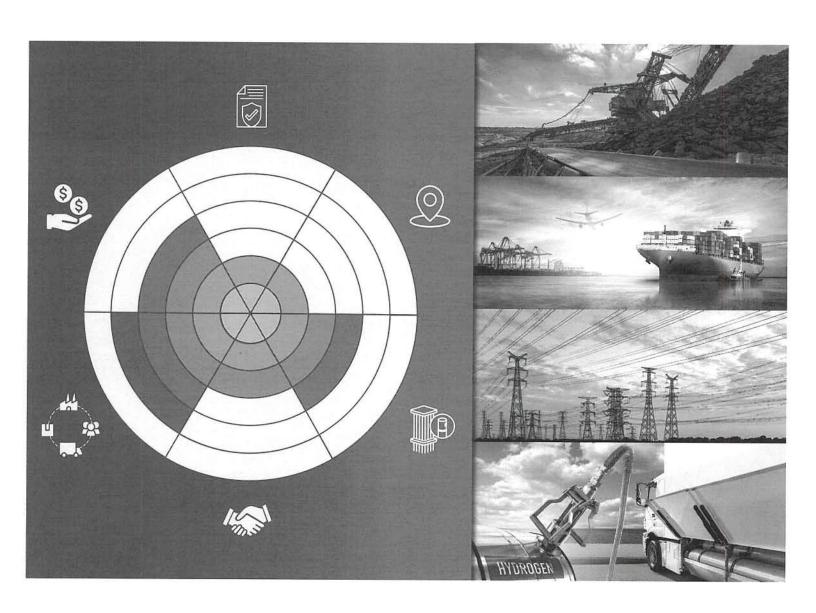
# The NEA Small Modular Reactor Dashboard: Second Edition







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NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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### **Executive summary**

Small modular reactors (SMRs) are technologies capable of harnessing the energy from nuclear fission reactions to produce heat and electricity with power outputs typically smaller than 300 MWe, with some as small as 1-10 MWe. SMRs are designed for modular manufacturing, factory production, portability and scalability. They also come in a variety of configurations and temperature ranges to create heat that can be used directly, or to generate electricity to decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors. The combination of these innovations presents additional potential benefits in terms of safety, operational and deployment flexibility, economics, as well as potentially spent fuel and waste management.

The second edition of the NEA SMR Dashboard provides a comprehensive assessment of the progress made by SMR designers and companies worldwide. Looking beyond technical feasibility, the NEA SMR Dashboard assesses progress towards first-of-a-kind commercial deployment across six dimensions: licensing, siting, financing, supply chain, engagement and fuel. The NEA SMR Dashboard reveals substantial progress towards SMR deployment and commercialisation in NEA and non-NEA member countries, with a subset of designs in more advanced stages of commercialisation and deployment.

The first edition of the NEA SMR Dashboard tracked the progress of 42 SMRs worldwide and was published in two volumes. Volume I of the NEA SMR Dashboard was launched during the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 36<sup>th</sup> Regulatory Information Conference on 13 March 2023. Volume II was published in July 2023 during the 14<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial in Goa, India, on 19 July 2023.

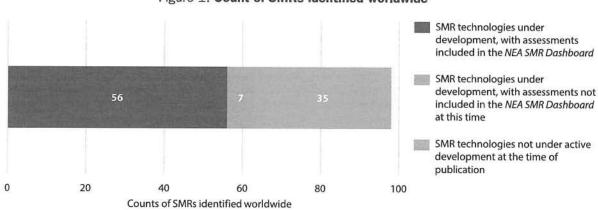


Figure 1. Count of SMRs identified worldwide

For this second edition of the NEA SMR Dashboard, the NEA's comprehensive global review identified 98 SMR technologies around the world. Fifty-six SMRs are included in this complete edition of the NEA SMR Dashboard; these are the SMRs for which the requisite publicly available information was assessable and for which the relevant designers were willing to participate. The other 42 include approximately 7 that are under development but requested not to be included in the SMR Dashboard at this time but may be included in the future; the remainder include SMR technologies that are not under active development, may be without human or financial resources, or have been cancelled or paused indefinitely. The assessments in this edition of the SMR Dashboard are based on progress up to a cutoff date of 10 November 2023.

#### Progress by region

Initial findings show that Russia and China are leading on first-of-a-kind deployment, but rapid and real progress is underway in North America and Europe. To date, there are already SMRs deployed and operating in Russia and China as well as one test reactor in Japan. SMRs are under construction in Russia, China and Argentina. Three additional SMR designs have received regulatory approval: VOYGR by NuScale in the United States, SMART by KAERI in Korea and Hermes by Kairos Power in the United States. North America and Europe are home to the headquarters of many SMR designers. The United States is home to the largest number of SMR design organisations, with nearly 35% of the field.

The NEA SMR Dashboard also reveals significant progress on siting, with SMRs operating and/or under construction in Russia, China, Japan and Argentina, and a large number of earlier stage siting discussions and negotiations advancing in North America and Europe.

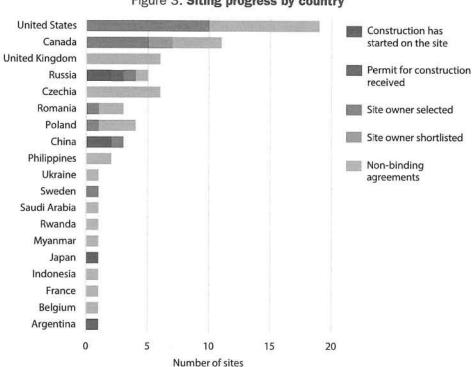


Figure 3. Siting progress by country

Different markets, financing strategies and business models are emerging

Different markets, financing strategies and business models are emerging (Figure 4). A number of SMR projects are located on government-owned land, particularly at national laboratories. This underscores governmental support for the initial demonstration projects. Utilities have also selected several designs for on-grid applications, notably existing nuclear or coal sites, which present opportunities to leverage existing infrastructures while securing reliable low-carbon generation and local economic benefits. Additionally, an increasing number of site owners are from industrial sectors, such as mining and chemicals, which confirms the growing recognition of the potential of SMRs in hard-to-abate industrial sectors.

To a large extent, SMR developers rely on public-private partnerships to bring their projects to fruition. Private finance plays a sizeable role, with public efforts devoted primarily to supporting research and development activities and to de-risking first-of-a-kind demonstration plans. Within private financing, venture capital also plays a role, particularly for SMR designs at lower technology readiness levels.