

4. Nuclear-fuel firm *URENCO*, 33%-owned by the UK government, has agreed a £4m deal to supply nuclear fuels to US companies and build a UK facility.

5. US companies *TerraPower* and *KBR* deploying their 345MW “Natrium Advanced Reactors” (larger than SMRs) at UK sites.

These plans seem very ambitious. The only question is whether all these costly plans will actually reach fruition, as so many plans for nuclear expansion have failed in the past to bring about the nuclear renaissance so often predicted.

Meanwhile RR has been selected by the UK government to build three SMRs, is selling six to the Czech Republic and has entered the US regulatory process to sell them there too.

The plans suggest government disillusionment with the grandiose nuclear reactors it has been trying to get built for so long with little success. The fruit of all these attempts over the last nearly 30 years is a 2-reactor nuclear plant in construction at Hinkley Point, planned 25 years ago and now predicted not to come into operation until the 2030s and a similar plant at Sizewell C, also planned 25 years ago, of which it was claimed it had begun construction in January 2024, though it was not till July this year that a positive final investment decision was reached for it - after £38bn was invested in the project through a combination of government loans, private investors like EDF and Centrica, and building costs being passed on to consumers during construction. Plans for large-scale nuclear reactors at Wylfa and Oldbury also seem recently to have been dropped, with the proposal that one or the other should now host an SMR instead.

Other UK large nuclear power stations are scheduled for closing down soon. Apart from single-reactor Sizewell C, reactors currently operating in the UK are two each of the aged advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactor (AGR) type, at Heysham 1 and Hartlepool. There were originally seven 2-reactor AGR nuclear power plants, built between 1976 and 1988. Three of these have already closed down and the remaining four are due to shut down by 2030, after many life

extensions. When these are closed it is likely only one nuclear reactor in the UK, Sizewell B, will be operating.

US PLUTONIUM GIVE-AWAY

On 2nd October *Beyond Nuclear* (BY) reported that, according to unreleased government documents obtained by *Politico* US media company, the US govt. is preparing to give away 20 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium (equivalent to 2000 nuclear bombs). The deal calls for this to be used to help jump start US commercial nuclear startup companies. Such companies would use the plutonium fuel in a still unproven and unlicensed new generation of civil nuclear power plants. The plan includes US startups to reprocess such plutonium for export. BY argues that this would significantly increase the global proliferation of nation state-sponsored nuclear weapons programmes as well as the stealing and purchase of nuclear weapons material for acts of nuclear terrorism. The mind boggles!

WHEN SMRs ARE NOT SMRs

In a letter to the *Times* on Sept. 17 Dr Paul Dorfman points out that SMRs as defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency are “reactors that generate up to 300MW power” so the RR design for its “SMRs” are not SMRs as they would generate 470MW power, more than the old large UK Magnox reactor design generated.

Dorfman continues: “This matters because the RR design will need big sites, standard nuclear safety measures, exclusion zones, core catchers, aircraft crash protection and security...[But] in calling its design an SMR, RR appears to...[be] economical with the truth - and all that implies for...other claims, especially about time and cost. As for the nuclear waste...the former chair of the US...Nuclear Regulatory Commission reports...SMRs would produce more reactive waste per kWh (the key parameter) than large reactors.”

Coming event: Fossil-Free London are organising a major demonstration on noon, Saturday 18th October, at 12pm, outside the Dept. of Energy Security and Net Zero. We really need numbers for this and [share this message with your network. Sign up to join us here](#)

HIROSHIMA, by Ann Garrett.

The co-pilot of Enola Gay, the plane which
dropped the Atom bomb on the city of
Hiroshima in 1945 said
“What have we done?”
Indeed, indeed - what had they done?
As the mushroom cloud rose above the city
over 135,000 of its citizens had died
Radiation spread its ugly cloak
over the devastation
The pilots had blood on their hands
They were only obeying orders
When Oppenheimer told President Truman
he had blood on his hands, Truman replied
“Not so much blood as I have on my hands.”
Indeed, indeed - they had thick blood on
their hands
What had they done?
What had they done?
Only black and bleakness
There was no sun

(Ann read out this poem outside the Japanese Embassy at Kick Nuclear’s regular vigil there on September 26.)

KICK NUCLEAR

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The monthly newsletter of the *Kick Nuclear* group.

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On Friday November 28, Kick Nuclear will hold its now occasional “Remember Fukushima - End Nuclear Power” vigils outside the Japanese Embassy in London, at 101-104 Piccadilly W1, (Downhill from Green Park tube.) All anti-nuclear people are invited to join us.

A GOLDEN AGE OF NUCLEAR?

During Trump’s second state visit to the UK, in September, he signed a US-UK partnership deal to build a fleet of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs), involving deals worth \$100bn. Starmer said this meant that Britain was on the brink of a “golden age of nuclear”. The partnership involves five new deals adding to an existing SMR partnership between *Rolls-Royce* (RR) and a Virginia-based company.

The partnerships comprise: 1. One between US company *X-energy* and *Centrica* to build up to 12 “advanced modular reactors” (AMRs) in Hartlepool. The cost of all this has not been revealed. The govt. claims the project could power 1.5m homes, create 2,500 jobs and deliver a £40bn economic boost, including £12bn for the north-east. 2. An £11bn deal between US tech company *Holtec*, French company *EDF* and UK property investor *Tritex*. This involves SMRs being used to power data-centres at the former Cottam coal-fired station in Nottinghamshire. The government says this will create “thousands” of highly-skilled construction jobs as well as local long-term jobs. 3. *Last Energy* (US) will build a “microreactor” to power the expansion of Dubai-owned DO World’s *London Gateway* port.