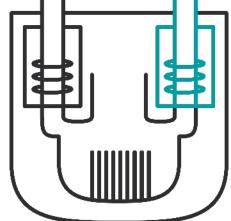
**Basic Design** in progress **Pre-licensing** "preparatory stage" ended in June 2024

**Ongoing M&A Acquisition programme** 





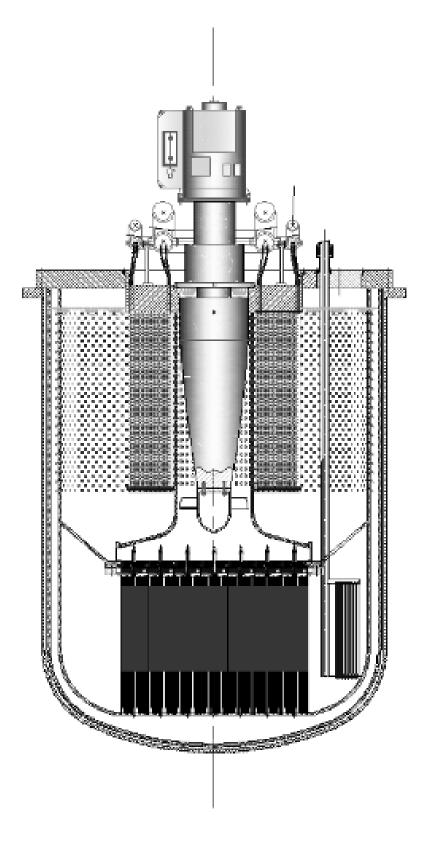




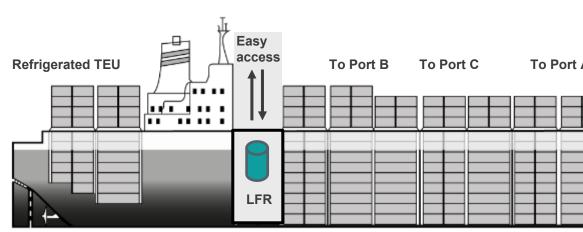
200 MWe FOAK, also for nonelectrical uses (e.g. cogeneration and chemicals production)

### **Conceptual design** closes Q3 2024

## **LFR-TL-30: Transportable Long-lived, 30MWe**



A mini reactor, producing 30MW electric output and having infrequent refuelling (10y+) and maintenance: a closed **reactor** to be easily replaced at end of life





Since July 2023: working together on feas nuclear naval propulsion





A&C 1	Γο Port D & E	Ţ

T	IE	RI

sibility	study	for
----------	-------	-----

Power	90MWth
Core coolant	Pure lead
Core coolant temperature	inlet 420°C outlet 530°C
Layout	Pool type
Circulation	Forced: 1 pump
Spectrum	Fast
Fuel form	Hexagonal fuel assembly
Fuel	UO <sub>2</sub> or MOX
Secondary side fluid	Water
Steam generators	1 spiral-tube SG
Design life	10+ years

## newcleo's broad R&D programme

newcleo has established and is rapidly deploying a broad R&D programme to consolidate mature technologies and validate our innovative engineering solutions, as well as evolve our commercial reactor offering

Working closely with our partner ENEA and thanks to the deep and well-established know-how of SRS and Fucina, we are installing several new facilities as well as test section at existing facilities

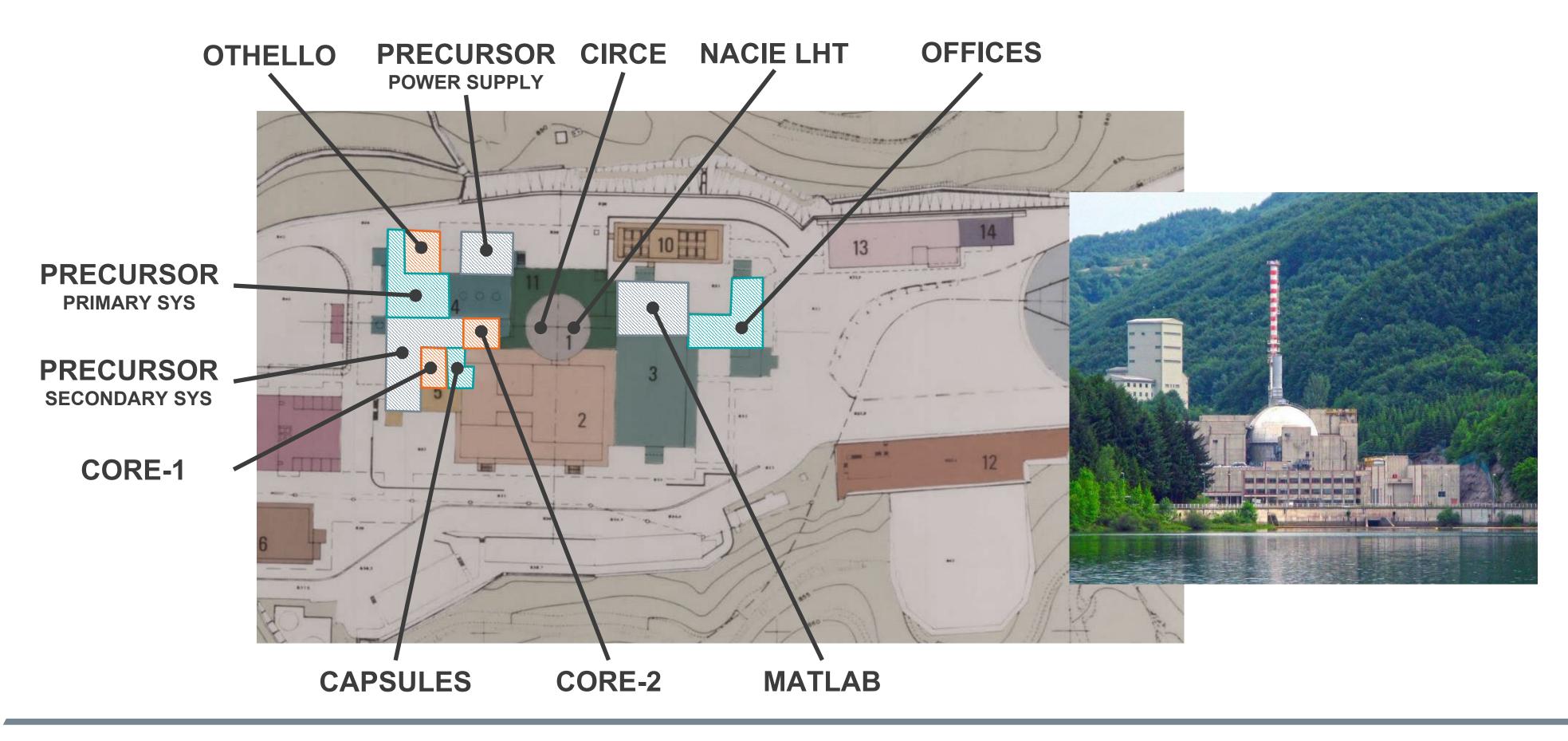
Experimental Facility	CAPSULE	CORE-1, CORE-2	EAD/CHEM AB (BRA)	MAT LAB (TO)
	0		L.	
Structural materials and coatings				
Core, fuel and control/shutdown rods				
Coolant chemistry and auxiliary systems				
Primary system integrity and component studies				
Fuel and component handling				
Plant operation and accident response				
Balance of plant integrity studies				
In-Service Inspection and Repair				

To broaden and complement this programme, further collaborations with nuclear companies, universities, laboratories and institutes are being established and actively pursued by newcleo to leverage existing infrastructure and accelerate R&D programmes



NACIE-LHT	DCI	MANUT dry, in-lead	OLSEJE	CIRCE- Nextra	ΟΤΗΕΓΓΟ	HUSTLE	PRECURSOR

### **ENEA-Brasimone Facilities**





### Material R&D – programme and infrastructure

#### **Static corrosion capsules**

- CAPSULES: 6 skids of 3 capsules; 108 samples
- Active control of [O] and T (400-750°C)



### **Flowing Pb loops**

- CORE-1: 32x corrosion (1 m/s, T<650°C) + 3x erosion (10 m/s, T<520°C) + cold-trap and mechanical filters
- **CORE-2**: 160 corrosion samples (1 m/s, T<650°C)



Perform corrosion exposure experiments on steels, surface treatments and new materials, in static and flowing conditions and under mechanical stress



#### Laboratories

#### **Mechanical tests in Pb**

- Creep and fracture mechanics frames
- Tensile test/SSRT frame

#### **Metallography and Microscopy**

 Metals, corrosion layer thickness, morphology and chemical composition

### Metrology

Dimensional measurements with µm precision

# LFR Primary System: thermal-hydraulics, components and structural integrity

- Thermal-hydraulic tests in normal and off-normal conditions
- Design validation and testing of components
- Instrumentation development
- Fuel Assemblies
   Tut

   Steam Generator
   Image: Steam Generator
  - **Primary Pumps**

Decay Heat Removal (DHR)

**Primary system integrity** 

### **Refurbishment of ENEA facilities**

NACIE-LHT	Test section to study lead cross flow heat transfer of the Steam Generator		
CIRCE- NEXTRA	One or more test sections at existing ENEA-CIRCE: Component testing/qualification and Steam Generator Tube Rupture (SGTR) tests		
	<image/>		







	New test facilitie	e	
THELLO		loop test facility for thermal-	
MW	hydraulics and compone	nt performances	
OIP COOLER NSTABILITY Turin	New test facility for TH investigation on Decay Heat Removal system		
FESTO	Fluid-structure interactio	n test: Earthquake and Sloshing	
		Internals     Vessel roof       Main vessel     Vessel roof       Fixation     Vessel roof       Bolts     Vessel roof	
est section	OTHELLO	EFESTO notional sketch	

### Fuel and Component handling / control rods / ISI&R

Dry tests

### **MANUT** programme

- Mechanical design validation and equipment testing
- Instrumentation
- Functional tests and operations / procedures

**Core design** 

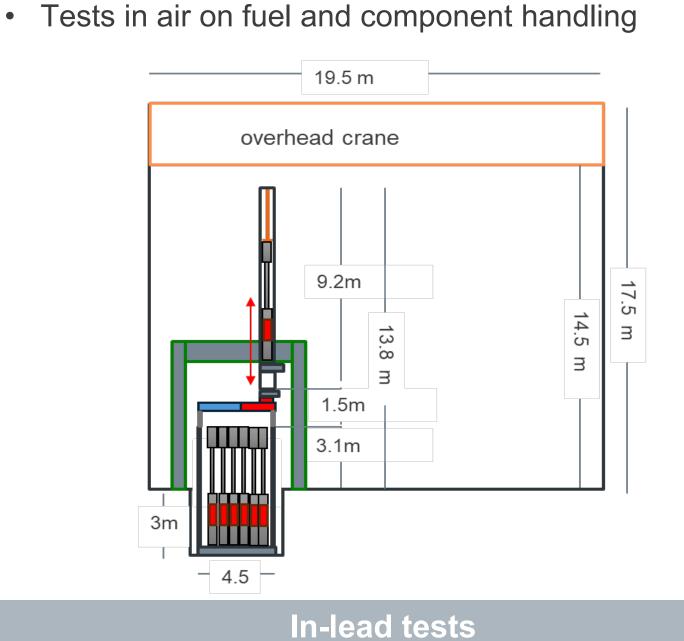
**Rotating Plugs** 

**Fuel Handling Machine** 

**Component handling and** maintenance

**Control Rods driving mechanism** 

• Infrastructure under development @Brasimone site

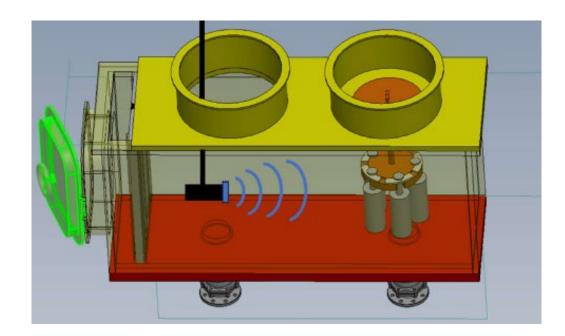


### HUSTLE

- Devoted to the development of ultrasonic technology for In-Service Inspection & Repair (ISI&R)
- Tests performed in a **tank filled by molten** • pure lead

#### Phase 1 – US in hot air

### Phase 2 – US in liquid lead



HUSTLE – Phase 2

### **PRECURSOR** test facility

### Integral-effect test facility representative of LFR-AS-30

PRECURSOR is a **10MWth (1/9 of LFR-AS-30) pool-type facility** that aims at investigating the thermal-hydraulic behaviour of the LFR-AS-30 reactor, with particular focus on:

- Normal Operating conditions, normal start-up/shut-down transients and, to some extent, accidental transients
- BOP transients, coupling with SG and test of its stability domain, and interactions with primary system

Challenge to find the best tradeoff between representativeness (both at system and components level), cost-effectiveness and other side constraints (e.g., time, space)

Consolidated **Power-to-Volume (P2V)** scaling method and **phenomena-driven approach** adopted

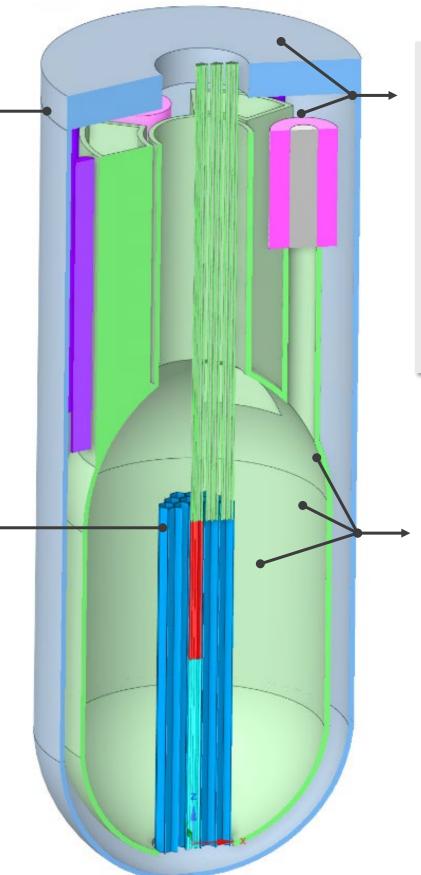
### DHR2:

 three water-steam loops, each consisting of a dipcooler, condenser and connecting piping

#### eCore:

- designed to comply with P2V while ensuring primary flow shaping (19 FAs) and minimising the number of heating rods
- Electric supply from above
- Ongoing activities to design cooling systems for parasite power generation due to Joule's effect





### Pump and SG:

- SG designed to **minimise the radial footprint** (due to P2V constraints) while ensuring representative operating conditions of primary and secondary circuit
- Axial flow pump inside the SG as in LFR-AS-30

### **Pools and ASIV:**

- PRECURSOR vessel and Amphora-shaped Inner vessel (ASIV) to preserve ratio between hot and cold lead volumes
- Preserved components and overall system length

**PRECURSOR** facility, notional sketch

## **Acquisitions accelerate our strategy and anticipate revenues**

**Building a highly synergetic EPC platform** 

Less than two years since its launch, *newcleo is developing a full Engineering*, **Procurement, and Construction (EPC) service provider**, constructing a model that facilitates the full implementation of our products and services, from design to delivery.

Beyond reactors and MOX manufacturing, *new*cleo develops skills and services for its own projects and the wider industry via the *new*cleo Group of companies. This includes investing in the renovation of existing facilities and developing customer contract portfolios to enhance revenues and drive business expansion.

Highly disciplined **M&A strategy** – c. 20 additional potential targets have already been identified to continue to consolidate a whole ecosystem of unique expertise in nuclear

*new*cleo's first acquisitions, SRS, Fucina and Rutschi are expected to generate c. EUR 50 million revenue and c. EUR 13 million EBITDA in 2024 and their businesses are expected to grow substantially on the back of the projected **3x** nuclear sector expansion linked to global decarbonisation targets.







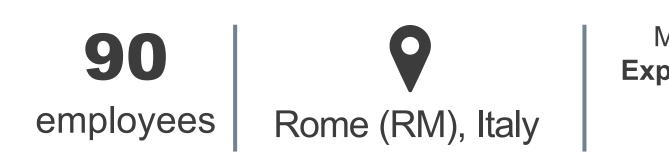




## S.R.S. Servizi Ricerche e Sviluppo

**Design and engineering since more than 50 years** 





S.R.S. Servizi di Ricerche Sviluppo S.r.I. (SRS) offers multidisciplinary engineering services in the industrial (mainly in the nuclear field), oil & gas and petrochemical sectors. SRS is a **major player in designing, construction, commissioning and operating lead-cooled experimental facilities**.

SRS developed skills and competences on lead-technology and on LFR's components and systems experimental validation and participated to the most relevant European and international projects in the field.

SRS and ENI/VERSALIS signed a joint development agreement to develop a new technology, starting from an SRS Patent, to transform mixed plastic waste, that cannot be mechanically recycled, into raw material to produce new virgin polymers.





More than 25 Lead Experimental Facilities successfully commissioned

### Specialised in

Nuclear energy, conventional (oil & gas) energy, renewable energy, environment protection, chemical plants, petrochemical engineering, steel working, water treatment and desalination

#### **Provided services**

Design, technical specifications, purchase, project management, supervision of construction and assembling, final testing, engineering services

#### **Among existing customers**





### **Fucina Italia**

Build mechanical components and systems and production lines since more than 30 years









Construction according to nuclear standards

Founded to meet the growing requests for special lifting machines in the industrial environment, the company has found development in the nuclear sector since the 90s with the first patents related to the containment of nuclear waste and is today among the leading companies in the nuclear decommissioning sector in Italy and the building of components for Liquid Lead systems worldwide.

Fucina Italia has a strong production platform benefitting from:

- 20,000m<sup>2</sup> production area, of which 9,000m<sup>2</sup> covered
- 11,000m<sup>2</sup> additional available land, of which 6,000m<sup>2</sup> buildable land which will be a key production hub for newcleo





### **Specialised in**

Steel machinery, cranes, cellulose handling in the port area, pressure vessels, containers for radioactive waste, heavy carpentry

#### **Provided services**

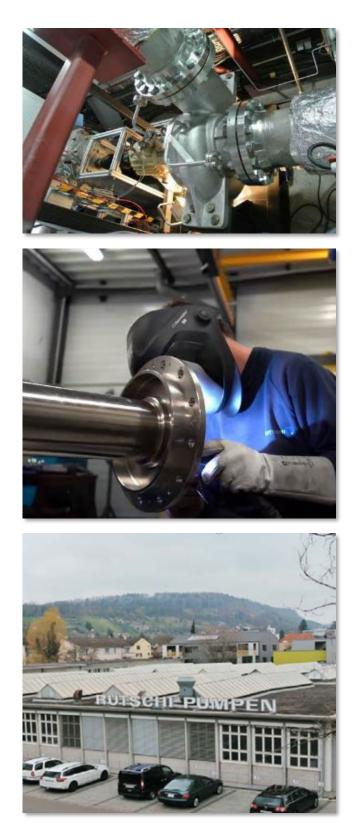
Design, manufacture and assembly of steel machinery, cranes and lifting equipment, patented sleepers and accessories for cellulose handling in the port area, pressure vessels, containers for radioactive waste, heavy carpentry, as well as mechanical processing, maintenance of lifting equipment and industrial machines and plants.

#### Among existing customers



### Rütschi

### **Pumps manufacturing since almost 80 years**





Founded in 1946, Rütschi is the pioneer of the canned pump technology, widely used in nuclear applications. Rütschi solutions are installed in more than 100 nuclear power plants worldwide.

Rütschi supplies with engineered pumps and spares parts an installed base of more than 5000 nuclear pumps and is also actively involved in special and highly customized projects in Asia and South America.

The group's two production plants in Mulhouse (France) and in Möhlin (close to Basel in Switzerland), provide a total covered area of 3,500sqm with manufacturing means, testing benches (with a semi-anechoic room in Switzerland), and clean assembling area.

Furthermore, Mulhouse offers an opportunity to further expand.





### **Specialised in**

Canned motor pumps, mechanical sealed pumps, immersed vertical pumps, submersible pumps for nuclear, industrial and chemical plants

#### **Provided services**

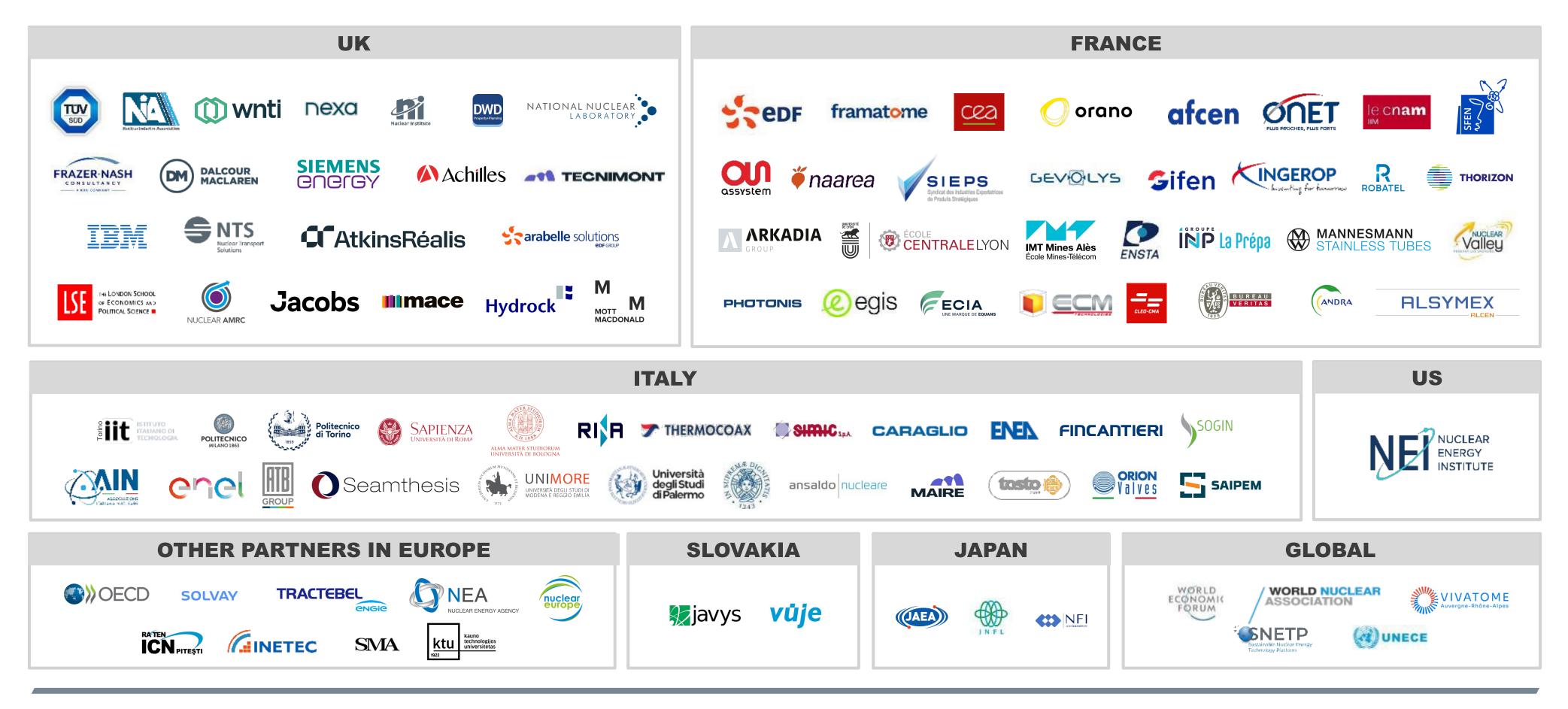
Provision of nuclear spares for pumps installed in existing nuclear power plants, development of custom-made pumps for nuclear power plants, research centers and naval applications

#### **Among existing customers**



### Increasing number of partners and suppliers

**Creating a global strategy supporting our delivery** 





### What sets us apart

### **MULTIPLE MONETISATION STRATEGY**

- EPC services, sales of components, licenses, operations, maintenance
- Fuel recycling, manufacturing, direct deployment of fleets

### HIGH PRIVATE FUNDING AND CONSOLIDATING THE INDUSTRY

- EUR 537 million raised
- EUR 50 million expected turnover in 2024

### **UNIQUE PATENTED TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW**

Lead Fast Reactors allow safer, cheaper and circular nuclear to be deployed A vast and powerful R&D programme

### **UNIQUE COMPANY FOCUSED ON MOX**

Using as fuel what today goes to *waste* (Pu, recycled and depleted U), reducing the high-level nuclear waste volume, uranium mining and boosting energy independence



The future belongs to those who have the energy to imagine it. And build it.

