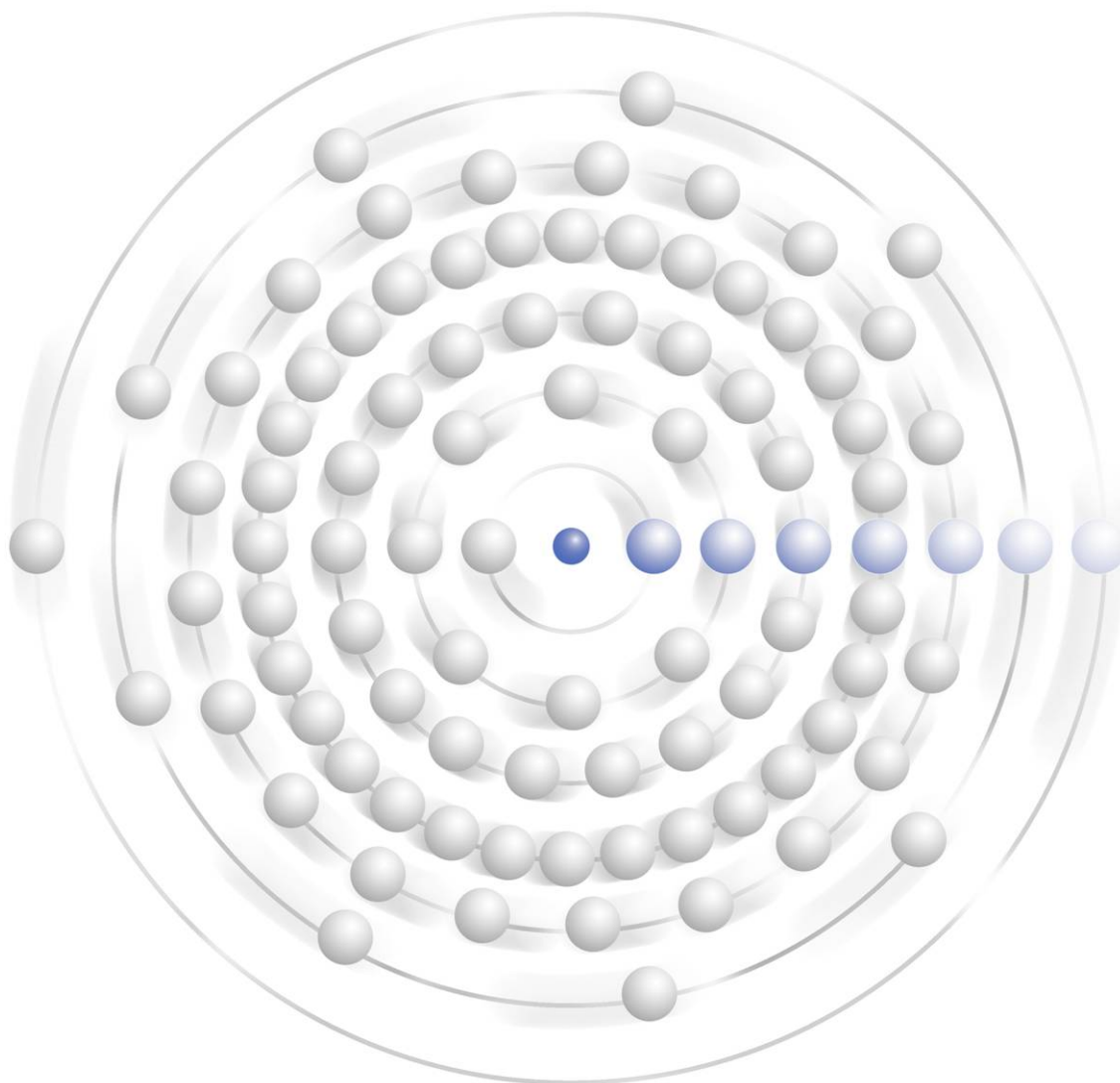


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# Nuclear Reactor Technology Assessments

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## Table of Contents



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# Table of Contents

<b>1 – Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
Why Buy this Report .....	8
Structure of Report.....	8
<b>2 – Nuclear Reactor Overview</b>	<b>10</b>
Evolution of Reactor Technologies .....	10
• Generation III and III+ Reactors.....	11
• Reactor Licensing .....	12
Design Commonalities .....	13
Useful Terminology and Definitions .....	15
• Moderator.....	15
• Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) .....	15
• Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR).....	16
• Heavy Water Reactors.....	17
• High Temperature Reactors (HTRs).....	17
• Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) .....	18
• Station Blackout.....	18
Active versus Passive Safety Systems .....	19
• Regulatory Framework.....	19
• Technical Framework.....	20
Overview of Reactor Economics.....	21
• Nuclear Plant Construction Costs .....	21
• Latest New Reactor Market Data.....	22
Review of Recent Reactor Contracts.....	22
Review of Latest Overnight Reactor Cost Estimates .....	23
• Construction Cost Escalation.....	25
Commodity & Other Price Uncertainty.....	25
Labor Variation & Limitations.....	26
Labor Qualification Issues .....	27
Supply Chain Bottlenecks.....	27
• Long Term Economic Concerns .....	28
Nuclear Fuel Considerations.....	30
<b>3 – Individual Reactor Discussions</b>	<b>32</b>
Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR).....	32
• ABWR Background.....	32
• ABWR Design Overview.....	33
• Key Design Features .....	33
Fine Motion Control Rod Drives.....	33
Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems.....	34
Multiplexing and Fiber Optics .....	34
Control Room Design & Plant Layout Optimization .....	34
Internal Recirculation System .....	35
Simplified Active Safety Systems .....	35
Improved Station Blackout (SBO) Resistance .....	35
Passive Safety Features.....	35
Refueling Outage Length.....	36
• Economics .....	36
• Regulatory Status .....	36
Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) .....	37
• ESBWR Background.....	37
• ESBWR Design Overview.....	38
• Key Design Features .....	38
Natural Circulation .....	38
Fine Motion Control Rod Drives.....	38
Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems.....	39
Multiplexing, Fiber Optics, Control Room & Plant Layout.....	39

- Increased Cooling in case of Loss of Coolant Accident .....39
- Explosive Actuated Depressurization Valves .....39
- Containment Simplifications .....39
- Economics.....40
- Regulatory Status.....40
- Advanced Passive 1000 (AP1000).....41
- AP1000 Background .....41
- AP1000 Design Overview .....41
- Key Design Features.....42
  - Passive Safety Systems.....42
  - Decay Heat Natural Circulation Cooling .....42
  - Fine Motion Control Rod Drives .....43
  - Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems.....43
  - Steam Generator Design .....43
  - Performance in case of Loss of Coolant Accident.....44
  - Plant Layout .....44
  - Containment.....44
- Economics.....45
- Regulatory Status.....45
- Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) .....46
- EPR Background.....46
- EPR Design Overview.....46
- Key Design Features.....47
  - Active Safety Features .....47
  - Hybrid Passive Safety Feature.....48
  - Plant Layout .....48
  - Control Rod Drive Mechanism .....48
  - Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems.....48
  - Core Catcher.....49
  - Containment.....49
  - Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV).....49
  - Reactor Coolant Pumps & Piping.....49
  - Steam Generators.....50
- Economics.....50
- Regulatory Status.....50
- Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (APWR) .....51
- APWR Background .....51
- APWR Design Overview .....51
- Key Design Features.....52
  - Plant Layout .....52
  - Active and Passive Safety Features.....52
  - Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems.....53
  - Core Features .....53
  - Core Catcher.....53
  - Steam Generator and Turbine Generator Features .....53
  - Containment Features.....54
  - Advanced Accumulators .....54
  - Emergency Power Source Gas Turbine Electric Generator .....55
- Economics.....55
- Regulatory Status.....55
- ATMEA 1 .....56
- ATMEA 1 Background.....56
- ATMEA 1 Design Overview.....56
- Key Design Features.....57
  - Core Catcher & Core Features.....57
  - Plant Layout .....57
  - Active Safety Features .....57
  - Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) .....57
  - Containment Features.....57
  - Advanced Accumulators .....57
- Economics.....57
- Regulatory Status.....57

Optimized Power Reactor 1000 (OPR-1000)	58
• OPR-1000 Background	58
• OPR-1000 Design Overview	58
• Key Design Features	59
General Features	59
Core Features	59
Fuel Spacer Grid Optimization	59
Digital I&C Core Protection System	59
Plant Layout	60
Optimized Turbine Generator	60
• Economics	60
• Regulatory Status	60
Advanced Power Reactor 1400 (APR-1400)	61
• APR-1400 Background	61
• APR-1400 Design Overview	61
• Key Design Features	62
Plant Layout	62
Higher Performance Pressurizer	62
Improved and Increased Reactor Coolant Pumps Capacity	62
Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems	63
Turbine Generator System	63
Active Safety Features	63
• Economics	64
• Regulatory Status	64
Vodno-Vodyanoi Energetichesky Reactor 1000 (VVER-1000)	65
• Advanced VVER Background	65
• VVER-1000 Design Overview	66
• Key Design Features	66
Horizontal Heat Exchanger	67
In-core Debris cooling	67
Vodno-Vodyanoi Energetichesky Reactor 1200 (AES-2006)	68
• VVER-1200 Design Overview	68
• Key Design Features	68
Natural Circulation Decay Heat Removal	69
Double Containment and Special Annulus Ventilation System – Passive Safety Feature	69
Passive 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage Safety Injection Accumulators	69
Corium Catcher	69
Control Rod Drive Head Package	69
• Economics	70
• Regulatory Status	70
Advanced CANDU Reactor 1000 (ACR-1000)	71
• ACR-1000 Background	71
• ACR-1000 Design Overview	72
• Key Design Features	72
Plant Layout	72
Containment and Passive Features	73
Heavy Water Moderated, Light Water Cooled	73
Core Optimization	73
Simpler Core Control Systems	74
Digital Instrumentation & Control (I&C) Systems	74
• Economics	74
• Regulatory Status	74
Pebble-Bed Modular Reactors	75
• PBMR Background	75
• PBMR Design Overview	76
• Economics	77
• Regulatory Status	77
High Temperature Reactors	78
• HTR Background & Overview	78
• Economics	79

- Regulatory Status..... 79
- Fast Breeder Reactors ..... 80
  - FBR Background & Overview ..... 81
  - Economics..... 82
  - Regulatory Status..... 82
- 4 – Reactor Comparisons: Pros & Cons ..... 83**
- Comparative Matrix of Reactor Data ..... 83
- Ratings of Individual Reactor Designs ..... 85
  - Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) ..... 86
    - Pros..... 86
    - Cons..... 86
  - Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) ..... 87
    - Pros..... 87
    - Cons..... 87
  - Advanced Passive 1000 (AP1000) ..... 88
    - Pros..... 88
    - Cons..... 88
  - Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR)..... 89
    - Pros..... 89
    - Cons..... 89
  - Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (APWR)..... 90
    - Pros..... 90
    - Cons..... 90
  - ATMEA 1 ..... 91
    - Pros..... 91
    - Cons..... 91
  - Optimized Power Reactor 1000 (OPR-1000)..... 92
    - Pros..... 92
    - Cons..... 92
  - Advanced Power Reactor 1400 (APR-1400) ..... 93
    - Pros..... 93
    - Cons..... 93
  - VVER-1000 ..... 94
    - Pros..... 94
    - Cons..... 94
  - VVER-1200 (AES-2006) ..... 95
    - Pros..... 95
    - Cons..... 95
  - Advanced CANDU Reactor (ACR-1000)..... 96
    - Pros..... 96
    - Cons..... 96
  - Pebble-Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) ..... 97
    - Pros..... 97
    - Cons..... 97
  - High Temperature Reactors (HTR) ..... 98
    - Pros..... 98
    - Cons..... 98
  - Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) ..... 99
    - Pros..... 99
    - Cons..... 99
- Comparative Ratings..... 100
- 5 – Additional Thoughts on Reactor Deployment ..... 101**
- 6 – Summary and Conclusions ..... 103**
- Appendix 1 – Worldwide Reactors Under or Near Construction ..... 104**

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Evolution of Nuclear Reactor Generations.....	11
Figure 2. Boiling Water Reactor Graphical Depiction.....	15
Figure 3. Pressurized Water Reactor Graphical Depiction.....	16
Figure 4. Global Construction Cost Component Escalation.....	25
Figure 5. Electric Power Project Construction Cost Escalation.....	26
Figure 6. U.S. Nuclear Industry Workforce By Age.....	27
Figure 7. Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) by GE-Hitachi or Toshiba.....	32
Figure 8. Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) by GE-Hitachi.....	37
Figure 9. BWR to ESBWR Evolutionary Steps.....	37
Figure 10. Advanced Passive 1000 (AP1000) by Westinghouse.....	41
Figure 11. AP1000 Reactor Cooling and Passive Core Cooling Systems.....	43
Figure 12. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) by AREVA.....	46
Figure 13. EPR Key Features.....	47
Figure 14. Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (APWR) by MHI.....	51
Figure 15. APWR Safety Features.....	52
Figure 16. APWR High Efficiency Turbine Generator System.....	54
Figure 17. APWR Advanced Accumulators.....	54
Figure 18. ATMEA 1 by AREVA and MHI.....	56
Figure 19. OPR-1000 by Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power.....	58
Figure 20. OPR-1000 Optimized Turbine-Generator.....	60
Figure 21. APR-1400 by Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power.....	61
Figure 22. APR-1400 Safety Features.....	63
Figure 23. VVER-1000.....	65
Figure 24. VVER-1000 Reactor Pressure Vessel In-core Debris Cooling.....	67
Figure 25. VVER-1200.....	68
Figure 26. VVER-1200 Horizontal Steam Generator Configuration.....	69
Figure 27. ACR-1000 by AECL.....	71
Figure 28. ACR-1000 Cooling Make-Up Water Reservoirs.....	73
Figure 29. Pebble Bed Reactor at Tsinghua University in China.....	75
Figure 30. PBMR as Envisioned in South Africa.....	75
Figure 31. Uranium Fuel Pebbles used in PBMRs.....	76
Figure 32. Very High Temperature Reactor.....	78
Figure 33. Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor.....	80
Figure 34. Lead-Cooled Fast Reactor.....	80

## List of Tables

Table 1. Recent Nuclear Reactor Contracts.....	22
Table 2. Latest Reactor Cost Estimates.....	23
Table 3. FPL Turkey Point Cost Estimates for 2 AP1000s.....	24
Table 4. Comparative Reactor Data Matrix.....	84
Table 5. ABWR Rating.....	86
Table 6. ESBWR Rating.....	87
Table 7. AP1000 Rating.....	88
Table 8. EPR Rating.....	89
Table 9. APWR Rating.....	90
Table 10. ATMEA 1 Rating.....	91
Table 11. OPR-1000 Rating.....	92
Table 12. APR-1400 Rating.....	93
Table 13. VVER-1000 Rating.....	94
Table 14. VVER-1200 Rating.....	95
Table 15. ACR-1000 Rating.....	96
Table 16. PBMR Rating.....	97
Table 17. HTR Rating.....	98
Table 18. FBR Rating.....	99
Table 19. Comparative Ratings for All Reactor Designs.....	100
Table 20. Worldwide Reactors Under or Near Construction (start-up by 2016).....	104



# 1 – Introduction

The Ux Consulting Company (UxC) has prepared this special report in order to provide nuclear reactor technology assessments and overall evaluations of the major reactor designs currently available in the world. Our evaluations are based on a number of crucial factors, but the major focus is the technical pros and cons of each of the reactor designs themselves. Additional considerations, such as economic factors and regulatory licensing issues are also evaluated, providing for a comprehensive assessment of the reactor designs. As a third-party, unbiased observer of the reactor technology market, UxC's analysis should be viewed as completely impartial and based on our expert technical and commercial knowledge within the nuclear industry. As the saying goes, we have no dogs in this fight.

The decision on which reactor design to pursue is an extremely important one and must be based on many factors, such as the robustness of the technology, the constructability of the plant, the plant economics – both initial and operating, the type of fuel used, the ability to license and regulate, among a variety of other considerations. This special report's main objective is to provide technical, economic and other commercial assessments of the leading light water reactor (LWR) and heavy water reactor (HWR) designs as well as some of the more advanced reactor concepts, such as pebble-bed modular reactors (PBMR), high temperature reactors (HTR) and fast breeder reactors (FBR). Each reactor technology is discussed both on an individual level as well as through a comparative matrix of pros and cons. Additional thoughts on what issues to consider when choosing a reactor design in the context of specific energy or commercial situations are also provided.

As this report presents an overview of all the leading reactor technologies, it is not intended to focus on every possible detail related to each of the designs. Still, through UxC's analysis, the reader should be able to obtain a reasonably complete understanding of the positive and negative characteristics of each of the designs under discussion. However, given the broad scope and nature of this current report project, it is simply not possible to analyze all of the specifics of each design. Therefore, for any entity that is seriously involved in developing a nuclear power plant, it may be highly advisable to consider follow-on analyses that take the four to six designs of most interest and delve much more deeply into all the issues surrounding the chosen reactor designs.

Ultimately, the analysis and conclusions included in this report are intended to provide an overall picture of the current status of reactor technology and a roadmap for how best to evaluate each of the available designs.

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## Why Buy this Report

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We believe there are likely numerous potential uses for the information contained in this study. Some logical examples include:

- For any nation considering a commercial nuclear power program, these assessments should help in evaluating the global offering of different reactors.
- For an electric power utility looking to develop a nuclear power plant, the decision of to choose the best fitting reactor design is paramount, and this study should help in that process.
- For those in the financial community considering investments within the nuclear power industry, these reactor assessments can offer crucial perspectives on which companies may be the winners in the global reactor race.
- For nuclear fuel and reactor service suppliers, the future direction of their industry sectors depends greatly on which technologies take the lead. The information in this study may be highly useful in developing appropriate market strategies.
- For government agencies and research organizations looking at the longer term potential of nuclear power, these reactor evaluations should help in providing thoughts on what technologies are best suited for the future.

Thus, we believe this report has broad appeal and can be adapted to a great number of specific uses. In addition, as discussed above, since this is a generalized overview of the majority of the major reactor technologies in the world today, this report may lead the reader to additional questions that had not been considered before.

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## Structure of Report

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As described, this special report aims to provide UxC's technical and commercial analyses on the available nuclear reactor technology in the world. The report has the following structure:

In **Chapter 2 – Nuclear Reactor Overview** we examine some of the generic issues related to reactor technologies. This includes the evaluation of costs, the various design commonalities and specific technical characteristics that differentiate these reactors.

**Chapter 3 – Individual Reactor Discussions** offers detailed descriptions and analyses of each of the leading reactor designs. A total of ten individual commercial reactor designs as well as three types of advanced reactor technologies are discussed separately. The reactors are discussed based on their unique technological characteristics, economics, and regulatory status.

UxC next provides a comprehensive numerical rating for each of the reactor designs in **Chapter 4 – Reactor Comparisons: Pros & Cons**, which takes a comparative view of the different designs and presents UxC's overall ratings of each of them.

In **Chapter 5 – Additional Thoughts on Reactor Deployment**, we focus on some of the key parameters of the reactor designs that may impact their ability to be deployed by a country or company. Although UxC cannot divine the specific characteristics of each potential user of this information, the point of this chapter is to raise some key questions about each of the reactor designs when considering their deployment in a specific country or by a specific company.

**Chapter 6 – Summary and Conclusions** wraps up this report with some final thoughts on reactor assessments and ideas for next steps on detailed reactor analyses.

Some additional supporting evidence is also provided in the **Appendix** attached at the end of this report.