

# Development Status of Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor in Japan

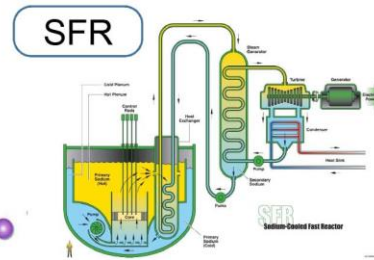
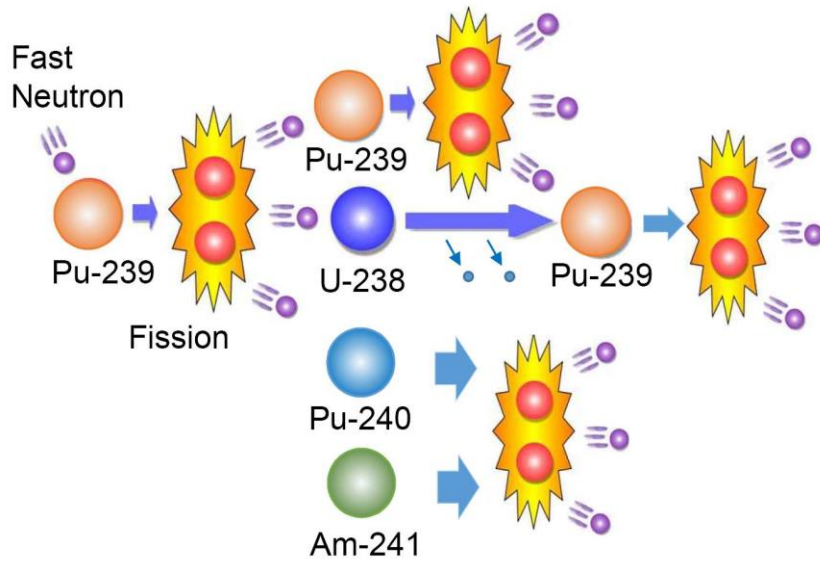
The University of Tokyo  
Takashi TAKATA

- Fast Reactors
- Significances of FR (Cycle) Technology Development
- Current Status of FR Development
  - ✓ Status in major countries
  - ✓ History and status in Japan
- FR Development Environment in Japan
  - ✓ Current status of energy supply in Japan
  - ✓ Japan's nuclear energy policy on carbon neutrality
  - ✓ FR development policy
  - ✓ Outline of R&D in JAEA
  - ✓ Requirement from Nuclear Innovation
  - ✓ Contribution of FR to non-energy field

## [Acknowledgement]

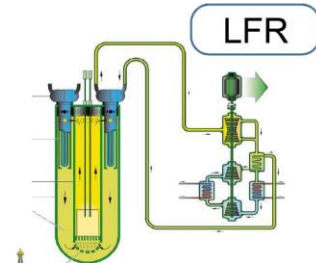
The most of presentation materials were prepared by Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA). The presenter sincerely appreciate for JAEA's strong support.

## ● Fast (neutron) reactors



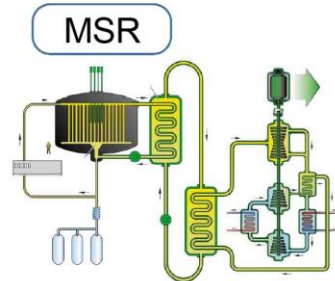
Sodium cooled Fast Reactor

Na  
Mass No. 23  
 $T_{\text{boiling}} 883^{\circ}\text{C}$



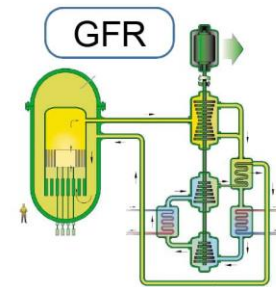
Lead cooled Fast Reactor

Pb  
206-208  
 $1,737^{\circ}\text{C}$



Molten Salt Reactor

Fluoride or  
Chloride salt  
F: 19  
Cl: 35 or 37



Gas cooled Fast Reactor

He  
4

*“The very country can get a significant advantage on the development of use technologies of nuclear energy when it can get technology of FR/breeder type reactor.”*, Enrico Fermi, 1943\*, \* Ref. K.Mochizuki, J. the Society of Instrument and Control Engineers, Vol.13-7,1974

## ➤ Efficient breeding

- ✓ Sustainable domestic energy supply
  - Efficient use of natural resources
  - Free from the struggle to get resource (uranium)

## ➤ Use of high heat

- ✓ High thermal efficiency
- ✓ Non-electric application of nuclear heat

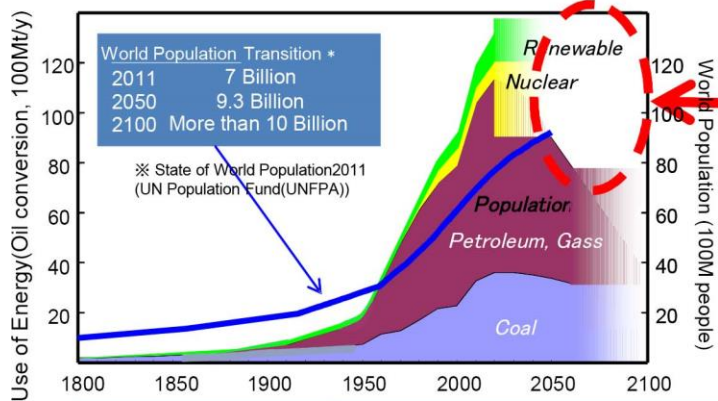
## ➤ Radioactive decay function using fast neutron

- ✓ Artificial radionuclide production and transmutation management
- ✓ Reduction of environmental burden

## ➤ No greenhouse gas emission

## ➤ Sustainable for load-following operation etc.

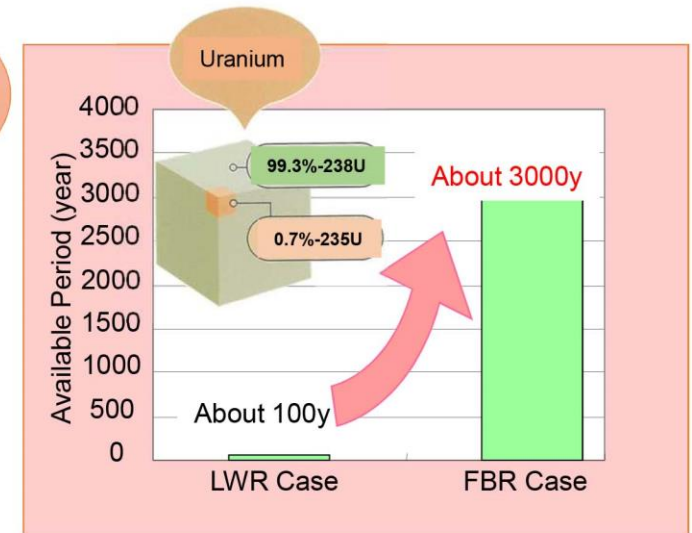
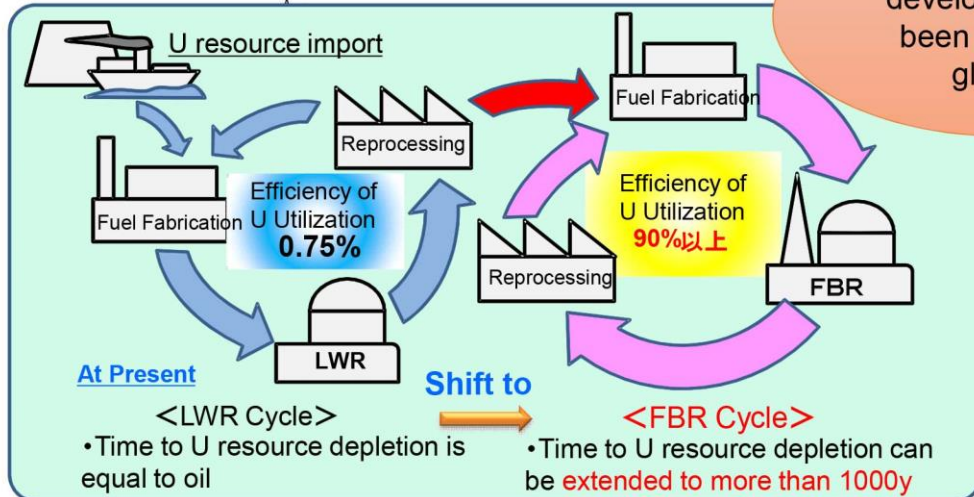
# Efficient Breeding



**Technology that certainly fills the gap after fossil fuel use peaks out**

*For Japan with little natural resources, FBR cycle will eliminate the need of uranium import and ensure domestic sustainable energy supply regardless of unstable international situations.*

FR cycle development has been promoted globally

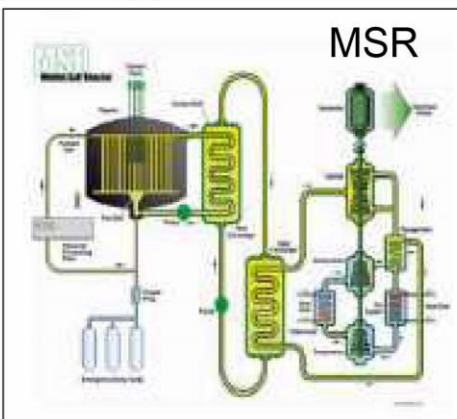
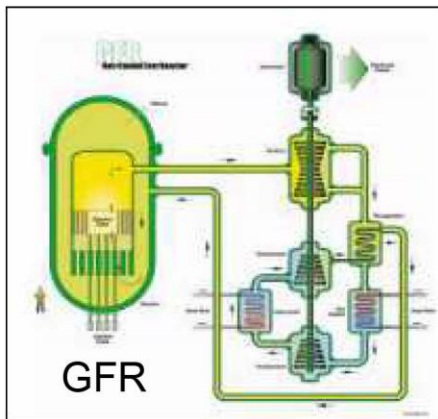
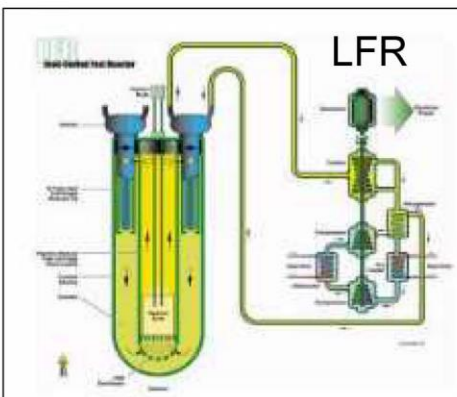
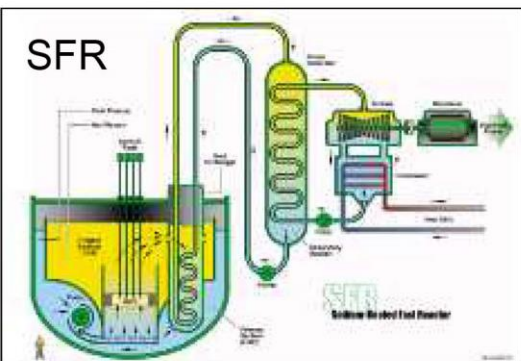


Ref : OECD/NEA Nuclear Energy Outlook 2009



- Non-electric application of nuclear heat
- Heat application will be a key for nuclear to contribute to the Carbon Neutral

## Reactor types (High temperature systems)



### Reactor Size

Power Reactor  
SMR  
Micro Reactor

X

X

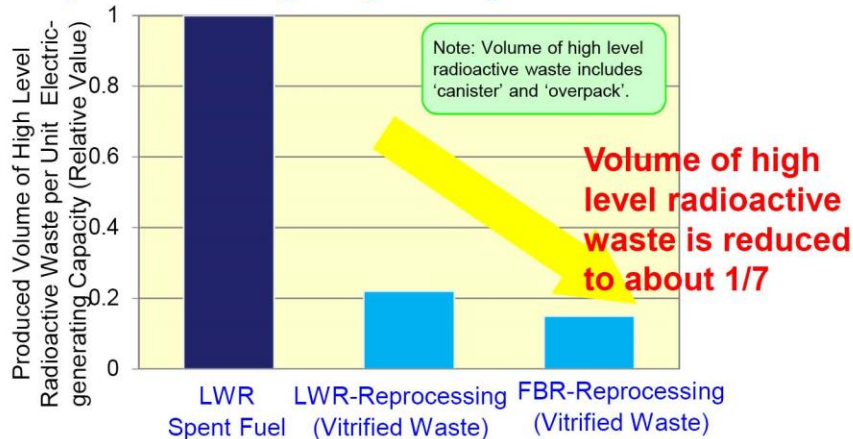
- ### Applications
- ✓ Cogeneration application
  - ✓ Hydrogen production
  - ✓ Seawater desalination
  - ✓ Process heat
  - ✓ Synthetic fuel and chemicals
  - ✓ Cooling application
  - + Heat storage

- An FR uses and recycles minor actinide (MA) fuel, achieving a closed cycle. This will reduce the amount and potential toxicity\* of high-level radioactive waste and enhance the potential of sustainable nuclear energy use.
 

\*The total dose of each radionuclide calculated from conversion factors of the radionuclides

- ◆ The fuel recycling will recover and vitrify U and Pu from spent fuel, reducing the waste amount. Recovering MA will also reduce the amount of heat generation from vitrified waste and allow the vitrified wastes to be stored closely, thereby drastically reducing the area of deep geological repositories.
- ◆ This will also reduce the risk future generations would face.

## Reduction of both high-level radioactive waste to be produced and geological disposal site area

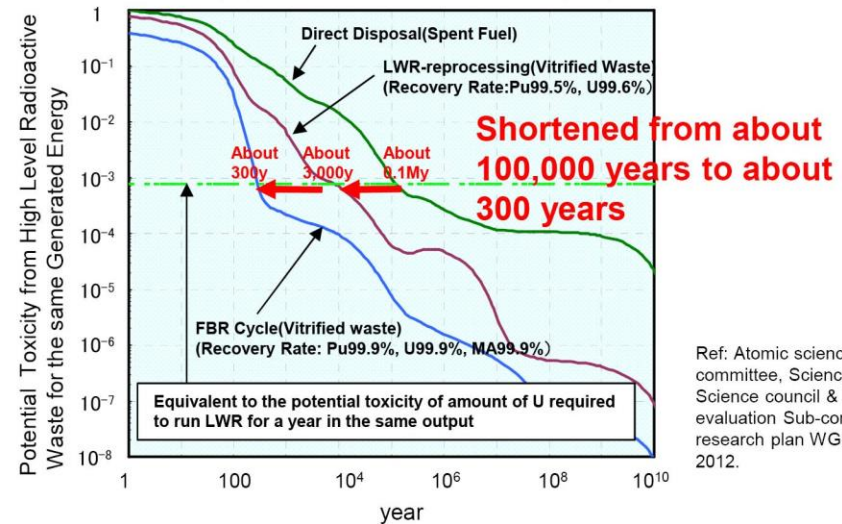


**Recovering MA can reduce geological disposal area to 1/10 in case of LWR (Spent Fuel) \***

\* : CEA "Report on Sustainable Radioactive Waste Management" (2012)

## Reduction of potential toxicity of high-level radioactive waste

(The relative value that assumed the first-year potential harmful degree (Sv) 1 of all amount of the waste direct disposal)



Ref: Atomic science technology committee, Science technology, Science council & Research plan evaluation Sub-committee, 'Monju' research plan WG(#3), Nov.21, 2012.



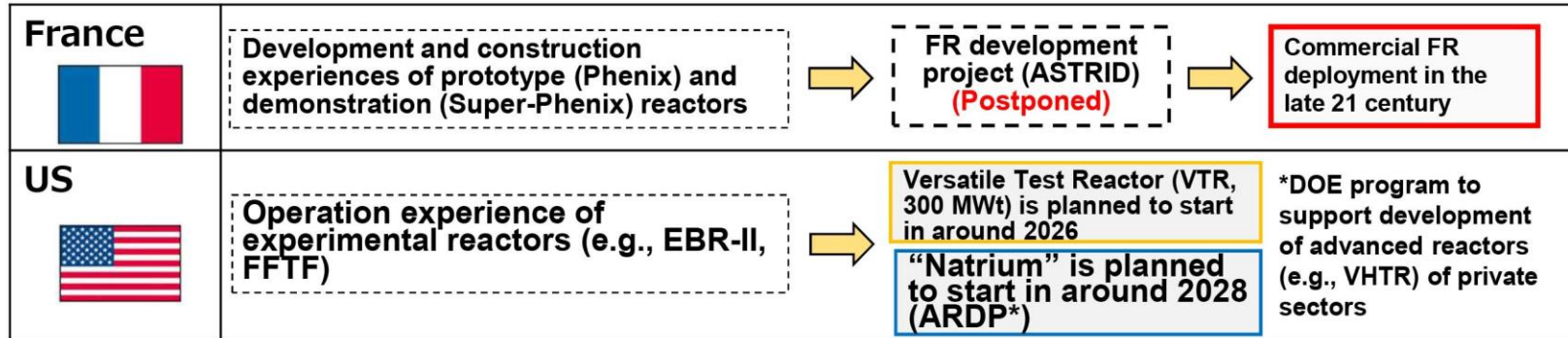
## ➤ Status in major countries

	Current Status	New Approach, Plan
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'ASTRID' project was postponed in 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Experiences of SPX plant construction and operation R&amp;D activities such as simulation technology are ongoing (e.g., J-F bilateral cooperation).</p>
US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation experiences of the experimental reactor (EBR-II) and Fermi FBR</li> <li>• Related R&amp;D activities are ongoing to maintain the technologies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Versatile Research Reactor (VTR, 300 MWt) is planned to start in around 2026</li> <li>• "Natrium" is planned to start in around 2028</li> </ul>
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Yun, who took office in May, 2022, advocates nuclear power generation recurrence and promotes SMR development and the nuclear power generation export .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction of the prototype reactor (PGSFR, 150MWe) will be resumed by 2025.</li> </ul>
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prototype (BN600) and demonstration (BN800) reactors are in operation</li> <li>• BN-800 started electricity generation and supply in Dec. 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BN1200 is planned to be deployed in 2030s</li> <li>• The irradiation reactor (MBIR) is planned to operate in around 2027</li> </ul>
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The experimental reactor with power generation function (FBTR, 13MWe) has been in operation since 1985</li> <li>• The prototype reactor (PFB, 500 MWe) is under construction (2022)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The demonstration and commercial reactor (CFBR, 600 MWe) will be deployed in the late 2020s.</li> </ul>
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The experimental reactor (CEFR) started to supply electricity in July, 2011.</li> <li>• Prototype reactor stage was skipped.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The demonstration reactor (CFR600) is planned to complete the construction in 2023.</li> <li>• A commercial reactor will be deployed in 2030s.</li> </ul>

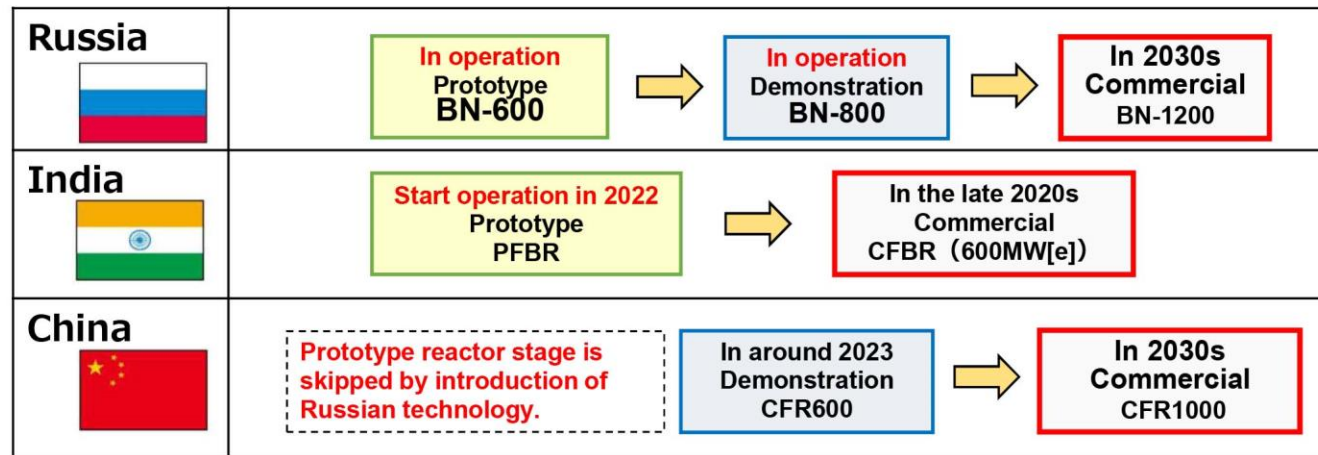


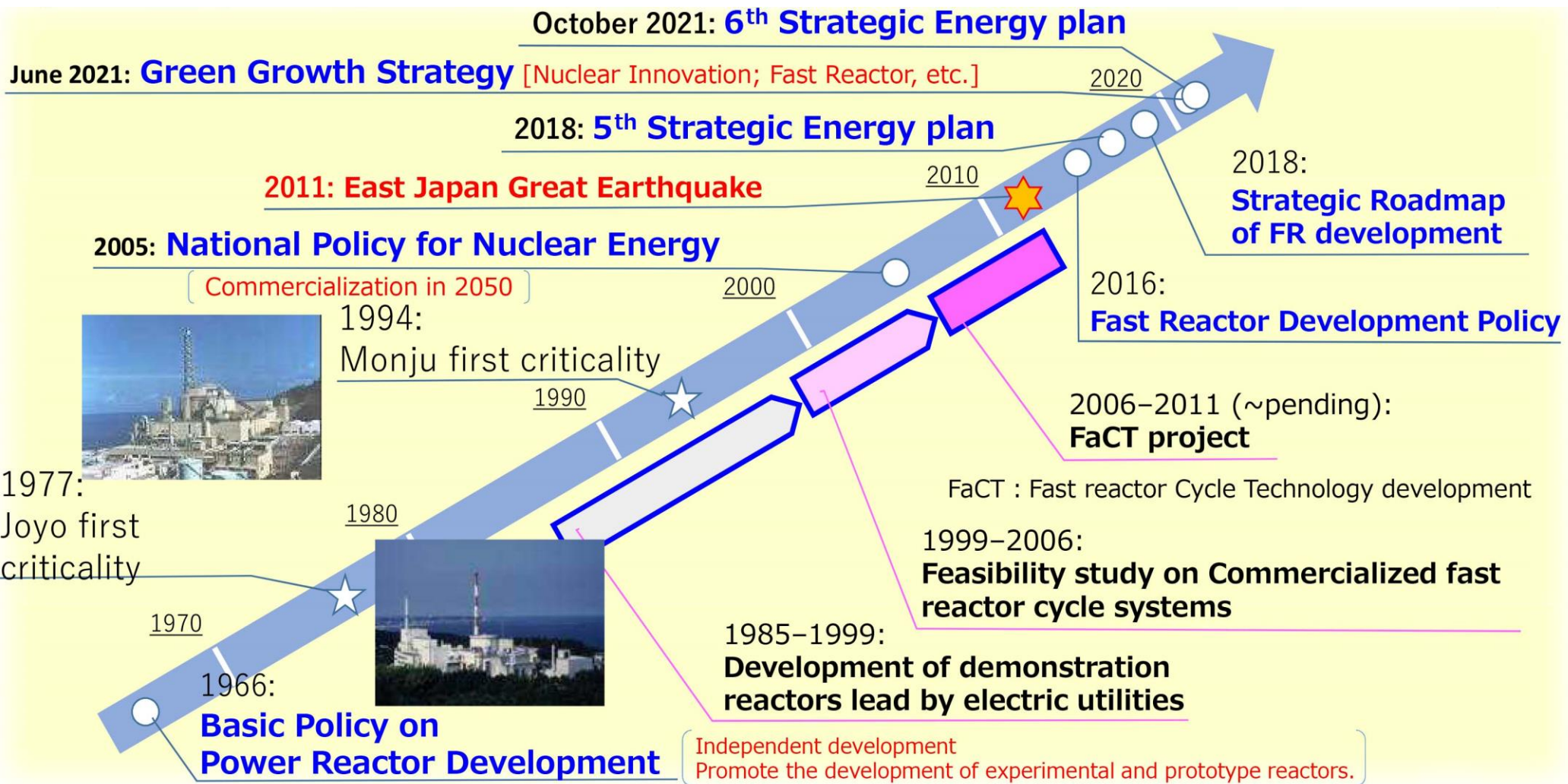
# Status in major countries (contd.)

- France and the U.S. have achieved nuclear fuel breeding technology
- Main Target: Pu management , Radioactive waste reduction and Multi-purpose use of FRs



- Goal : Higher breeding ratio for energy security
- Main target: Early deployment of commercial FRs







## ➤ Mission of Joyo and its major achievement

### Missions of Joyo

- To demonstrate basic functions of a fast breeder reactor (FBR)
- To perform irradiation experiment on elements such as nuclear fuel and materials
- To verify innovative technology for future fast reactors (FRs)



First Criticality: 1977  
 Cumulative Operating Time: 71,000 hrs  
 Irradiation Results of Test Rig: about 100

### Major achievements

#### Joyo demonstrated

- its breeding function
- the closed cycle of FRs
- decay heat removal by Na natural convection
- MOX fuel performance
- its use as a fast neutron irradiation plant
- the function of Self Actuated Shut-down System(SASS)



### R&D fields expected after Joyo resumption

- Reduction of radioactive waste and toxicity

- Basic research
- Multipurpose use

- FR development

- Development of human resources in the nuclear energy field

- ✓ JAEA submitted the application for Joyo restart to Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) Japan to ensure compliance with new regulatory standards adopted after the Fukushima accident.
- ✓ Beyond design basis accidents and post-accident measures are currently under review by NRA Japan.
- ✓ JAEA is required to inform local government authorities of basic plan for the spent fuel management before the restart of Joyo.



## ➤ Missions of Monju and its major achievement

### Missions of 'Monju'

- To demonstrate reliable power-generating performance
- To established sodium handling techniques



【Rated Power】	280MWe
【Operation Record】	
●First Criticality	1994
●Reactor Operating Time	5300 hrs
●Power Generation Time	883 hrs
●Generated Power	100B Wh



### Monju

### Major achievements

- established FR plant designs (e.g., core design, major components design) and their manufacturing techniques
- accumulated operation and maintenance experience
- accomplished power generation as the Japan's first FR plant (up to 40% output)
- demonstrated its breeding capacity (the expected value:1.2)
- accumulated sodium handling techniques based on operation and maintenance experiences of related facilities and components
- improved measures against sodium leakage
- demonstrated safety evaluation methods for SFRs



Feb. 1983



Oct. 1985



Oct. 1986



Apr. 1991



Apr. 1994



May, 2010, Function Test Resumption

May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 1983	Permission of nuclear reactor installation	Nov.13 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	NRA urged Minister of MEXT to review Monju security system fundamentally.
Oct. 1993~	Start of function examination	<b>Dec.21<sup>th</sup>, 2016</b>	<b>Decisions made at Inter-Ministerial Council for Nuclear Power on Japan's FR development policy and the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, Monju.</b>
Apr.5 <sup>th</sup> ,1994	First criticality		
Aug. 1995~	Function test(under the 40% output)	<b>Dec.6<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	<b>Submission of Monju decommissioning plan to NRA</b>
Aug.29 <sup>th</sup> , 1995	First electricity supply	<b>Mar.28<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Permission of Monju decommissioning plan</b>
Oct.13 <sup>th</sup> , 1995	Achievement of the 40% electric output	Aug.30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Start of fuel transportation work(EVST⇒Fuel pond)
Dec.8 <sup>th</sup> , 1995	<b>Sodium leakage accident</b>	Sep.17 <sup>th</sup> . 2019	Start of fuel removal work (Reactor vessel⇒EVST)
May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	Function test resumption	<b>Apr.22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022</b>	<b>Completion of the work to transport all fuels from the reactor vessel to EVST</b>
Aug.26 <sup>th</sup> , 2010	<b>IVTM drop accident</b>	Jun.28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Application for approval of change of Monju decommissioning plan (under examination by NRA)
Mar.11 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	(Great East Japan Earthquake)		
Nov.27 <sup>th</sup> , 2012	Announcement of maintenance management defect		
May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	Security order from NRA*1		

\*1) NRA judged that the order lost effect(Jan.18<sup>th</sup>, 2017)





## Green Growth Strategy (excerpts on nuclear) ※

- Nuclear power can continuously supply a large amount of carbon-free electricity. Japan has the leading-edge nuclear technology, and its **technological self-sufficiency is high**.
- With further innovations, we will improve **nuclear safety, reliability, and efficiency**, **reduce the volume and toxicity of high-level radioactive waste**, and **enhance natural resource recycling** through effective use of resources.
- Nuclear power can satisfy various social needs, such as **harmonization with renewable energy**, **carbon-free hydrogen production**, and **heat production for industrial applications**.

※ Green Growth Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050 (June 18, 2021)

## The 6th Strategic Energy Plan (excerpts on nuclear)

### 【To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050】

- Electric power sectors will use **carbon-free** power sources such as **renewables** and **nuclear**.
- Japan continues to use a necessary amount of nuclear power under a consensus on ensuring safety.

### 【Policies for 2030】

- Promotion of R&D
  - ✓ Advance the development of **fast reactors** through international cooperation
  - ✓ Demonstrate **small modular reactor technology** with international partners.
  - ✓ Develop the basic technology of **hydrogen production** using high temperature reactor (**HTGR**)

⇒ The R&D of FR should be totally managed by 'Strategic Road Map'.



## 1. New Mission

### New Goals



### Key objectives for FR development in Japan

- ① Enhanced safety that complies with requirements set after TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP Accident
- ② Improved economic efficiency from R&D stages to become more attractive in the energy market
- ③ More advanced technology and insight obtained through international cooperation and development of codes and standards common to all FR developing countries

- ✓ Further advance Japan's state-of-the-art technologies
- ✓ Develop and demonstrate an FR with higher safety and economic efficiency for the future deployment
- ✓ Lead the countries to establish the international standards by establishing concrete development goals.

## 2. Four Principles for FR Development

### 1: Utilization of Domestic R&D Resources

- ✓ Technical Knowledge, Technical & Human Resources, Infrastructures

### 2: Acquisition of the Most Advanced Knowledge

- ✓ Multilateral Cooperation such as GIF & Bilateral Cooperation

### 3: Pursuit of the Cost Effectiveness

- ✓ Active Utilization of International Cooperation, Timely Injection of the Development Cost, Assessment of the Status & the Results, C&R for Method & Approach of Development

### 4: Establishment of Reliability System

- ✓ Clarification of the Role, Establishment of the Governance System, Stringent Safety Management, Leading Role of the Country

## Strategic Roadmap(Dec.12<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

### Significances of FR Development

- In Mid to Long term, FRs contribute to,
  - ① efficient use of natural resources, and becoming energy independent country.
  - ② the amount and
  - ③ toxicity must be reduced.
- To achieve sustainable radioactive waste management,
  - ② the amount and
  - ③ toxicity must be reduced.
- In addition, plutonium management should be established..

### Schedule

**Uranium resources will last only 135 years (as of 2018)**

- Full-scale operation
  - In the late of 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The first FR startup
  - Appropriate timing in the mid-21st century
- In the coming decade
  - First half: Explore a variety of technologies and narrow them down after five years.
  - Second half: Develop the selected technologies.

### Target Reactor Technology

- Determine the feasibility of various FR technologies by using proven technologies and cultivated human resources

SFR(Na cooled FR)

- MOX fuel(Fr, Ru, et al.)
- Metal Fuel(US, et al.)

Molten Salt FR

Light Water Cooled FR and so on

### Sharing of Roles and Development System

- Plant makers develop innovative technologies that meet the government's policy and development goals.
- Power companies, namely, owners of an FR will select the technology they use.
- The government lays out the direction for the development and sets goals that private companies pursue.
  - ① The government provides financial support based on technical readiness level
  - ② JAEA provides research infrastructure
  - ③ Safety is improved to meet the new regulatory requirements

From METI Atomic Sub-committee(Apr.2019)

METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



## Strategic roadmap for fast reactors

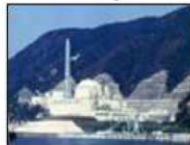
- Development of basic technologies and research infrastructures which can meet private sectors' needs in various technology development
- Deepen insight accumulated through the development of sodium-cooled fast reactors and further develop R&D infrastructures as an R&D base.

### Design assistance tool on plant lifecycle (ARKADIA)

Joyo



Monju



- An AI-based knowledge base that includes design, construction and R&D on Joyo, Monju and design studies
- Evaluation methods for complex phenomena using multi-physics models can be applied to various coolants and systems

### Codes and Standards



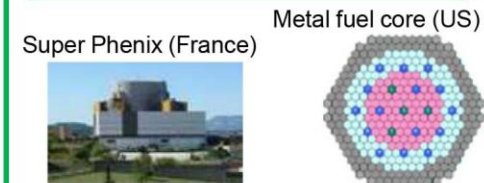
Ranks of SDC and SDG

- Development of codes, standards, and design criteria applicable to various FR concepts
  - These can balance safety and economic efficiency.

### Safety enhancement technology

- Reactor core safety, including prevention of re-criticality and core melting accidents.
- Prevention and mitigation of FR-specific events including coolant chemical reaction

### International cooperation

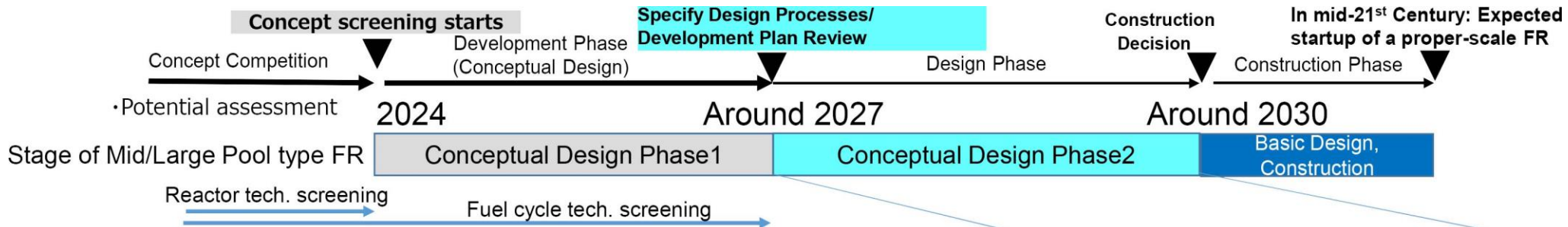


- France, having extensive experience of sodium-cooled fast reactors
- US, leading the development of metallic fuels, analysis codes, versatile test reactor (VTR) project, etc.
- Establishment of basic technologies for practical use

Support of private sectors' R&D

- Strengthen cooperation with industries and related ministries to narrow down technologies possibly adopted after 2024
- Promote R&D for the introduction of FRs at an appropriate time in the mid-21st century

# Issues and Progress



JAEA-led Major Technology	Competition • Development Phase	Design Phase
Fuel, Material	Resumption of Joyo	Irradiation tests using Joyo
	Fuel design, fabrication	Fuel fabrication test (at Pu-fuel facility)
Reactor System	Safety evaluation • Design support tool(ARKADIA) development	Acquisition of ground data (e.g., Sodium tests) of test research/conceptual design for selection of specification of the plant
Standards	Preparation of standards	
Safety	Development of safety enhancement tech.	Demonstration of safety enhancement (out-/in-pile tests)
Component Development	Preparation of infrastructure of experiment (e.g., AtheNa)	Demonstration of component performance
Fuel Cycle	Development of reprocessing tech. of MA bearing MOX fuel Review of metal fuel cycle tech.	Engineering demonstration of the fuel cycle technology selected

International Collaboration

Global Standardization of Developed Tech.



Rationalization of R&D through cooperation frameworks

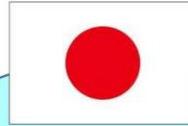
Major tech. development by bilateral sharing/collaboration with an influential country such as US and France: Knowledge of FR development, Evaluation methods, Safety enhancement, Heat utilization  
 De facto international standardization organizations (IAEA, OECD, GIF): Standards, Safety requirement, Safety enhancement for the plant designs



Strategies : **Lead FR development using international cooperation with the U.S. and France**  
**Lead multilateral R&D cooperation to establish international standards**

## Japan-France

- FR-R&D collaboration(11items)
- Sharing digitization tech. and verification data for plant characteristics



## Japan-US

- Participation in VTR/Natrium™ Pj (under discussion)
- CNWG(structural material, modeling & simulation, metal fuel & pyroprocessing tech.)



## International Cooperation Policy

- Develop key technology for SFRs under the bilateral cooperation of Japan-France and Japan-U.S. to make technologies (e.g., design, safety technology, and analysis assessment), plant concepts, codes and standards in Japan global standards.
- Develop codes and standards, safety requirements, and design methods common to all nuclear developing nations through international frameworks such as GIF and IAEA.

## GIF

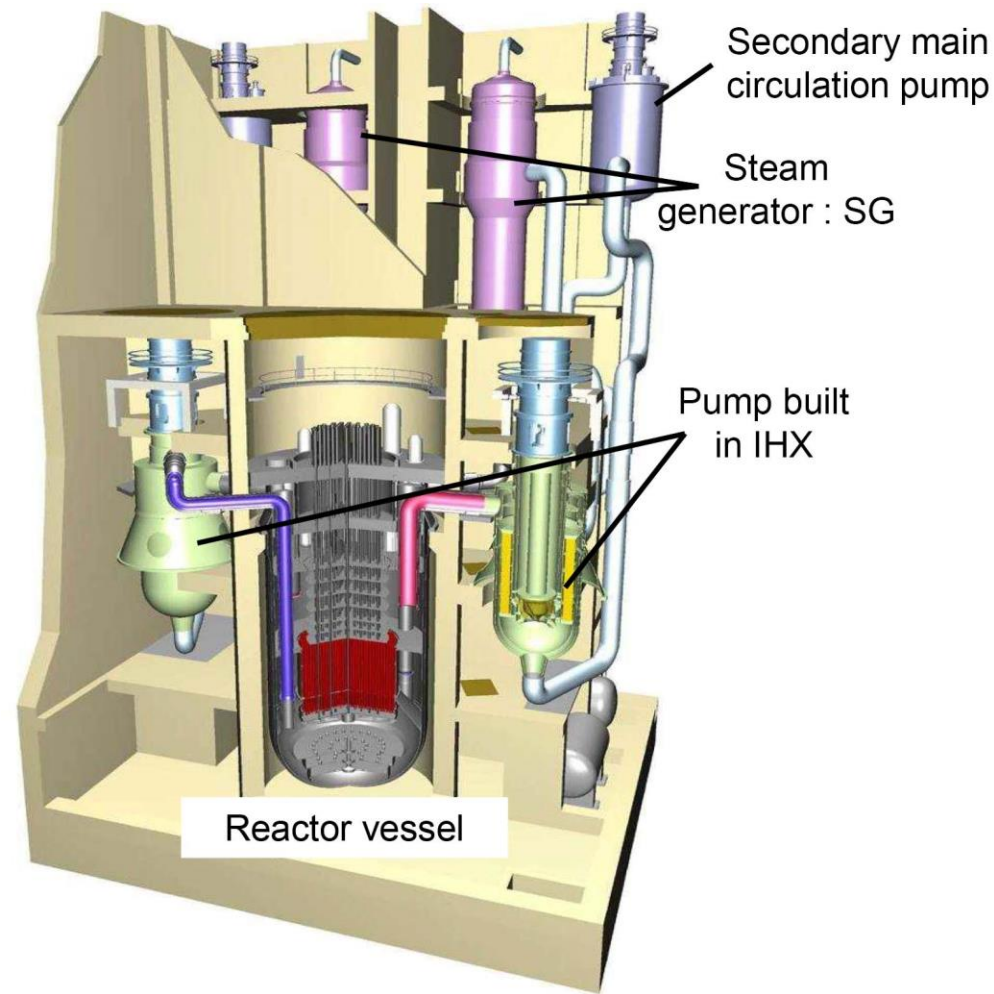
- Proposal of safety design criteria
- G4 global standard reactors, design method, DB

## IAEA/NEA

- Global standardization of Safety Design Standards
- Promotion of communication with the regulatory side

## ASME - JSME

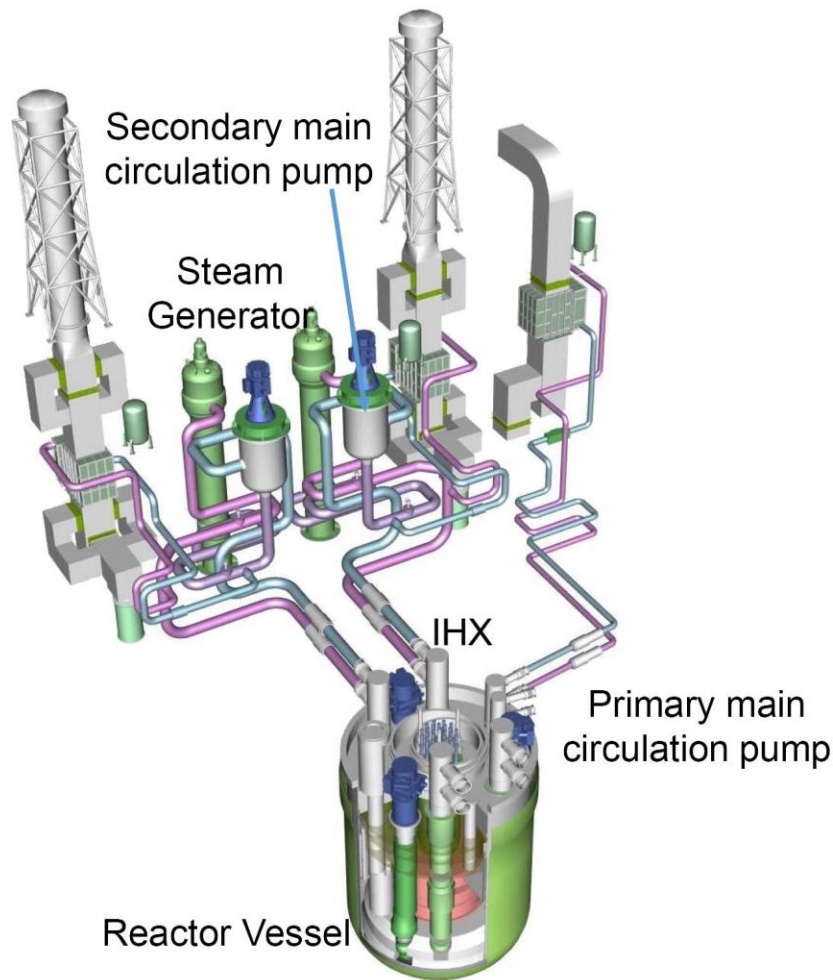
- Global standardization of Structural Design Standards, Maintenance Standards



Reactor type	Advanced loop
Output(Electrical/t thermal)	1,500 MWe /3,570 MWth
Main cooling system	Primary pump (mechanical)×2 IHX×2 Secondary cooling system: 2 loops (Double wall straight tube SG×2)
Reactor shut-down system	2 Independent system + Passive reactor shutdown system
Decay heat removal system	DRACS×1 PRACS×2
Containment system	Steel-concrete containment vessel integrated with reactor building
Seismic Isolation System	Reactor building: 2 dimensional seismic isolation

DRACS: Direct Reactor Auxiliary cooling system  
PRACS: Primary Reactor Auxiliary Cooling System





Reactor Type	Pool type
Output(electrical/thermal)	650 MWe /1,500 MWth
Main cooling system	Primary pump (mechanical)×3 IHX×4 Secondary cooling system: 4 loops (Helical coil type SG×4)
Reactor shut-down system	2 Independent systems + Passive reactor shutdown system
Decay heat removal system	IRACS×4 DRACS×2
Containment system	Steel-concrete containment vessel integrated with reactor building
Seismic isolation system	Reactor building: 3 dimensional seismic isolation

- Adoption of the pool type concept facilitates international cooperation.
- Selection of reactor site location can be more flexible by a 3 dimensional seismic isolation system

- ❑ Under a consensus on **nuclear safety improvement**
  - ✓ **Supply power constantly** (large scale stability + safety and supply chains + technological self-sufficiency)
  - ✓ **Achieve natural resource recycling** (waste management + effective use of resources)
  - ✓ **Be flexible** (load-following + hydrogen and heat production + flexible siting)

## Stable power supply

- As carbon-free power source, contribute to stable, sustainable power supply across the nation.
- Achieve safety innovations for regaining the public trust.
- Innovate processes in manufacturing and procurement to stimulate nuclear supply chains, so that technological self-sufficiency will further improve.

## Natural resource recycling

- Reduce high-level radioactive waste.
- Be a recyclable energy source through technology innovation.
- Propose solution to limited natural resources.

## Flexibility

- Provide load following to maximize the use of affordable renewable nuclear energy.
- Produce and store hydrogen and heat when electricity demand is low.
- Be flexible in site locations by reducing the sizes of emergency planning zones.

## Further improvement in nuclear safety

- Develop and promote technologies for safer nuclear power by reflecting lessons learned from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident.

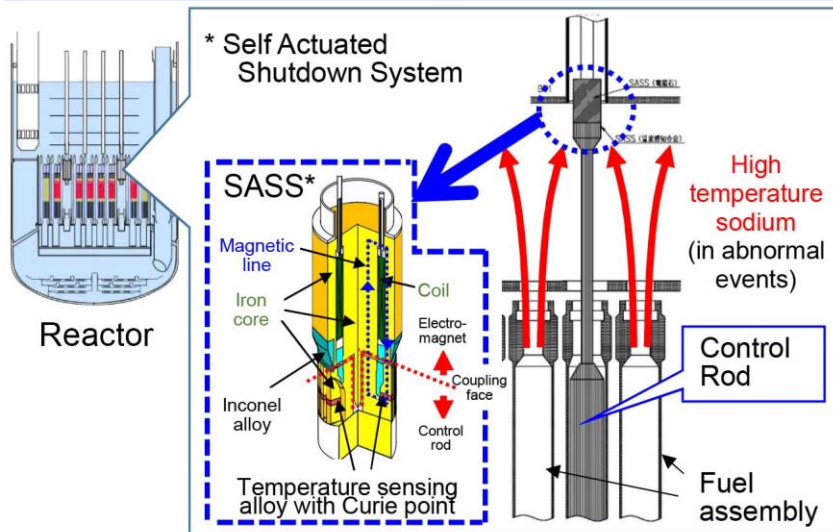
From materials for the Atomic Energy Sub-Committee (Apr. 2021)



## ■ Example of enhanced countermeasures against core disruptive accidents (CDAs)

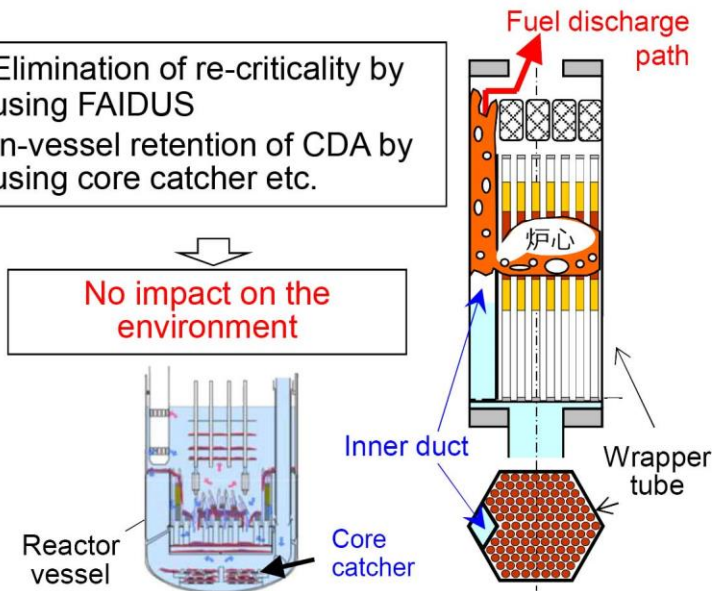
- Background: Since an FR core is not in the most reactive configuration, core material relocation caused by a CDA can induce reactivity insertion.

- CDAs can be prevented. If a CDA should occur, re-criticality can be prevented (CDA is mitigated)
  - Reactor shutdown device **passively** induces **negative reactivity** during abnormal events (**spontaneous insertion of control rods** using a temperature sensing alloy)
  - Mechanism to achieve and maintain **subcriticality** by spontaneously discharging **molten fuel materials** from the core (by means of Fuel Assembly with Inner-Duct Structure (FAIDUS) which enables **early discharge of molten fuel from the core** in a core melt accident)



- Elimination of re-criticality by using FAIDUS
- In-vessel retention of CDA by using core catcher etc.

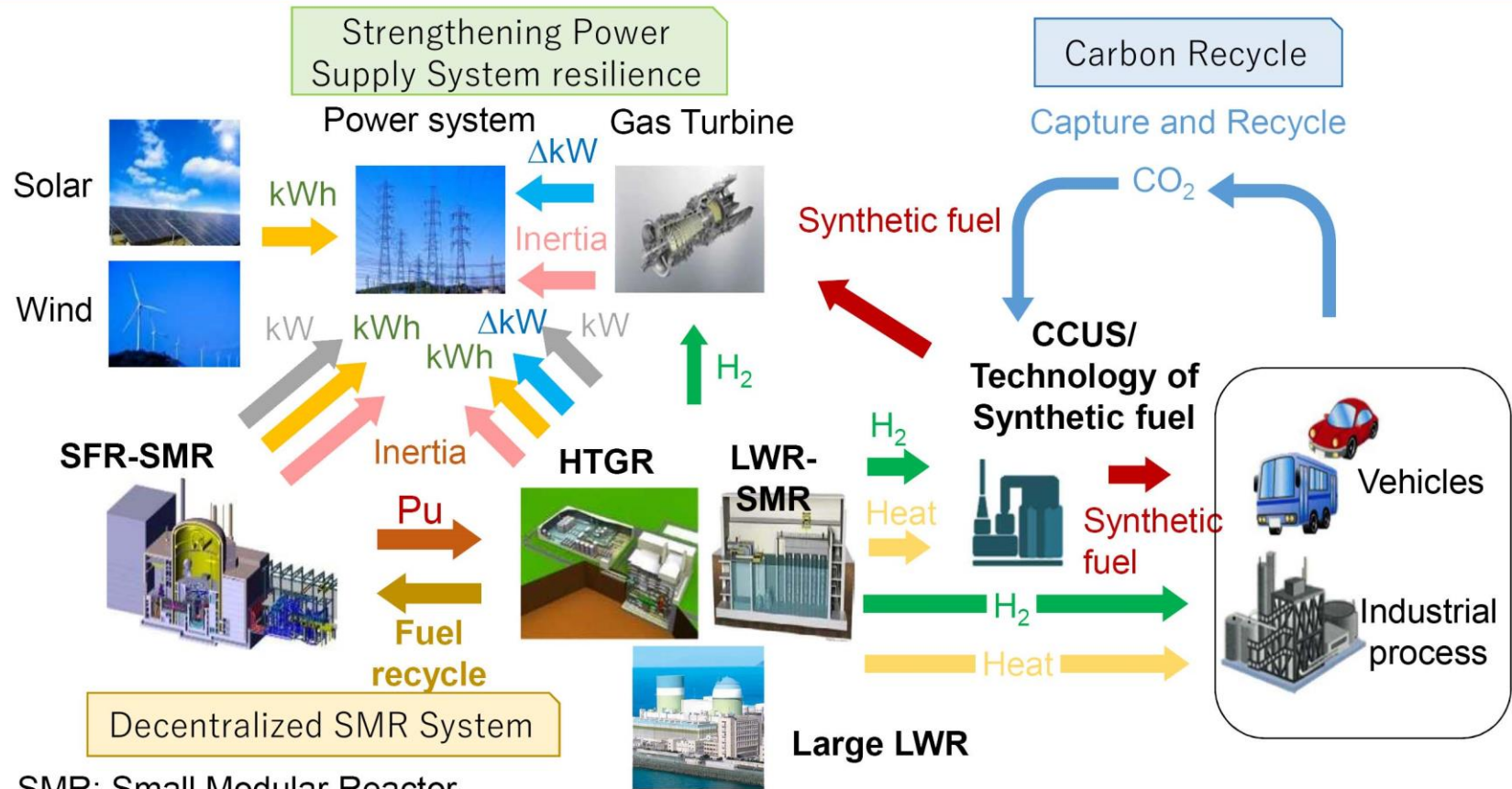
No impact on the environment



CDA: Core Disruptive Accident

➤ Sustainable and resilient energy systems

**Achievement of CN, Strengthening resilience & Energy cost restraint**



SMR: Small Modular Reactor

kWh : Power Generation    ΔkW : Power Generation Adjustability    kW : Supply capacity

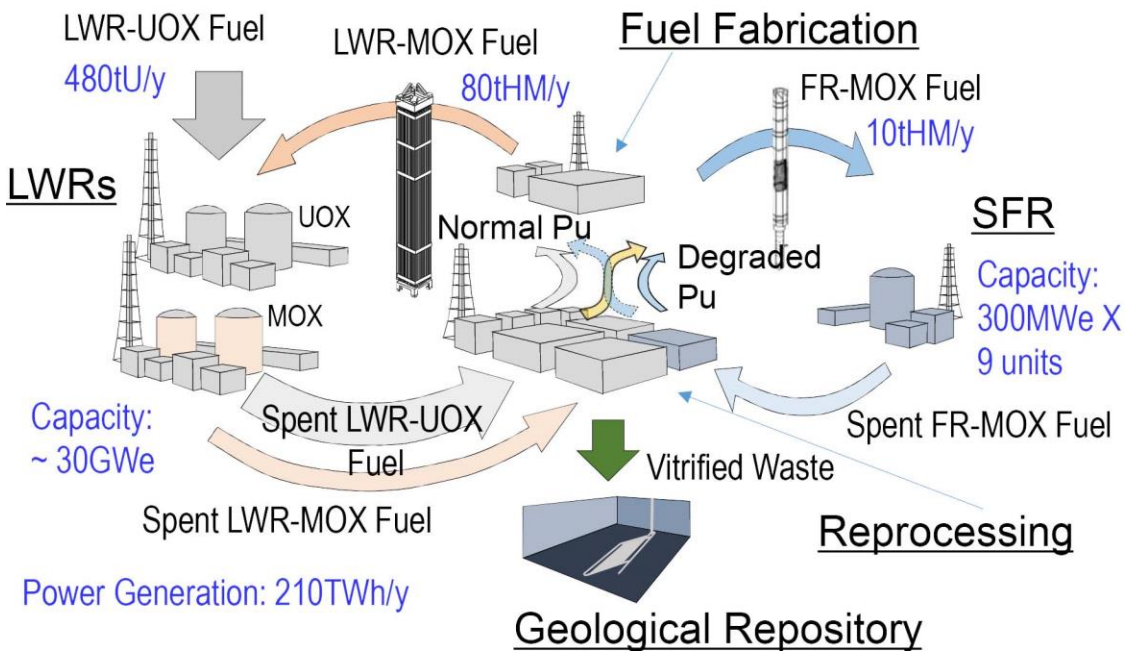
CCUS: Carbon dioxide Capture, Utilization and Storage

Ref. MEXT-funded Research (2020-2023) modeling & simulation

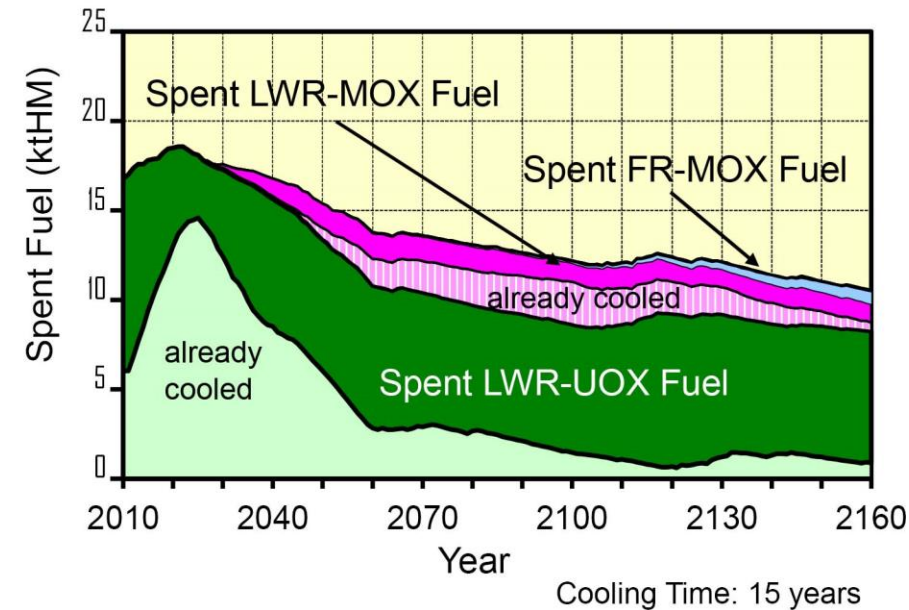
## ➤ LWR & SFR combined cycle for Pu management

### ● Reduction of LWR spent fuel together with efficient Pu use by SFR

#### ■ Closed Fuel Cycle; Case study in Japan



<Control of Spent MOX Fuel>





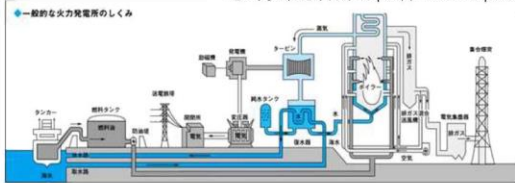
## ➤ Suitable for load-following operation

### Advanced nuclear power generation system

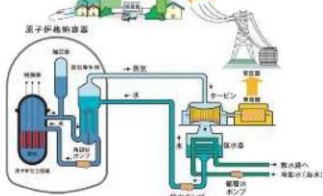
#### At present

#### Thermal power generation

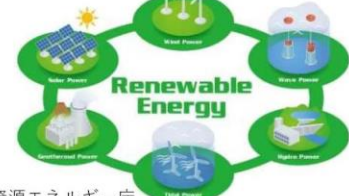
電気事業連合会 <https://www.fepec.or.jp/index.html>



#### LWR



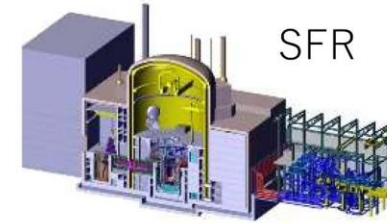
#### RE



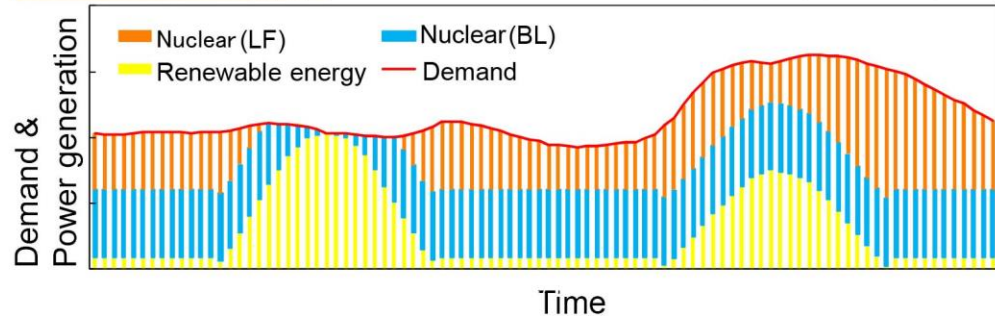
資源エネルギー庁 <https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/>



- ✓ Power generation by using fossil fuel → 0
- ✓ LWR → SFR/HTGR
- ✓ Harmonized system between RE & NPP



### Harmonization image of power generation



## Nuclear + RE → Zero emission power generation system

- ✓ Nuclear system with load-following function can cover output change of RE



## Production of medical and industrial radioisotopes: Contribution to domestic supply

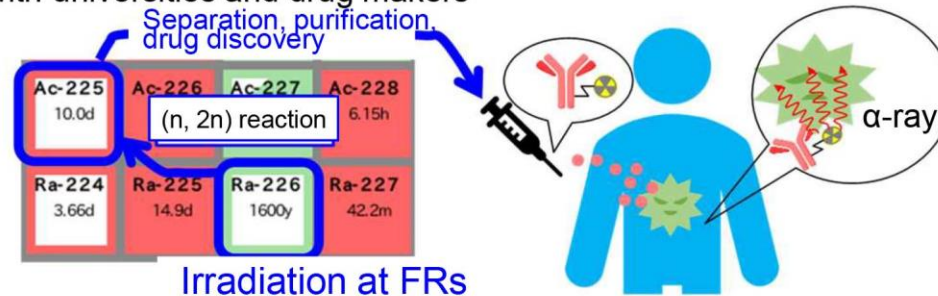
- ❑ Provide a neutron irradiation field with **wide energy spectra**, high flux and a large capacity
    - ✓ Neutron capture reaction (medium and slow to thermal neutrons)
    - ✓ (n, 2n) reaction (by high energy **fast neutrons**)
    - ✓ Higher flux and larger capacity than accelerators allow **mass production of RI**
- } **Efficient RI production**
- ❑ Nearly 100% imported → Domestic production of RIs (according to its applicability to the market)
    - ✓ Industrial use: Co-60 : Liquid level gauge, crop breeding, etc.      Ir-192 : non-destructive inspection  
                          Ni-63 : Environment analysis                                      Fe-55 : Calibration source, etc.
    - ✓ Medical use: Co-60 : Sterilization, cancer (gamma knife)      Ir-192 : Brachytherapy  
                          Au-198 : Brachytherapy                                                      Ac-225 : RI internal therapy, etc.



Establishment of the domestic RI supply system in cooperation with several reactors for stable supply

### Example

- ✓ **Production of Ac-225 for RI internal therapy → Higher efficiency by fast neutrons**
- ✓ Cooperation with universities and drug makers



Thank you for your kind attention!!