



# Adversities and Opportunities in the Transition to Sustainable Energy: Exploring Nuclear Technologies

## International Nuclear Atlantic Conference – INAC 2024 *Nuclear Energy: Assuring Energy, Health and Food*

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MINISTÉRIO DE  
MINAS E ENERGIA



# Status of nuclear energy infrastructure in Brazil

## Nuclear installed capacity in operation (2022)

1.99 GW

1% of total installed capacity

## Nuclear Power Plants

Plant	Installed capacity	Status	Construction period
Angra I	640 MW	Operating	1972/1985
Angra II	1350 MW	Operating	1981/2001
Angra III	1350 MW	Construction halted	1984/...
Plant IV	1000 MW	Planned	.../...



...2029 (projected)

...2031 + ? (expected)

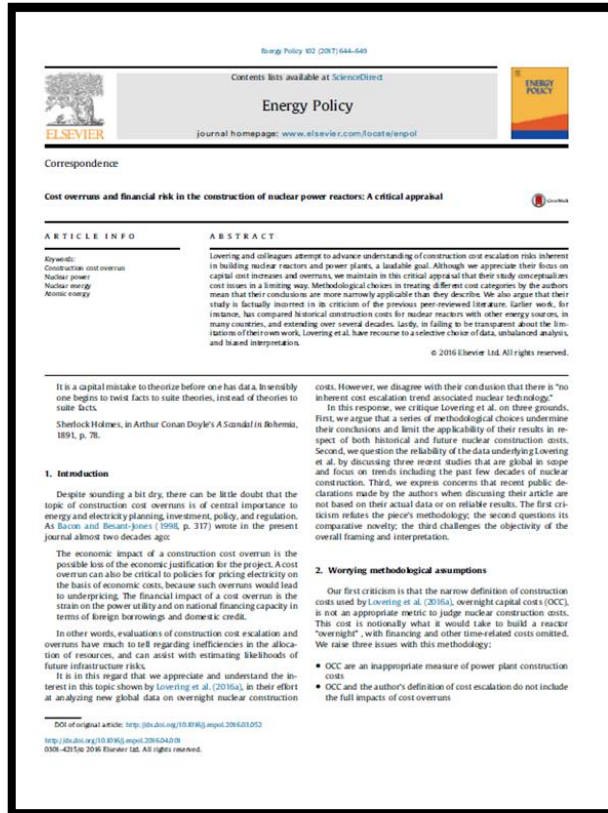
## Uranium Production

Mine	Resources	Status	Production Capacity	Potential Capacity (2027)
Caetité – BA	99 k ton uranium	Operation	400 ton/year	800 ton/year
Santa Quitéria – CE	80 k ton uranium	Project	1,600 ton/year	2,300 ton/year

# Challenges of cost escalation, cost & time overruns



## How to overcome such facts?



**Table 1**  
Summary construction cost overrun data for electricity supply projects.

Description		Hydroelectric dams	Nuclear reactors	Thermal plants	Wind farms	Solar facilities
Number of projects (N)		61	180	36	35	39
N with cost overrun		47	175	24	20	16
N with cost overrun (%)		77	92.2	66.7	57.1	41
Cost escalation (%)	Mean	70.6	117.3	12.6	7.7	1.3
	Min	-50.6	-7.9	-50	-9.1	-40.8
	Max	512.7	1279.7	120	44.4	50
	Median	30.1	64.8	9.6	1.7	0
	Mode	-	189.4	75	0	0
	Standard deviation	111.7	152.1	33.5	13.1	17.8
Cost overrun (millions US\$)	Mean	2437	1282	168.5	32.8	-4.2
	Min	-671.4	-298.8	-1272.7	-158.5	-266.6
	Max	47,630	16,589	2000	526.4	102.3
	Median	99.5	503.1	51.5	0.96	0
	Mode	-	41.9	-	0	0
	Standard deviation	7054.7	1965.8	579.6	112.9	62.1
Time overrun (%) <sup>*</sup>	Mean	63.7	64	10.4	9.5	-0.2
	Min	-28.6	-15	-10.7	-19	-11.2
	Max	401.7	261.9	66.7	60	25
	Median	32.7	40	0	0	0
	Mode	30.9	35.4	0	0	0
	Standard deviation	89.8	53.1	19.0	22.6	8.0
Time overrun (months) <sup>*</sup>	Mean	43.2	35.7	4.8	0.22	-0.2
	Min	-24	-9	24	-4	-5
	Max	241	149	-9	6	5
	Median	19.5	24	0	0	0
	Mode	12	17	0	0	0
	Standard deviation	58.4	30.6	8.9	2.4	2.1
Cost per installed kW (US\$)	Mean	3093.2	2427	1943.9	2808	8311.6
	Min	146.8	190.7	279	405.6	1773.5
	Max	10,359.5	13,260.1	5606.8	5793.7	27,180
	Median	2278.4	1776	1787.9	2459	7199.4
	Mode	-	960.2	-	2645.5	-
	Standard deviation	2516.1	1888.5	1163.9	1147.4	5099.7

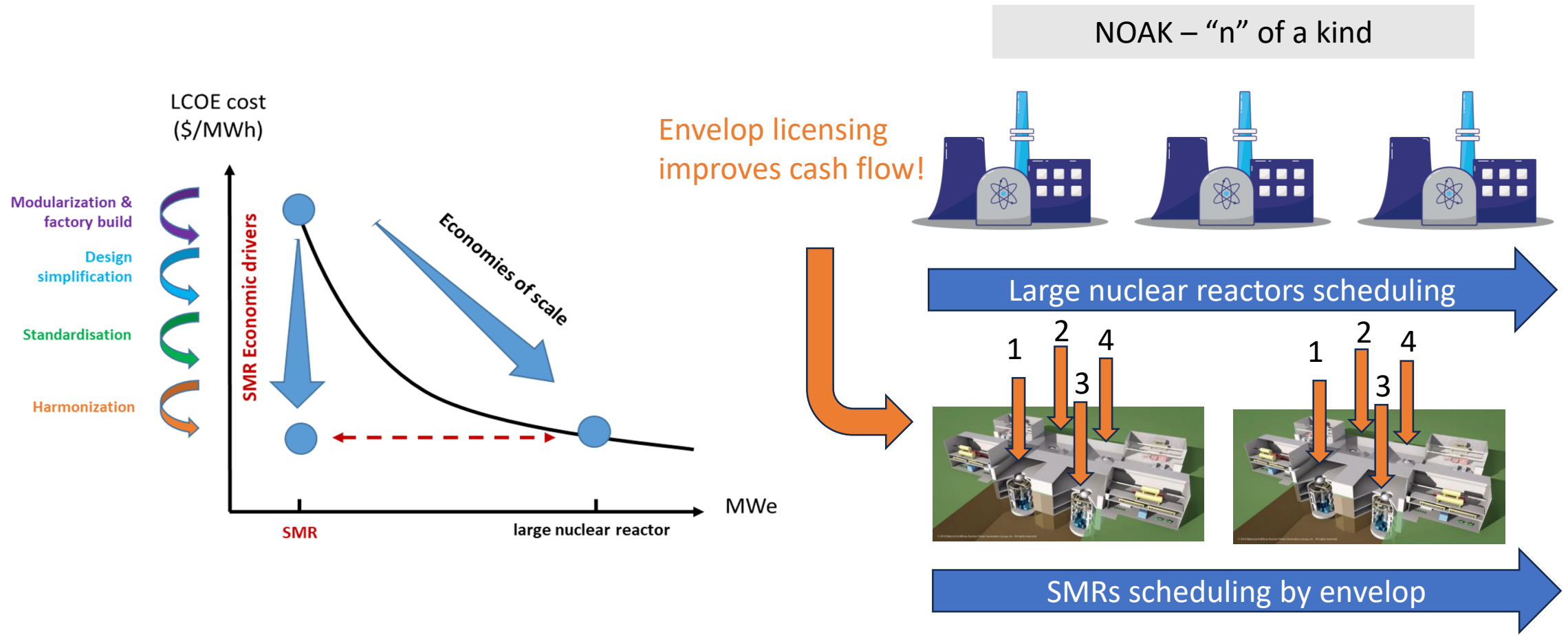
<sup>\*</sup> Applies only to a smaller subsample N=33 for hydro, 175 for nuclear, 24 for thermal, 18 for wind, 23 for solar. Source: Modified from Sovacool et al. (2014b).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421516301690/pdf?md5=215e9af8a66c1ea415522340598cbae1&pid=1-s2.0-S0301421516301690-main.pdf>

Complexity and diversity of projects and regression in the learning curve affected construction schedules and costs.  
FOAK (First of a Kind) vs NOAK (N-of a Kind)

# Overcoming challenges for nuclear in energy transition & net zero

## Scheduling, innovation & supply-chain: NOAK, standards & sectorial coupling



**NOAK: learning economies, scaling-up (standardization in manufacturing, building methods and synergies in siting & utilities), scope (electricity, capacity, industrial heat, carbon credits & low emission H2) and supply-chain**



# Overcoming challenges for nuclear in energy transition & net zero

## Do not underestimate supply-chain role for economics and stakeholders' engagement!

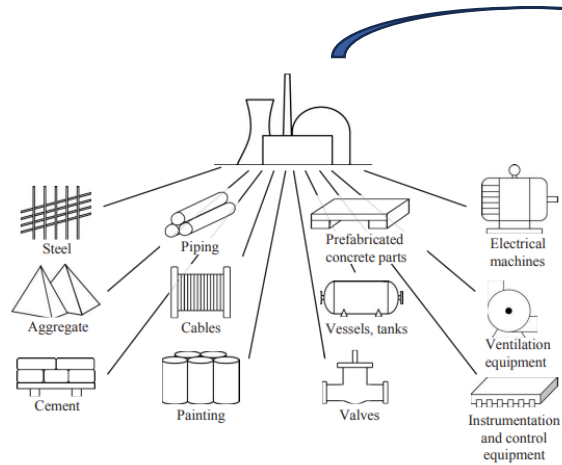
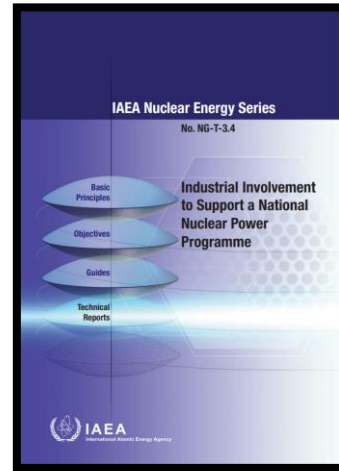
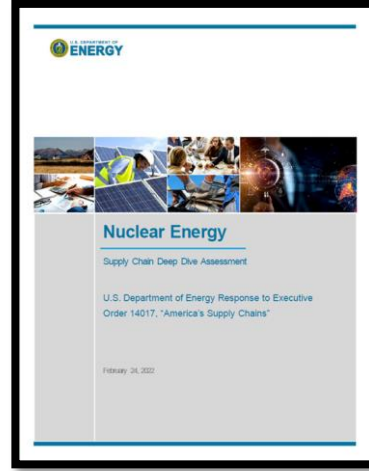


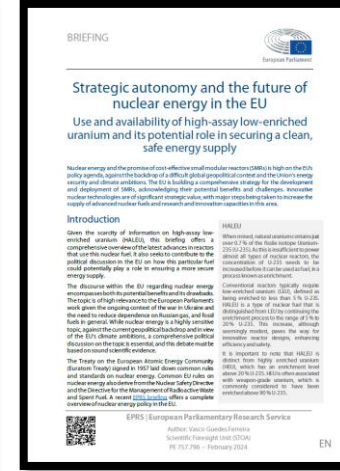
FIG. 7. Typical supplies of material and equipment [2].



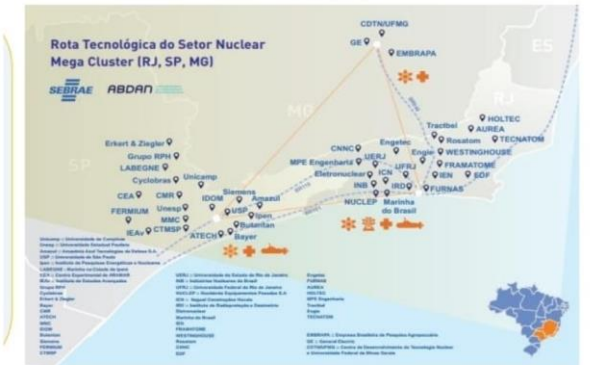
[P1703 web.pdf \(iaea.org\)](#)



[EERE Technical Report Template \(energy.gov\)](#)



[Strategic autonomy and the future of nuclear energy in the EU | Think Tank | European Parliament \(europa.eu\)](#)



CONSTRUÇÃO DE UMA REDE ORGANIZADA TRANSFORMAÇÃO DO AMBIENTE DE NEGÓCIOS E TERRITÓRIOS

IAEA (2016): National industrial involvement in emerging nuclear power States is one of the major areas of concern when developing a nuclear power programme. **Most States have an objective to increase national and local participation or to 'localize' those parts of industrial involvement** where national industries can cost effectively achieve these high standards.

DOE (2024): **The nuclear energy supply chain is vast and diverse** covering everything from uranium extraction and enrichment to general construction of buildings at a reactor site to the equipment and components required for operation. **The current supply chain is global** and relies on companies and materials located throughout the world.

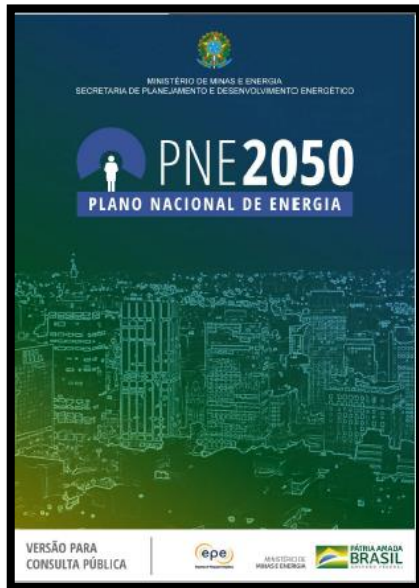
EU (2023): Acknowledges the **European nuclear fuel supply chain as a strategic asset** and recognises the important role it will play in supporting the evolution of the next generation of reactor technology; Emphasises that a **robust, capable and reliable EU-based supply chain is critical for the success of producing SMRs**; recalls that the EU remains dependent on imported uranium, which poses inherent risks for its strategic sovereignty and security of supply;

## Challenges on costs & construction time and opportunities for Small Modular Reactor

### PNE 2050 Nuclear Energy

#### Recommendations:

*To standardize projects to get scale and learning economies; To seek synergies in public policies;*



*After 2030, new projects may be based on PWR, SMR and fourth-generation reactor technologies, if the latter reach technological maturity and competitiveness.*



### Small Modular Reactor - SMR

#### Opportunities:

Standardization, simplicity, security & safety, construction time & cost reduction, flexibility of supply, etc.

#### Challenges:

Technological uncertainties, many reactor concepts being proposed, quite diverse range of technological alternatives, comparisons, etc.

IAEA Coordinated Research Project – CRP  
“Economic Assessment of the Potential for Small Modular Reactors on a National Level”

ABDAN Permanent Forum on SMR

USBEF Study on SMR

## Legislations & Resolutions



### 1988 Federal Constitution,

*Art. 21* The Union shall have the power to:  
*XXIII* – operate nuclear energy services and facilities of any nature and exercise state monopoly over research, mining, enrichment and reprocessing, industrialization and trade in nuclear ores and their by-products, taking into account the following principles and conditions:  
(...)

### *Art. 225*

§ 6º Power plants operated by nuclear reactor shall have their location defined in federal law and may not otherwise be installed.

### Law # 14,120/2021

Establish competences to CNPE regarding authorization of Angra III; electricity price must be approved by CNPE based on a study carried out by BNDES for Eletronuclear, considering feasibility, financial conditions and affordability to consumers (EPE will be heard); Stocks from INP and Nuclep will be transferred to Union, etc.

### CNPE Resolution nº 2, Feb, 10, 2021

Guidelines for energy R&DI public & public oriented funds to allocate resources in priority areas, which includes nuclear energy.

### Law # 14,222/2021

Establish the National Authority for Nuclear Safety – ANSN and its competences.

### Decree # 10,861/2021 [Law # 14,222/2021]

Associate the National Authority for Nuclear Safety – ANSN to the MME.

### Decree # 10,791/2021 [Law # 14,182/2021]

Establish the Brazilian Nuclear and Binational Energy Holding Company – ENBPar.

### CNPE Resolution nº 23, Oct, 20, 2021

Establish directives for defining energy price for Angra 3 Nuclear Power Plant.

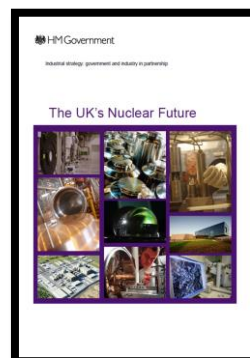
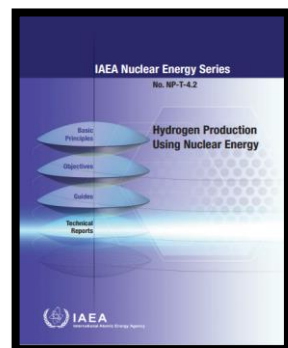
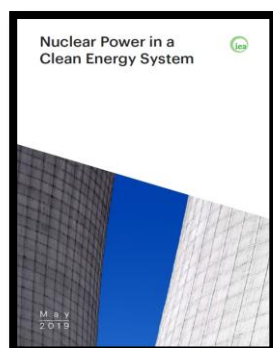
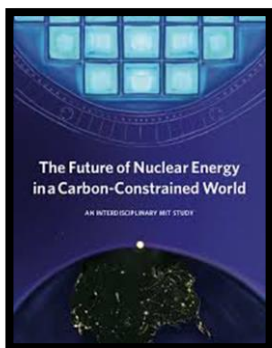
### Provisory Measure nº 1,133, Aug, 12, 2022

Relax the monopoly of INB on the exploration, mining, and sale of nuclear minerals, allowing for partnership with private companies.

# Nuclear energy will play a key role in the energy transition



## Energy security, system reliability, decarbonization, market coupling and spillovers



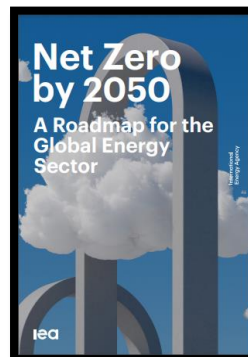
**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

**Net zero needs nuclear power.**

[IAEA Statement on Nuclear Power at COP28 | IAEA](#)

[At COP28, Countries Launch Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy Capacity by 2050, Recognizing the Key Role of Nuclear Energy in Reaching Net Zero](#)



*"We have a **viable alternative in nuclear** ... This is one of the ways in which we can achieve net-zero. **We don't get to net zero by 2050 without nuclear power in the mix.**"* In news conference at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt.  
**US Special Climate Envoy John Kerry**

*"Canada can be a world leader in this promising, innovative, zero-emissions energy technology, and this is our plan to position ourselves in an emerging global market. **There is no path to net-zero without nuclear power.**"*  
**Natural Resources Minister of Canada Seamus O'Regan**

*"So, from offshore wind, to **nuclear**, to a revolution in our energy infrastructure (...) We'll now have a more pragmatic, proportionate, and realistic approach that eases the burdens on families. **Pragmatism, not ideology.**"*  
**UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak**

*"One of the facts in that report is in my view very pertinent. **In order to reach energy and climate goals nuclear generation needs to double compared to today**"*  
**Fatih Birol – Executive Director of IEA**



# Nuclear energy in the 2050 Brazilian Energy Planning

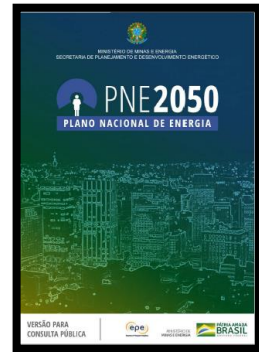


## Energy Plans indicate challenges and recommendations

At COP28, Countries Launch Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy Capacity by 2050, Recognizing the Key Role of Nuclear Energy in Reaching Net Zero



### PNE 2050 Nuclear Energy



### Main challenges:

Communication; improvements on institutional, legal and regulatory arrangements; implementing the National Nuclear Policy; Security & Safety; useful life and decommissioning of facilities; knowledge on related minerals resources.

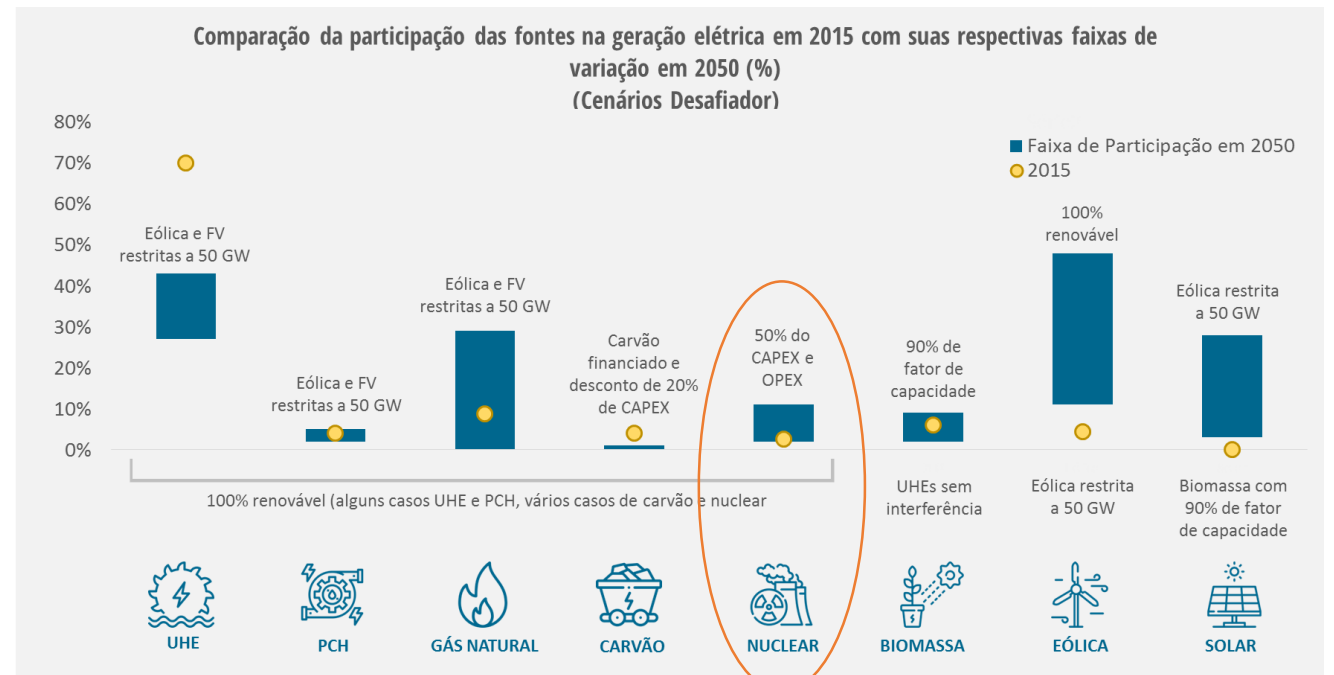
### Recommendations:

To enhance communications with Brazilian society; To improve regulation framework; To estimate benefits related to spillovers and economies of scope; To standardize projects to get scale and learning economies; To seek synergies in public policies; To assure good housekeeping of waste and used fuel; To improve culture on security and safety; To guarantee fuel supply; To evaluate implications of expanding useful life.

### Simulations for the Brazilian Power Market

Two basic cases for nuclear in 64 simulations:

1. Significant cost reductions (CAPEX and/or OPEX) for nuclear power plants
2. Public policy establishes nuclear power plants expansion of 8 GW to 10 GW by 2050



## Energy security, system reliability, decarbonization, market coupling and spillovers



<https://agenciagov.ebc.com.br/noticias/202311/alexandre-silveira-destaca-a-importancia-da-pluralidade-de-fontes-energeticas-do-pais-durante-evento-do-setor-nuclear>

*"Developing and adapting the wide range of low-carbon technologies to local realities is the great challenge of energy planning. This, in fact, is one of the main objectives of my tenure at the Ministry: to stimulate the plurality of sources, without technological lock-up and seeking the best energy costs for our population. We will foster a market that is always looking for new opportunities, helping the country to follow a path that focuses on energy transition and security.*

*We must keep a firm eye on ensuring the security of service, with a plan based on the supply of clean, cheap, safe and accessible energy for all. **And nuclear power is part of that scenario.** Because there is no universal recipe or a single set of technological solutions.*

*Building consensus is not easy. But it is what we pursue day and night, listening to everyone, dialoguing, acting with pragmatism and rationality. **And our development of the sector has shown that the mastery of nuclear activities and technologies can generate great advances for our country in the field of peaceful use.** We work to ensure that our actions are part of a broad spectrum of consistent energy policies, with an efficient energy transition, based on security, predictability and transparency.*

**Alexandre Silveira, Minister of Mines and Energy of Brazil**

*[Speech at Nuclear Legacy 2023, Brasilia - Brazil]*

# Brazil is seeking engagement of stakeholders, communication with civil society and International Cooperation on Nuclear



## Nuclear projects need wide consensus to increase social acceptability



[Lula recebe Macron em Brasília no último dia da visita do líder francês ao Brasil — Planalto \(www.gov.br\)](https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/assessoria-imprensa/comunicado/2024/01/10-1)



<https://veja.abril.com.br/coluna/radar/deputado-apresenta-plano-nuclear-brasileiro-na-franca/>



<https://agenciagov.ebc.com.br/noticias/202311/brasil-e-franca-avancam-em-dialogos-para-consolidar-parceria-no-campo-das-geociencias>

Presidents Lula and Macron signed key deals in 2024

Brazilian Congressman Julio Lopes in the World Nuclear Exhibition

President-Director of Geologic Survey of Brazil Inácio Melo in the WNE

### New Action Plan of the Brazil-France Strategic Partnership

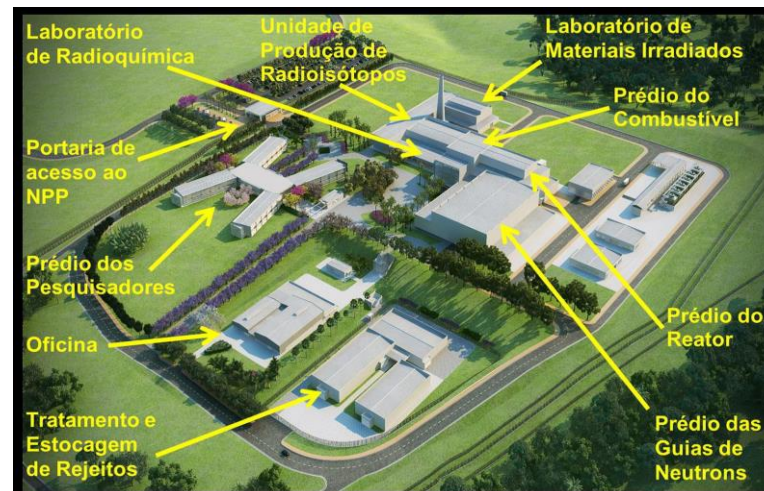
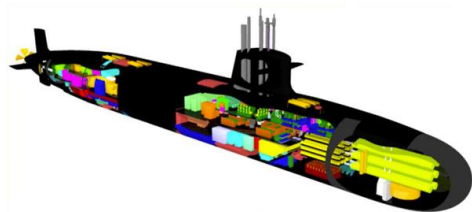
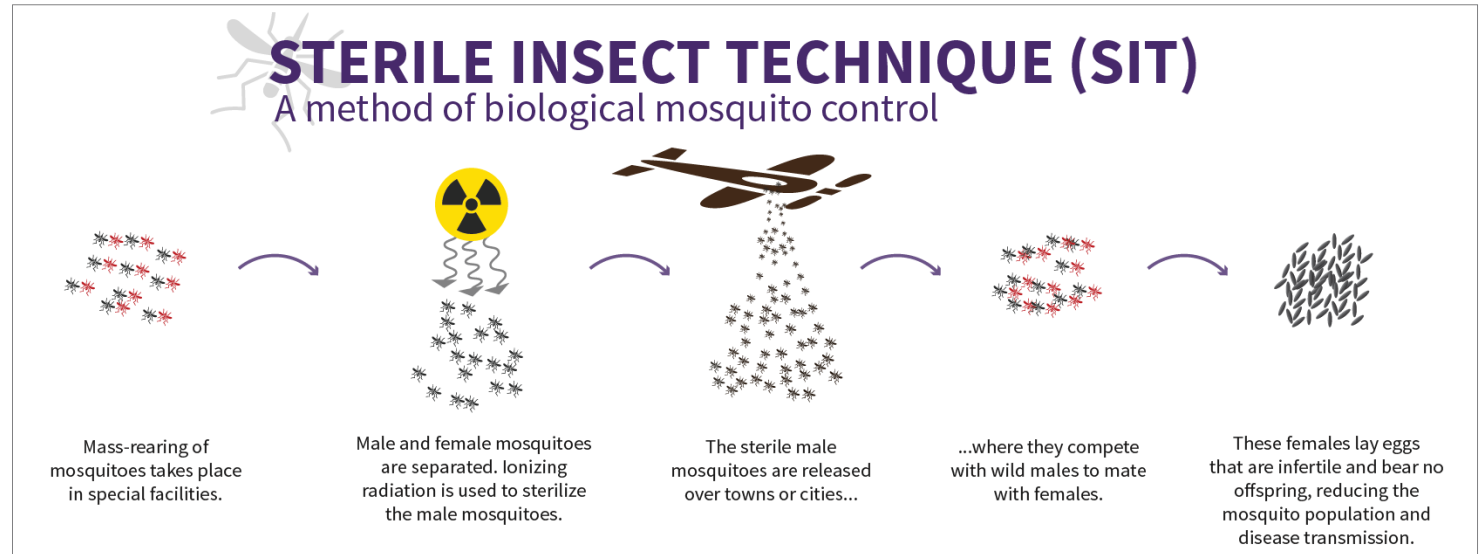
IX – Cooperation in energy and mining: 49. The two countries wish to deepen their cooperation in the areas of energy transition, notably civil nuclear energy, critical minerals, renewable energy sources, decarbonised hydrogen, electricity grids, energy efficiency, low-carbon transport as well as essential services of the sustainable city, notably in the areas of urban infrastructure, public-private partnerships and concessions low-carbon mobility).



# Nuclear industry & other uses: externalities & spillovers



## Food irradiation, nuclear medicine, defense, industrial heating, etc.





# Nuclear industry & other uses: sectorial coupling

## Heavy industrial, power in remote area, replacement of coal power plant, oil industry



Small modular reactors are designed to be factory-built then transported, as in this illustration. (Supplied: NuScale)

### Oilsands

Heat generation for oilsands production

### Heavy industry

Steam production for heavy industry through Canada's industrial heartland

### Remote communities and mines

Power generation for some 170 northern remote and Indigenous communities plus dozens of off-grid mining sites currently dependent on polluting, GHG generating diesel

### Conventional coal-fired power:

Replacement of 17 coal-fired power stations across the country that produce approximately 65 megatonnes of CO2 annually

CBC NEWS

Source: Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries



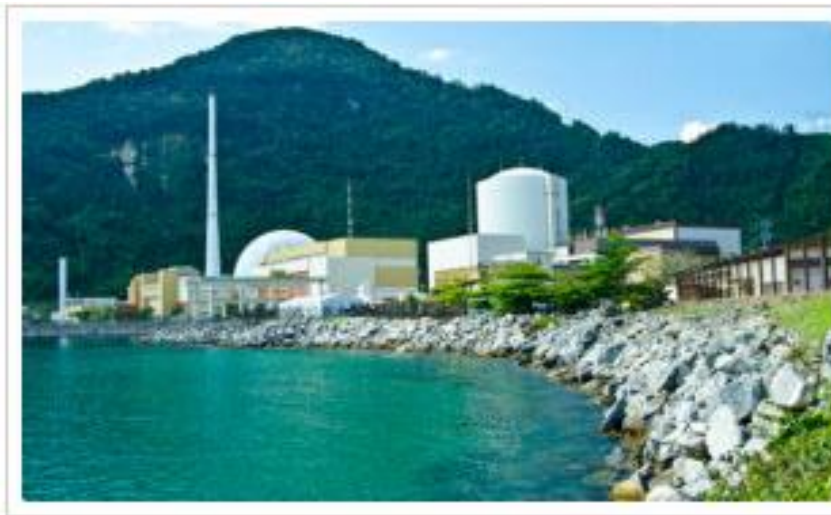
This illustration shows TerraPower's Wyoming project, which aims to retrofit an existing coal plant with a sodium fast reactor. TERRAPOWER

# Hydrogen production from nuclear in Brazil



## On-going projects ...

### Project in Angra Nuclear Complex by Eletronuclear



Eletronuclear plans to purify the hydrogen gas (currently at 96% concentration) produced in Angra I & II (potential 150-300 kg of H<sub>2</sub>/day, raising to 500 kg/day with Angra III in the future)

### Hydrogen separation facilities in Angra Nuclear Complex



Angra I



Angra II

The chlorination system was replaced from a process based on chlorine gas with on-site generation of sodium hypochlorite from seawater electrolysis. Hydrogen is a by-product currently vented to the atmosphere.

<https://inis.iaea.org/search/searchsinglerecord.aspx?recordsFor=SingleRecord&RN=30041651>

[Texts adopted - Small modular reactors - Tuesday, 12 December 2023 \(europa.eu\)](#) 8. Encourages the exploration of the potential use of SMRs for low-carbon hydrogen production, both for its direct use in industry, as well as for the production of sustainable synthetic fuels; recalls that vast amounts of new electricity capacity is needed to ensure the expected scale of hydrogen production required to decarbonise European industry, considering the predicted global expansion of hydrogen demand;



# Recent news on nuclear from Brazil



## Strategic Decisions

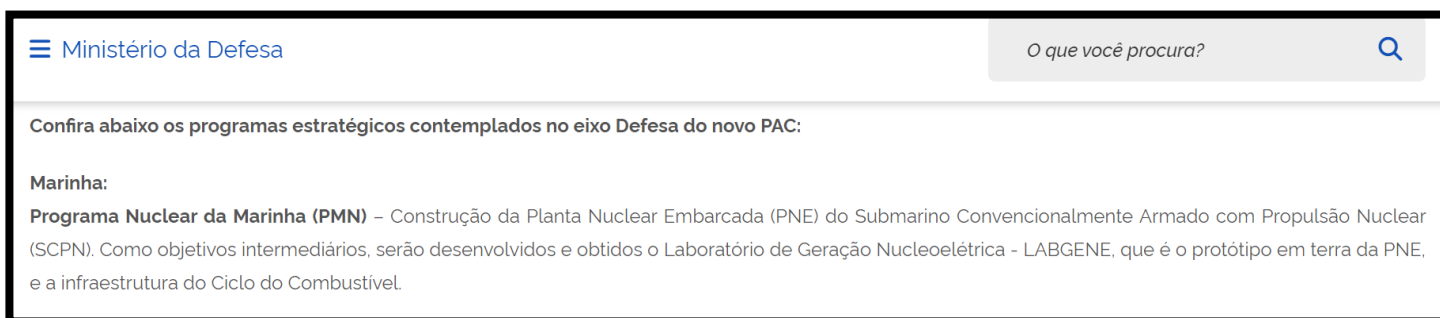


Jan 2023

Guidelines to select sites for new nuclear plants in Brazil



## Eletronuclear



Modalidades	Quantidade	Valor - R\$ Bilhões	Tipo
Térmica Nuclear	1	1,9	Estatal
Térmica a Gás	3	6,7	Privado
Térmica Renovável	2	2,1	Privado
Hidrelétrica	1	0,2	Privado
Eólicas	120	22,0	Privado
Fotovoltaicas	196	41,5	Privado
Pequenas Centrais Hidrelétricas	20	1,3	Privado
<b>TOTAIS</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>75,7</b>	

# Decree # 9,600/2018: the Brazilian Nuclear Policy



## Directives for the Brazilian Nuclear Policy

Art 1°. *The Brazilian Nuclear Policy has the purpose of guiding planning, actions and nuclear and radioactive activities in the homeland*, according to the national sovereignty, focusing on the development and on the protection of the human health and of the environment.

Art 5°. The objectives of the Brazilian Nuclear Policy are:

- I - preserve the domain of nuclear technology in the country;
- II - meet future decisions of the energy sector regarding the supply of clean and firm energy through the generation of nuclear power;
- IV - to promote the awareness of Brazilian society, in a transparent manner, regarding the benefits of the use of nuclear technology and the measures that allow its safe use;
- V - expand the medical use of nuclear technology as a tool to improve the health of the population;
- VIII - to foster research, development and innovation in nuclear technology;
- X - to promote research and prospecting for nuclear minerals in the country;
- XI - to encourage the domestic production of nuclear ores and their by-products, including those associated with other mineral goods, with a view to meeting domestic demand and exports;
- XIII - guarantee autonomy in the production of nuclear fuel, on an industrial scale and in all stages of its cycle, with a view to ensuring the supply of domestic demand;
- XIV - promote national self-sufficiency in the production and supply of radioisotopes and their export;
- XVII - stimulate technical, scientific and industrial training compatible with the needs of the nuclear sector;
- (...)



[D9600  
\(planalto.gov.br\)](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/decreto/2018/201800960001.htm)



- ✓ Nuclear role in energy transition
  - ✓ Energy security, system reliability, decarbonization and spillovers
  - ✓ Possibility of coupling to other markets (carbon market, industrial heat, hydrogen, etc.)
- ✓ Energy plans, legislations and CNPE resolutions are dealing with challenges for nuclear in Brazil
- ✓ Particularly, SMR brings new opportunities to nuclear industry
  - ✓ Standardization, simplicity, security & safety, construction time & cost reduction, flexibility of supply, etc.
  - ✓ Market coupling: electricity, industrial heat, hydrogen, carbon, etc.
- ✓ Nuclear-Hydrogen nexus improves economics of both!

**Engagement and communication still matter!**

Market pricing usually does not value externalities and spillovers, but total value might be estimated:  
**Total value of nuclear (benefits) = value of use + value of option + value of precaution + value of synergy**

**Mathematical expression of Decree 9,600/2018**



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Thank you!