



ADVANCED REACTORS

Britain picks six to advance in SMR competition

The U.K. government has chosen six companies to participate in the next stage of its small modular reactor competition: EDF, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, Holtec Britain Limited, NuScale Power, Rolls-Royce SMR (the only real home team), and Westinghouse Electric Company UK Limited. According to the government's October 2 announcement, the advanced technologies offered by these firms are "the most able to deliver operational SMRs by the mid-2030s."

The competition was launched July 18 along with Great British Nuclear—an "arms-length" governmental body formed to help ramp up the nation's nuclear capacity to as much as 24 GW by 2050—about three times the current U.K. reactor fleet's output and representing up to 25 percent of Britain's projected 2050 electricity demand.

GBN is managing the competition and will invite the six short-listed companies to bid for government contracts later this year. Successful firms are to be announced next spring and contracts will be awarded in the summer. "This timetable aims to make this competition the fastest of its kind in the world," the announcement stated.

"Small modular reactors will help the U.K. rapidly expand nuclear power and deliver cheaper, cleaner, and more secure energy for British families and businesses; create well-paid, high-skilled jobs; and grow the economy," asserted energy security secretary Claire Coutinho. "This competition has attracted designs from around the world and puts the U.K. at the front of the global race

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