IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Small Modular Reactor School: Prospects and Challenges of Near-Term Deployable SMRs

Hosted by the

Government of the United States of America

through the

Argonne National Laboratory

Lemont, Illinois, United States of America

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Nuclear power is widely recognized as a reliable energy source, an indispensable component of the global strategy to achieve energy security and a key driver of economic growth. Among the emerging nuclear technologies, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have attracted increasing attention due to their enhanced safety features, lower upfront capital costs, shorter construction schedules through modularization, and flexibility in siting, operation, and non-electric applications.

To date, over 40 Member States have expressed interest in SMR technologies and their potential applications. Many have requested the IAEA's support to better understand and prepare for various aspects of SMR development, deployment, and regulatory oversight.

In response, the IAEA Platform on SMRs and their Applications was established to serve as a central coordination mechanism for all Agency activities related to SMRs. The Platform acts as a focal point for Member States and stakeholders seeking IAEA assistance and ensures a consistent, cross-departmental

approach encompassing technology development, demonstration, legal and regulatory frameworks, and safety, security, and safeguards.

Through the Platform, the IAEA continues to coordinate efforts, review Member State requests, and develop targeted activities that facilitate the safe and timely deployment of SMRs. One of these activities is the IAEA SMR School, designed to enhance understanding of SMR technologies, assess their readiness for deployment, and engage effectively with technology developers and suppliers.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide Member States with an opportunity to better understand the readiness and challenges of near-term deployable SMRs.

The objectives of the SMR School are to:

- Provide participants with insight into the key considerations and evaluation criteria that potential user countries should address before making decisions on SMR deployment.
- Facilitate direct engagement between select SMR vendors and participants to discuss technology readiness, licensing status and strategies, supply chain, financing and other aspects for near-term deployment.
- Support practical learning through on-site technical visits, enabling participants to understand key aspects of SMR technology development.

Target Audience

Participation in the SMR School is solicited from Member States' decision makers and senior experts involved in the consideration of SMR deployment.

Eligible participants include government officials, policymakers, and managers of Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organizations (NEPIOs), as well as senior experts from governmental agencies, research institutions, potential owner and operators, regulatory bodies, technical support organizations, and industries engaged in nuclear energy or advanced reactor technologies.

Select developers of near-term deployable SMRs will be invited as well to engage in discussions with participants from potential user countries.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Expected Outputs

The key output of the SMR School is an enhanced understanding among participants of the prospects and

challenges of near-term deployable SMRs, including their technical readiness, licensing status, and deployment pathways. Participants will gain insights into how these reactor technologies can contribute to national energy strategies and what aspects potential user countries should consider before making decisions on SMR deployment.

Specific outputs of the event will be:

- Enhanced participants' capacity to formulate informed and targeted questions to SMR vendors and developers, focusing on the practical aspects of design, deployment, and operational readiness.
- Strengthened understanding of the current readiness levels of SMR technologies, including technical maturity, licensing progress, supply chain preparedness, and siting considerations.
- Raised awareness about state-of-the art of key innovative technologies through technical visits of SMR-related experimental facilities.
- Participants' feedback and insights on readiness evaluation criteria and decision-making considerations, which will contribute to the refinement of guidance for SMR deployment.

Topics

Topic 1: Introduction to the readiness evaluation of SMRs

IAEA experts will deliver introductory presentations on key aspects of SMR development and deployment to help participants understand the fundamental features and readiness levels of SMR designs, including their potential applications. These sessions will also prepare potential user countries to formulate relevant and well-informed questions for SMR evaluation.

Topic 2: Engagements with suppliers

Select SMR vendors will briefly present the technical and deployment status of their designs to participants. These sessions will provide opportunities for participants to engage directly with the suppliers and ask specific questions for evaluation of readiness of their designs. The IAEA will moderate the interactions to ensure that all discussions remain focused, balanced, and informative.

Topic 3: Technical visit

The host organization will offer participants an opportunity to visit experimental facilities to raise their awareness of innovative technologies incorporated in advanced SMRs.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or be members of organizations invited to attend, particularly from countries interested in including SMRs in their energy mix and seeking to learn more about the readiness of near-term deployable SMRs.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **30 January 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org):

- Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
- Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register here.

2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
   - Complete or update their personal details under 'Complete Profile' and upload the relevant supporting documents;
   - Search for the relevant event under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
   - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating Authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
   - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
   - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
   - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the Data Processing Notice concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

No registration fee is charged to participants. Selected participants will be informed in due course of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **30 January 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois, United States of America. Participants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements Accommodation will be booked by Argonne for all participants at the nearby hotel (for check-in June 7, 2026 and check-out June 13, 2026); it is a requirement to stay at the designated hotel and all participants must pay their own hotel bill with a credit

card. Daily ground transportation between the hotel and venue will be arranged by Argonne. Additionally, instructions on ground transportation options between the airport and hotel will be communicated by Argonne.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter the United States of America are advised to submit their application to the nearest diplomatic or consular mission of the United States of America at least four weeks prior to their planned travel.

Participants are fully responsible for ensuring that they have obtained the appropriate visa in a timely manner – including any transit visas required as per travel itinerary and for fulfilling any other requirements necessary for entry into the USA, and for approved site access into Argonne National Laboratory. Their participation is contingent upon fulfilling these requirements.

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/smr/SitePages/HomeSmrPlatform.aspx