

# Status of PBMR Process Heat Plant Project

Presented by Mr. Willem Kriel - PBMR (Pty) Ltd.



***“The South African PBMR technology will become the world's first successful commercial Generation IV reactor. It offers an enormous potential to expand the use of nuclear energy both in the electrical generation sector and the process heat sector”.***

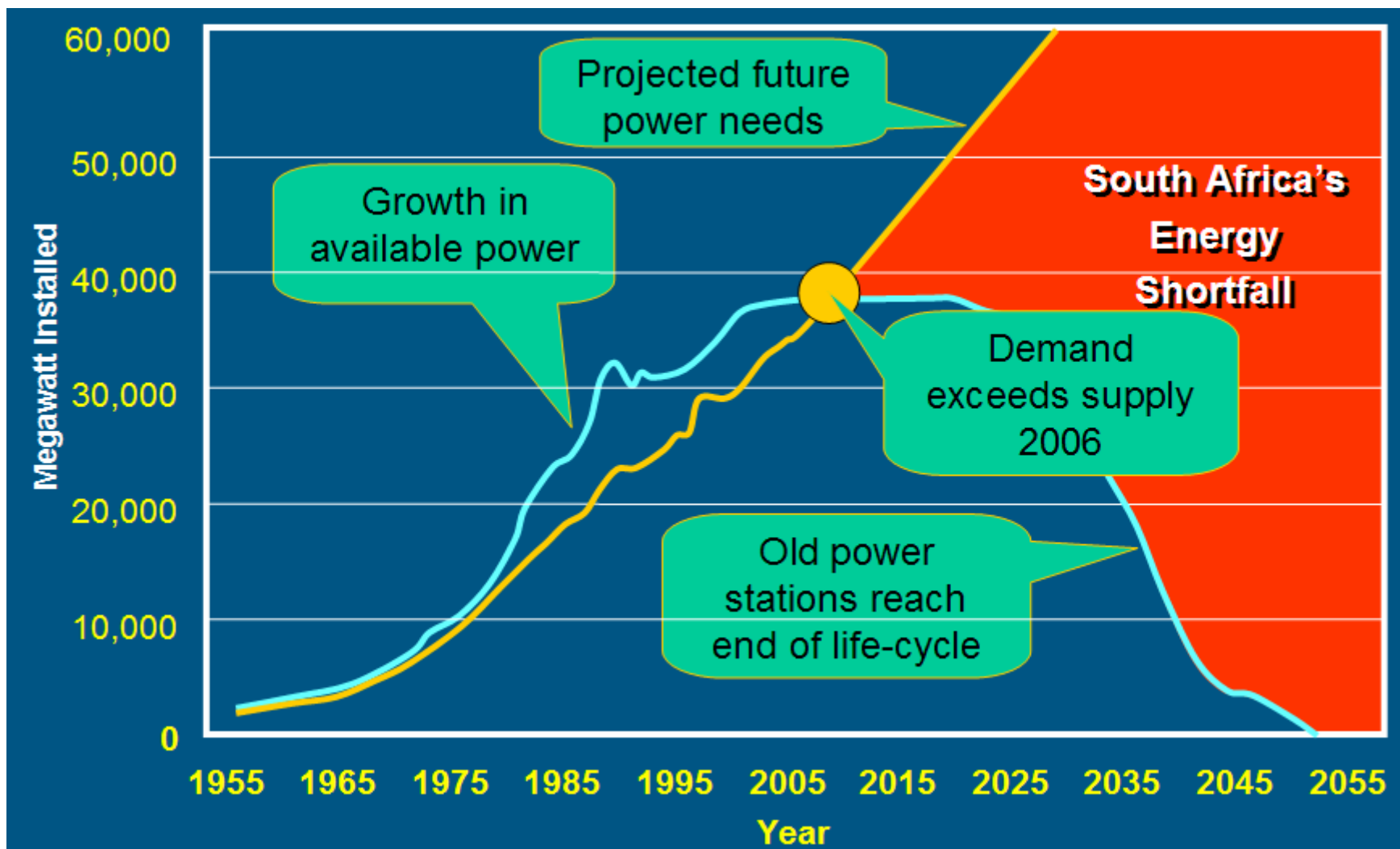




# Africa Needs Energy

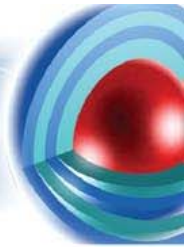


# SA Needs Energy Now





## A Perfect Fit

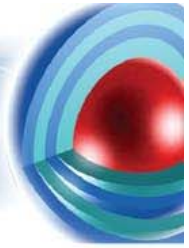


*The challenges facing the energy industry in Africa & internationally are to find sources that are **accessible, reliable, affordable, proliferation resistant, safe and environmentally friendly.***

*The PBMR adheres to all these requirements.*



# Window of Opportunity



A **Window of Opportunity** for South Africa arose with the decision in Germany to discontinue the HTR development work in 1989.

Although there are other HTR designs, PBMR is regarded as the **most advanced** High Temperature Reactor in the world.

PBMR will be the first commercial scale **Generation IV reactor** to be deployed – 10 years ahead of the anticipated development period.





# Beyond Electricity



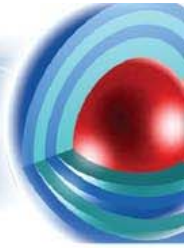
- Electricity generation
  - where smaller incremental market conditions prevail, including limited financing, transmission or cooling water resources
- Process heat applications
  - for a range of applications needing process temperatures up to 950°C, with options for co-generation



***“The South African Government is treating the very ambitious, but very important Pebble Bed Modular reactor project with a great deal of seriousness”***

*Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka  
Deputy President of South Africa*





“Government wants to produce between **4 000MW – 5 000MW** of power from pebble bed reactors in South Africa. We firmly believe that the PBMR will place the country at the forefront of energy technology.”

*Alec Erwin,  
South Africa's Minister of Public  
Enterprises*



# Demonstration Power Plant



PBMR identified as a **National Strategic Project** during Finance Minister's Budget speech





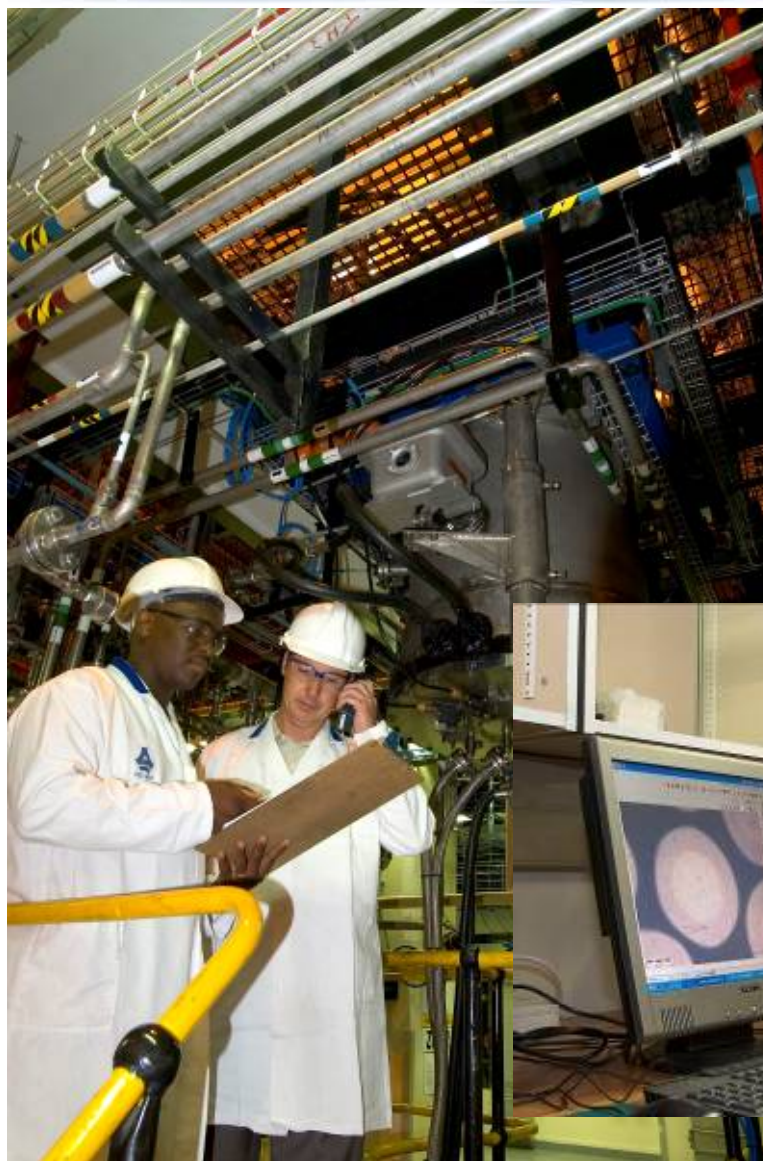


# Personnel



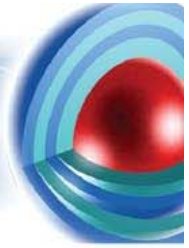
Staff of over 700.

~ 2000 people involved  
in project



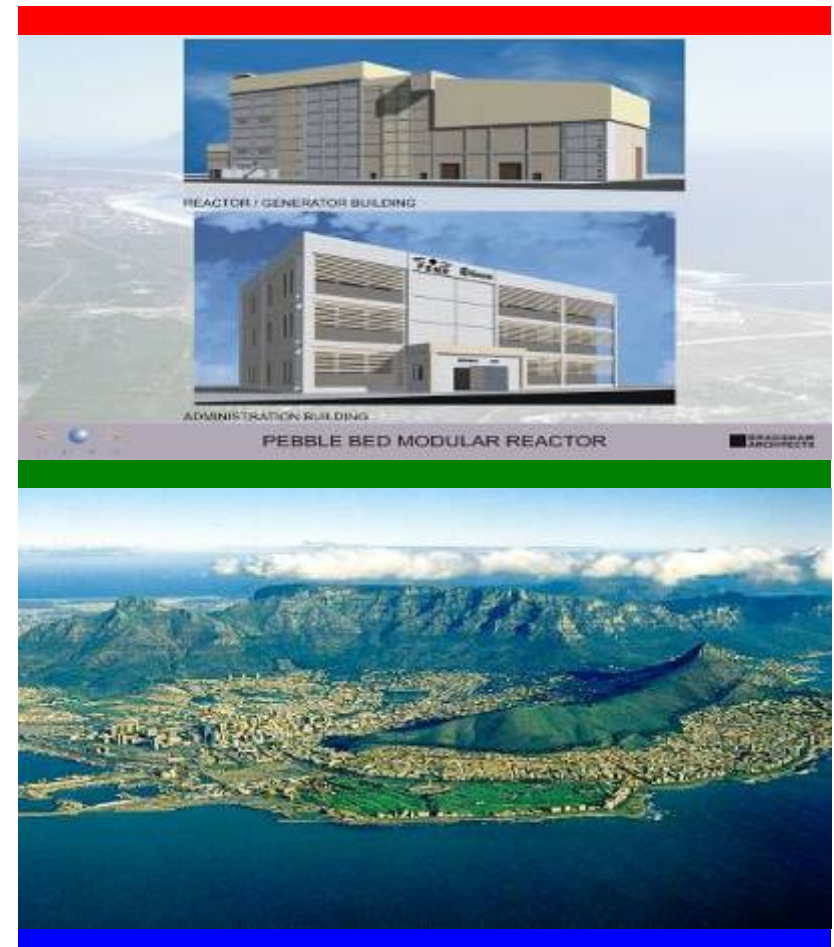


# PBMR Koeberg Site



## ● Mission

- To build a commercial size (165 MWe) Demonstration Power Plant near Cape Town by 2012
- To build a Pilot Fuel Plant near Pretoria

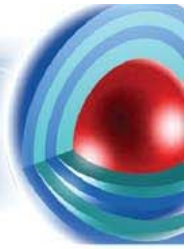


**This project has been identified as a National Strategic Project by the South African Government**

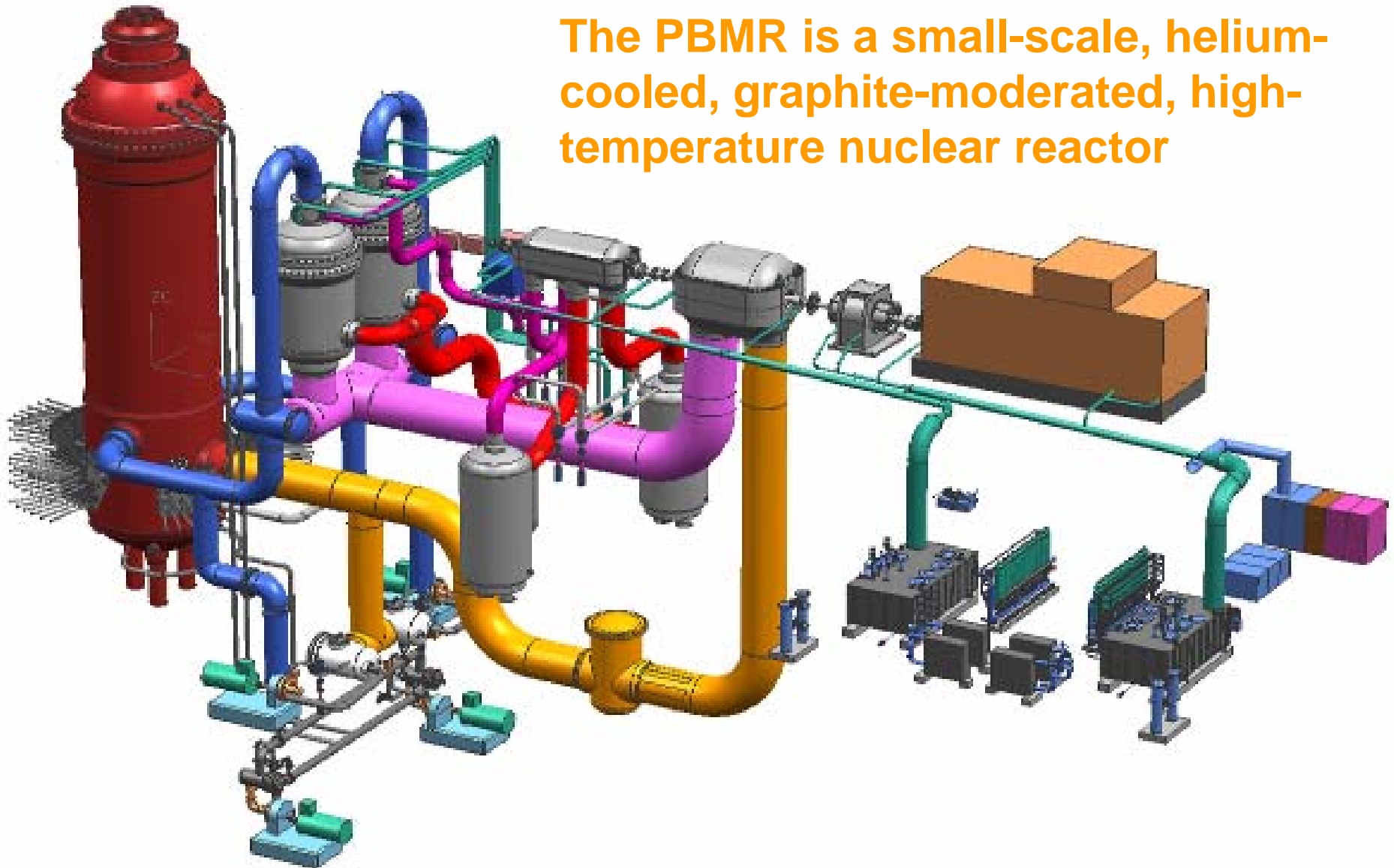




# What is the PBMR?



The PBMR is a small-scale, helium-cooled, graphite-moderated, high-temperature nuclear reactor







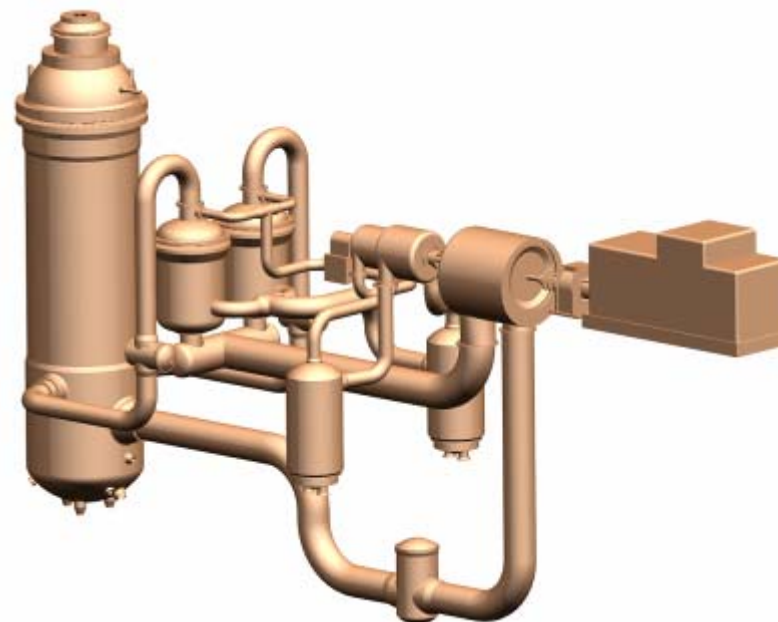




# Demonstration Power Plant Status



- Detailed design and procurement underway with international supply team
- Extensive test programs underway
- Construction scheduled 2009; with operation 2013
- South African utility Eskom issued a Letter of Intent for follow-on electric plants
- Dedicated PBMR organization and support for process heat market



Koeberg Site





## Investors in PBMR (Pty) Ltd.



- South African Government
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa
- Eskom (National Utility)
- Westinghouse



Eskom





# Advantages for South Africa



- **Skills development and job creation (56 000 local jobs)**
- **Locally controlled technology**
- **Limiting foreign exchange exposure**
- **Potentially adding value to own uranium**
- **Power stations sited close to demand**
- **Industrial development and localization**
- **Contribution to clean and safe energy**
- **Security of energy supply**





Safest  
nuclear  
fuel in the  
world



**Cast**



**Aged**



**Dried**



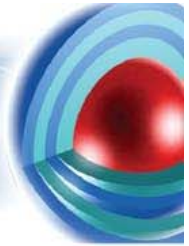
**Calcined**



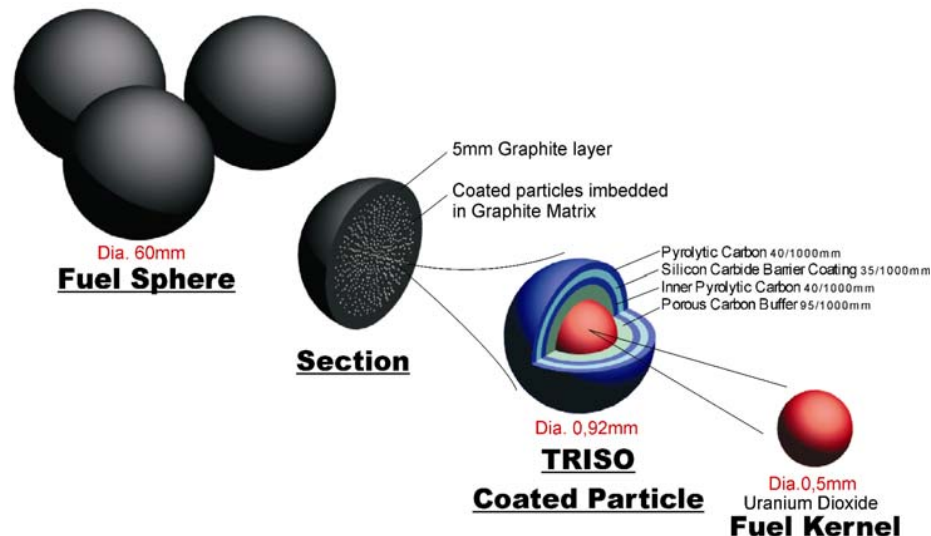
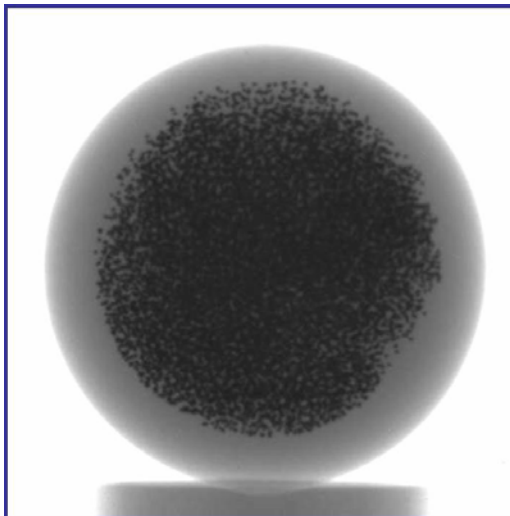
**Sintered**



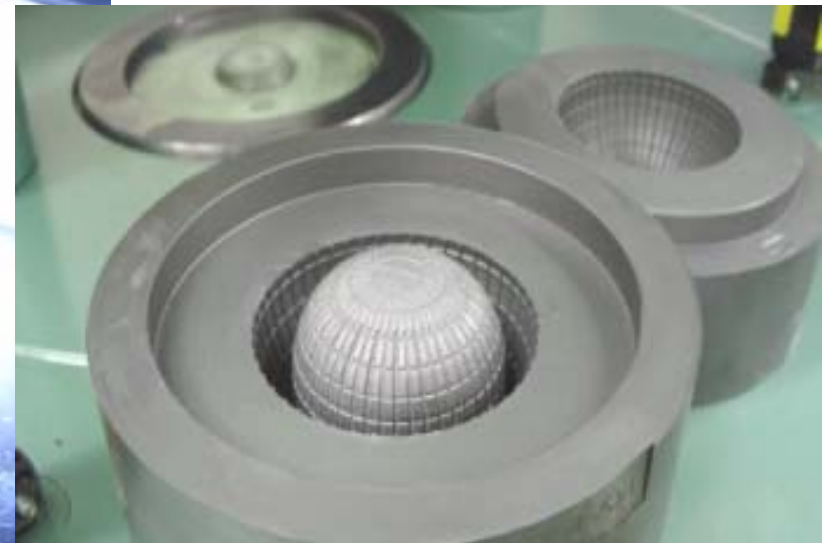
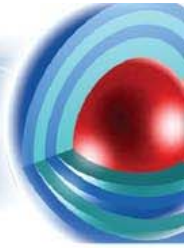
# Passive Safety



- Ceramic-coated fuel particles provide primary radionuclide barrier
- Helium gas is a single phase coolant and both chemically and radiologically inert
- Radionuclide retention within fuel assured through passive safety design with inherent characteristics
- Low power density and large thermal capacity ensures slow core transient behavior







# The Power of the Pebble



**1 pebble**  
**(9g of 9.6% enriched uranium)**



**5.76 tons of coal**



**1.5 to 2.5 tons of ash**



**21 tons of CO<sup>2</sup>**



# The Power of the Pebble

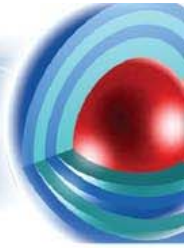


- One Pebble (11.5MWh) can:
  - Power 115 000x100W light bulbs for 1 hour
  - Power one 60W light bulbs, burning 12 hours per day, for 43 years





# PBMR Features



- **Inherent Safety (design rules out a core melt)**
- **Distributed generation due to small size**
- **Modularity (additional modules can be added)**
- **Low impact on the environment**
- **Lower capital cost during construction**
- **Smaller capital cost increments**
- **Small emergency planning zone**
- **High efficiency (> 41%)**
- **Short construction times**
- **Load following**
- **On-load refueling**
- **Low proliferation risk**







# Safety Features

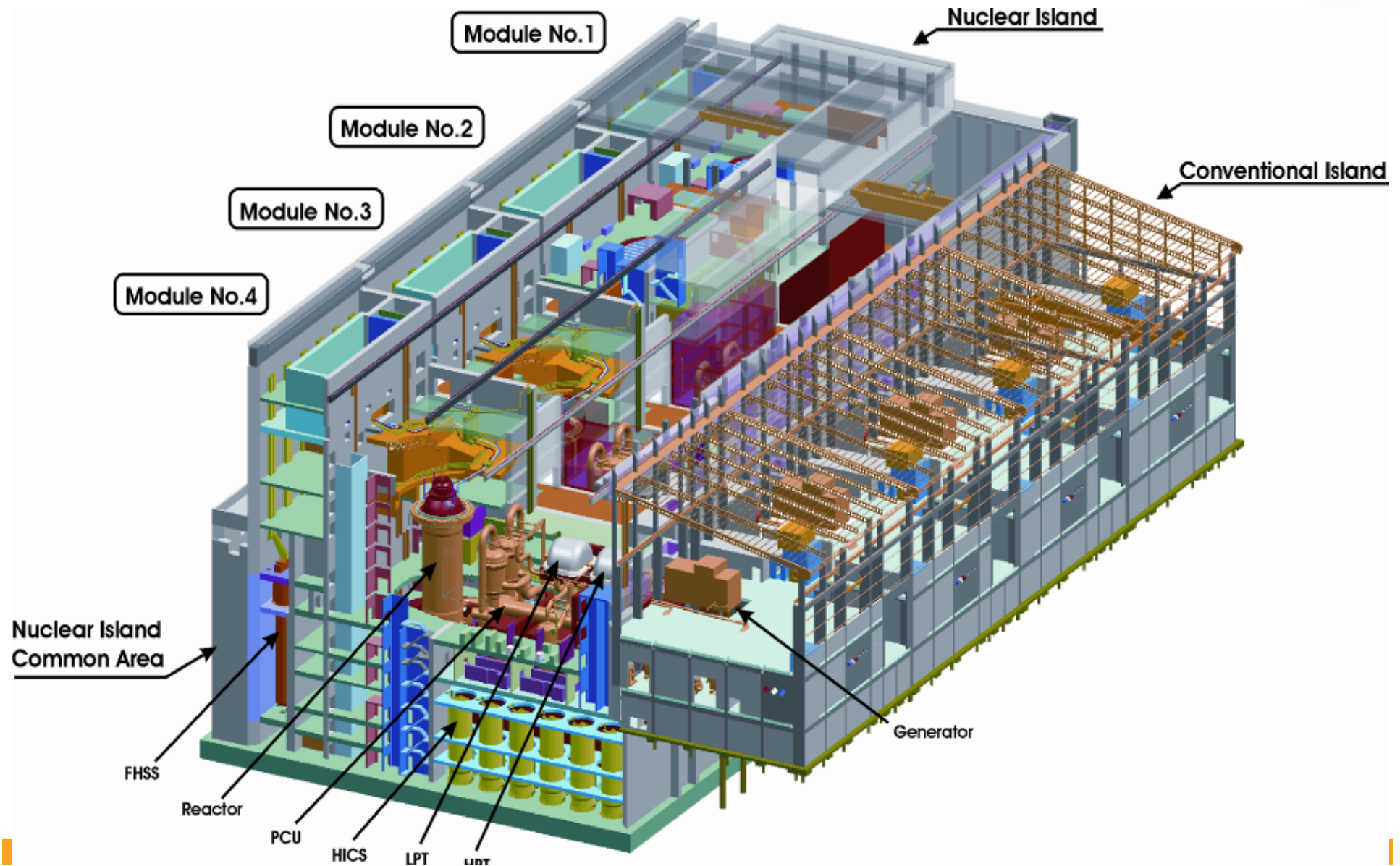
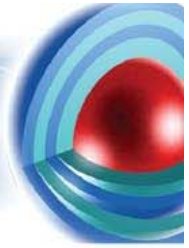


- **Inherent safety features proven during public tests**
- **New Generation IV “safe design” technology**
- **System shuts itself down**
- **No need for off-site emergency plans**
- **Minimal 400 meter safety zone**
- **No need for safety grade backup systems**
- **Helium coolant is chemically inert**
- **Coated particle provides excellent containment for the fission product activity**





# Multi Module Concept





# Manufacturing of Components



Gas Blowers



Gas Cycle Valves



Graphite Structures



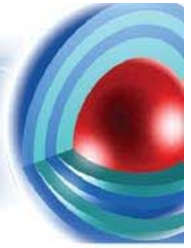
Reactor Pressure Vessel







## **Extensive Test Programs: Helium Test Facility at Pelindaba**



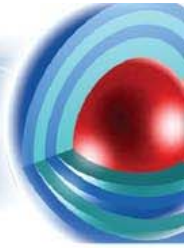
Helium blower, valves, heaters, coolers, recuperator and other components to be tested at pressures up to 95 bar & 1200 °C







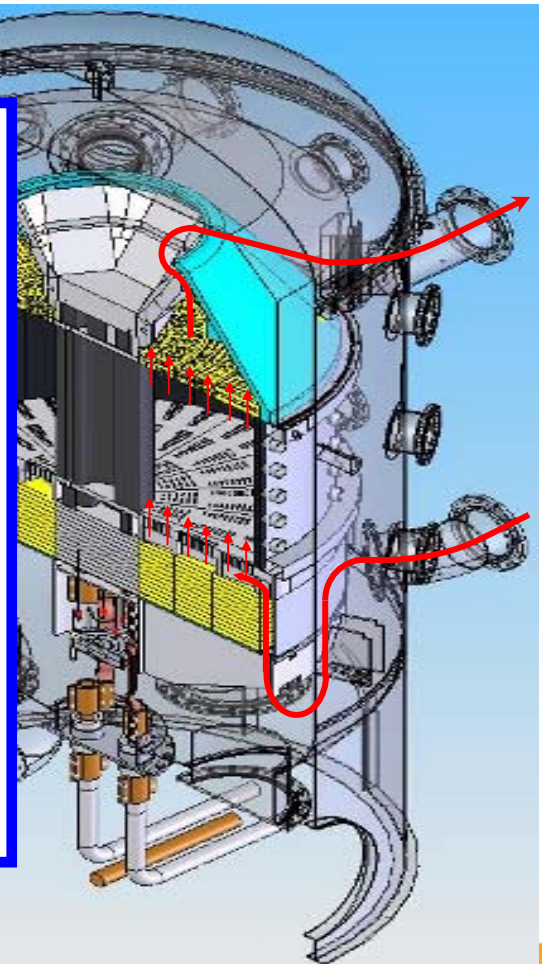
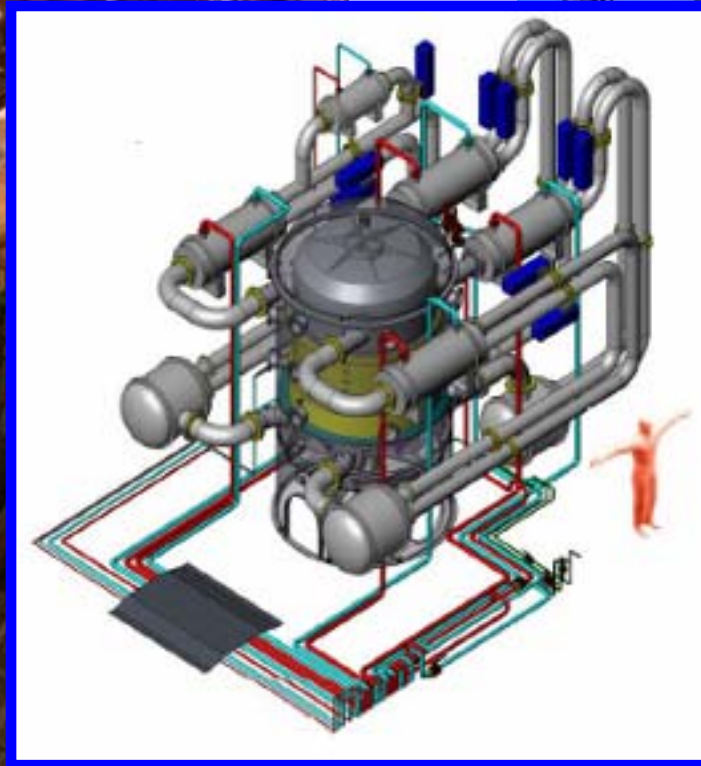
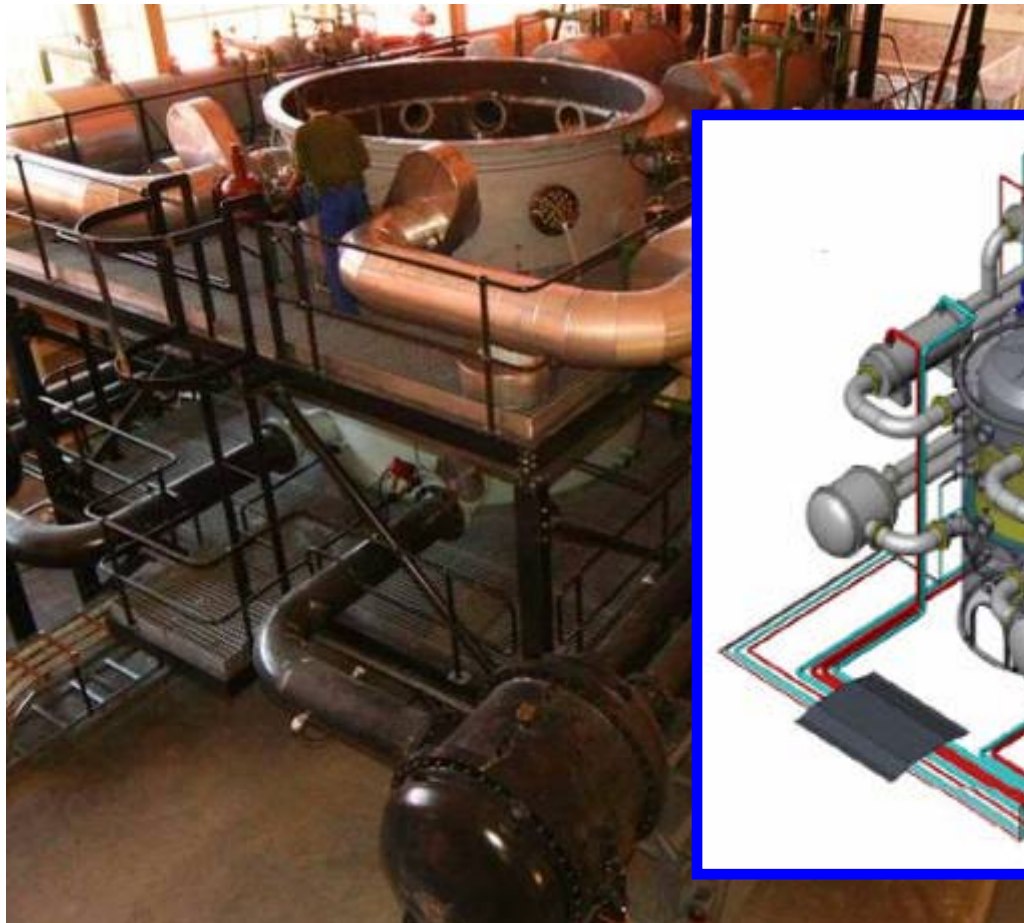
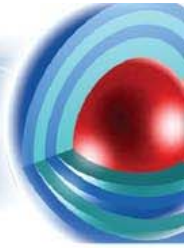
# Extensive Test Programs: Helium Test Facility at Pelindaba



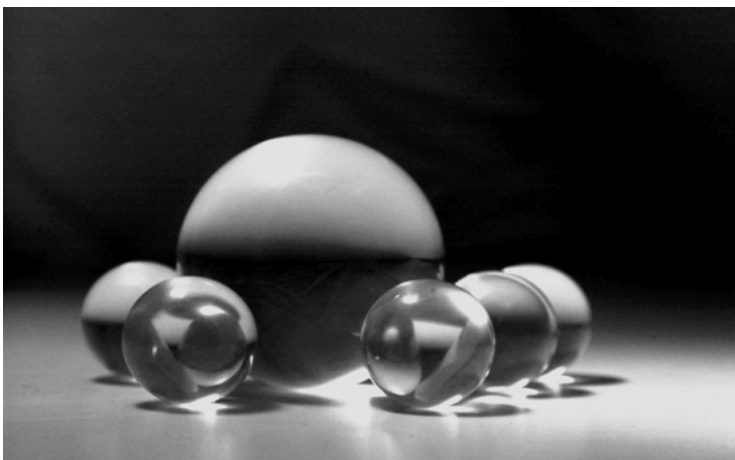




# Extensive Test Programs: Heat Transfer Test Facility, HTTU







Pebbles used in the HPTU test sections – 60 mm and 30mm acrylic spheres



HPTU Control room



From Left to right: HPTU Main test vessel, Blower vessel, Water cooler

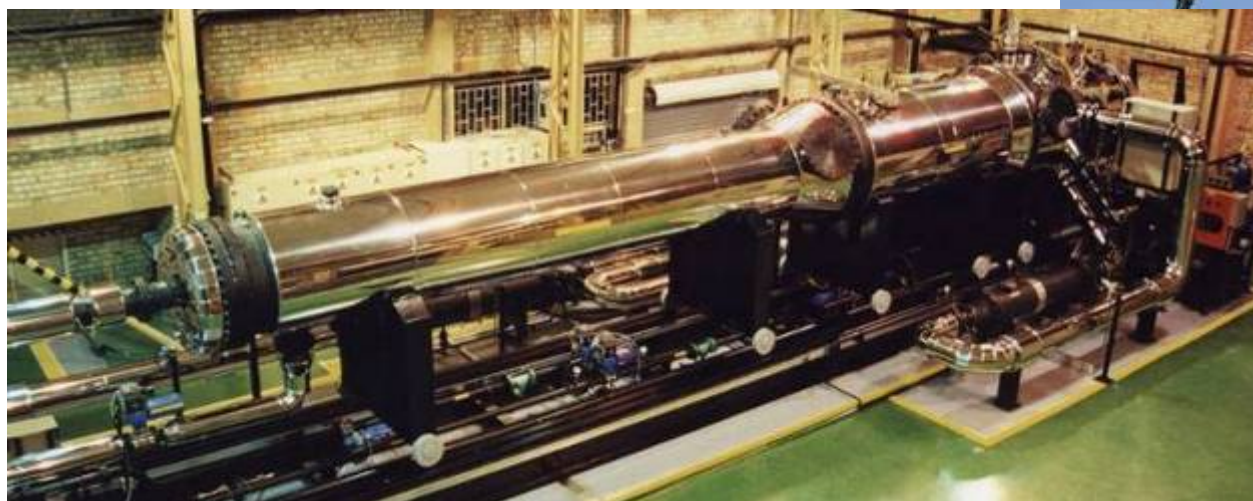


Construction of the test sections.





# Extensive PBMR Test Programs





# **PBMR is Set for Success**



**Opportunity in new global energy markets will be driven by:**

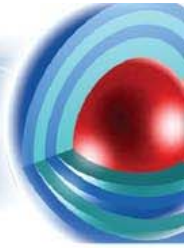
- Diversification of energy supply
- Shortage of and increasing cost of natural gas
- Increasing cost of petroleum
- Incentives to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and other emissions

**PBMR will be a CO<sub>2</sub> free economic option for providing large amounts of process heat in the 900 °C temperature range**





# Why PBMR for Process Heat?



- Right Temperatures
- Right Size
- Soon
- Safe
- Economic



# PHP Partners



- **PBMR**
- **Shaw Group**
- **Westinghouse**
- **Technology Insights**
- **M-Tech Industrial**





# PHP Markets



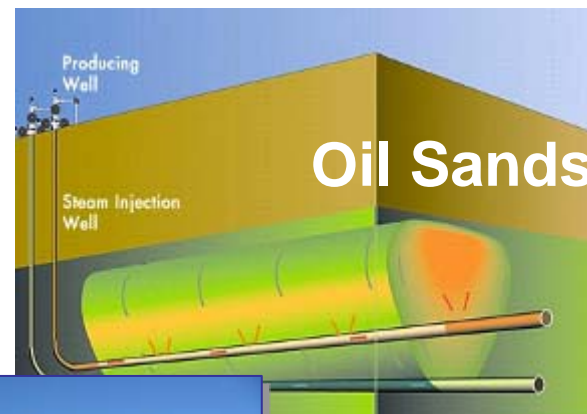
- Syngas from natural gas
  - Chemical feed (captive and remote H<sub>2</sub> plants, ammonia, methanol)
- Cogeneration
  - Refinery & petrochemical
  - Heavy industrial
  - District heating and desalination
- H<sub>2</sub> production
  - Refinery applications
  - Pipeline hydrogen
- Oil sands recovery and processing
  - Steam and power production
  - Hydrogen for bitumen processing
- Coal to liquids without CO<sub>2</sub> emission
- Water scarcity countries provide desalination potential



# Process Heat Applications

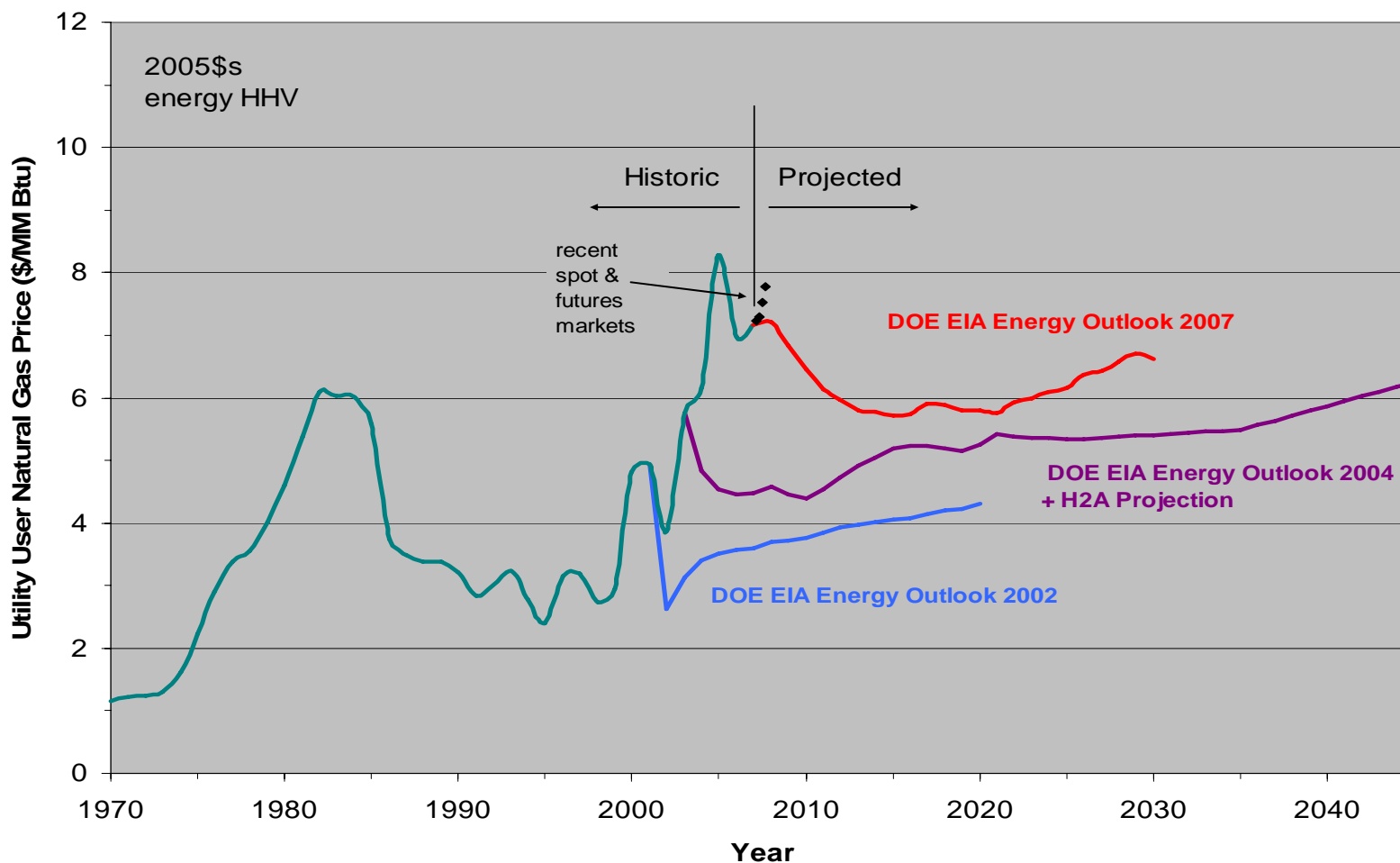


- Steam Generation
  - Heavy Oil Recovery
  - Oil Sands
  - Cogeneration
- Steam Methane Reforming
  - Hydrogen
  - Ammonia
  - Methanol
- Water-Splitting ( $H_2$  &  $O_2$ )
  - Bulk Hydrogen
  - Coal-to-liquids
  - Coal-to-methane
- Desalination



**Desalination**

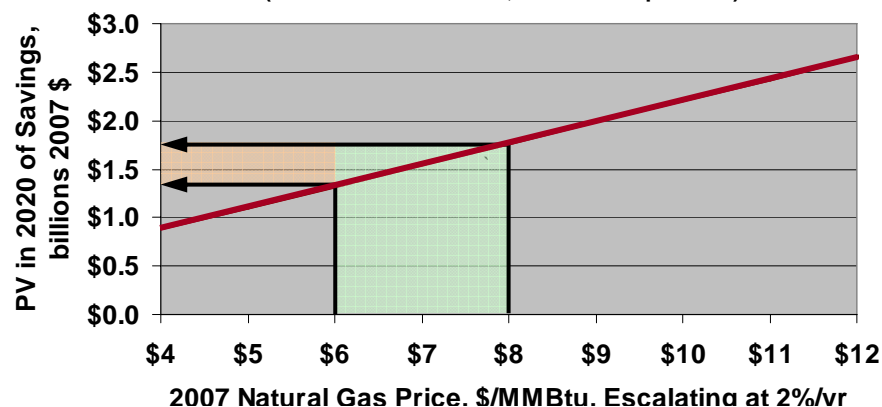
# Natural Gas Price Actuals and Forecasts per EIA



# Present Value of Replacing Natural Gas

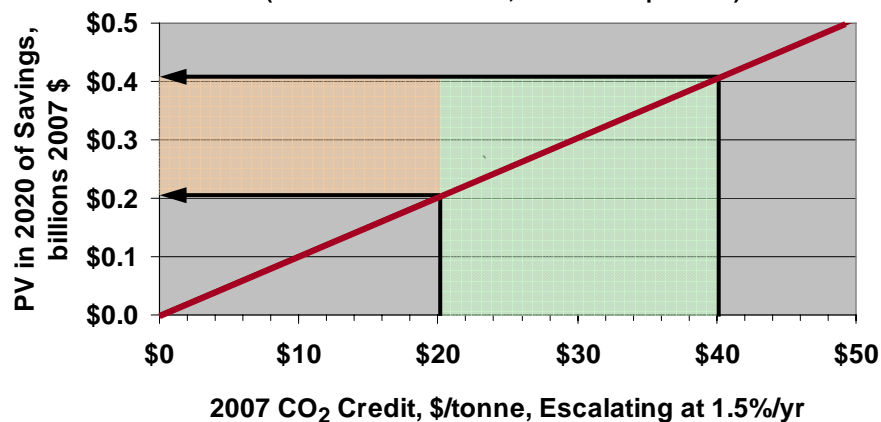


**30 Years Savings Displacing  
500MWt Equivalent of Natural Gas**  
(10% real discount rate, 2020-2050 operation)



- At \$7.00/MMBtu gas in 2007, the PV of the gas alone for process heat is \$1.55Billion

**30 Years Savings from CO<sub>2</sub> Credits  
500MWt Equivalent of Natural Gas**  
(10% real discount rate, 2020-2050 operation)



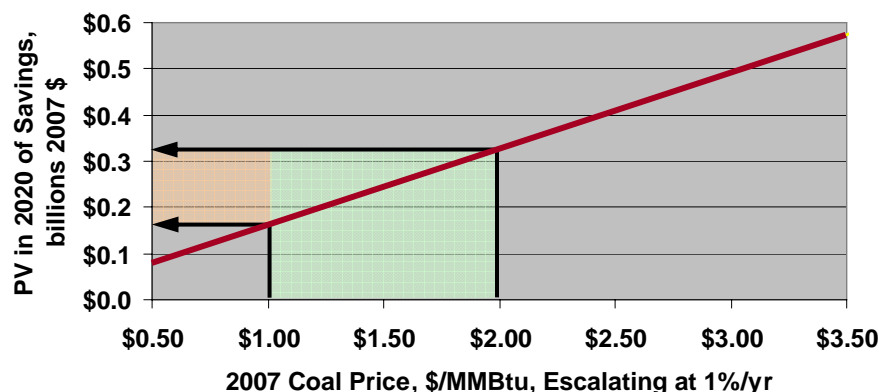
- If gas as a heat source is displaced, the PV of the CO<sub>2</sub> credits @ \$30/tonne are worth another \$300M



# Present Value of Replacing Coal

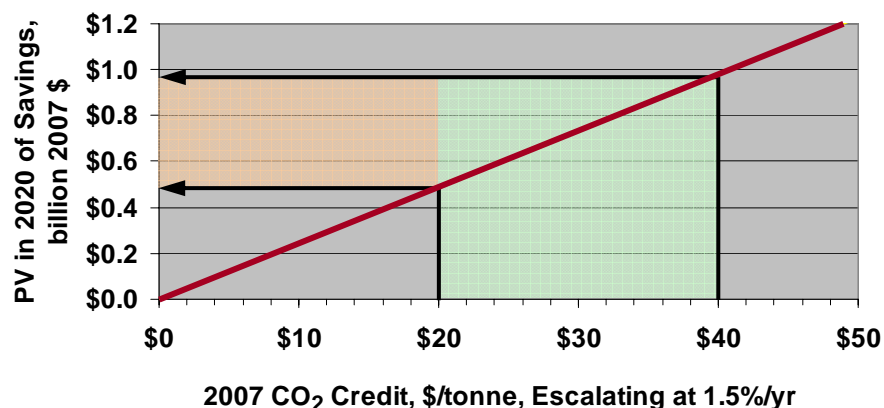


**30 Years Savings Displacing  
500MWt Equivalent of Coal**  
(10% real discount rate, 2020-2050 operation)



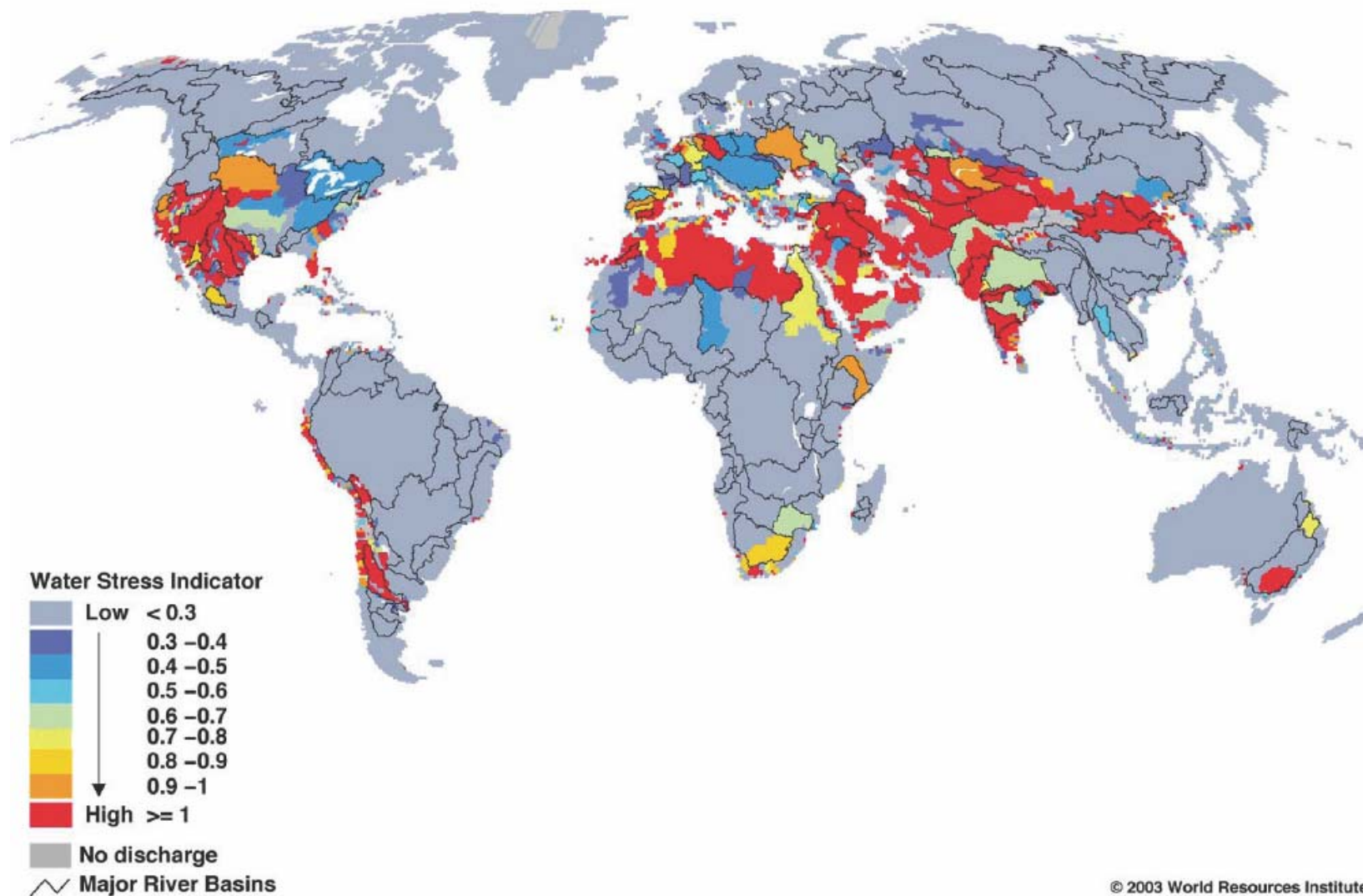
- At \$1.50/MMBtu Coal in 2007, the PV of the coal alone for process heat is \$245Million

**30 Years Savings from CO<sub>2</sub> Credits  
500MWt Equivalent of Coal**  
(10% real discount rate, 2020-2050 operation)



- The PV of the CO<sub>2</sub> credits @ \$30/tonne are worth another \$735M

# Environmental Water Scarcity Index by Basin





# PHP Timeline



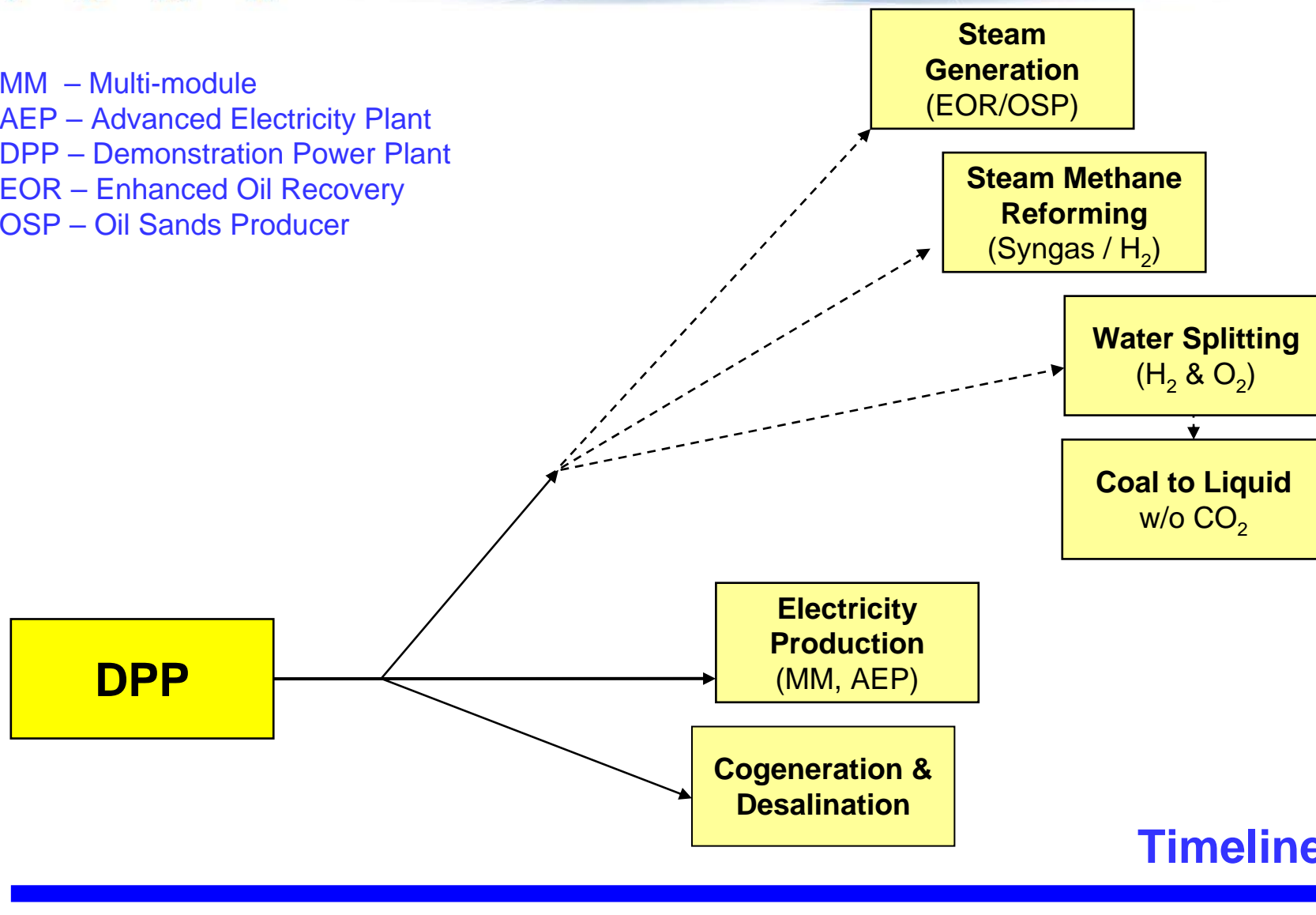
- **2005 - 06** Phase I: Evaluate Candidate Applications
- **2006 - 07** Phase II: Engage Clients in Business Cases
- **2007 - 08** Phase III: Finalize Feasibility Studies & Consortia
- **2007 - 08** Project Development & Planning through Consortia
- **2007 - 12** Technology Development & Design
- **2008 - 12** Regulatory Prerequisites
- **2010 - 16** Project Implementation
- **2016+** Commercial PBMR PHP Projects



# Product Development Path

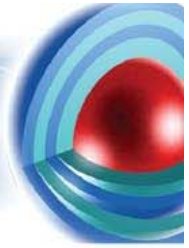


MM – Multi-module  
 AEP – Advanced Electricity Plant  
 DPP – Demonstration Power Plant  
 EOR – Enhanced Oil Recovery  
 OSP – Oil Sands Producer





# Strategy



- Build on DPP
- Early market entry (fast-track off DPP)
- Commercially driven (focus on early user requirements)
- Establish a development team with process experience
- Develop multiple demonstration projects
- Early identification and implementation of prerequisites
- Early consortium development
- Leverage government opportunities (such as NGNP)



## Strategy for Participation in NGNP



- Accelerate US licensing
- Leverage funded research and development
- Demonstrate PBMR as most advanced HTR project in the world





# NGNP Status and Team



- The Westinghouse-led consortium was awarded the principal contract for the initial phase of pre-conceptual engineering services and planning for the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This initial 12-month phase of the NGNP is the U.S. government's first step in deploying a commercial scale HTGR prototype plant for the generation of hydrogen and/or electricity.
- Majority of the first phase (pre-conceptual design) work to be completed by May 2007 with a single major deliverable:
  - Pre-conceptual Design Report to be approved & accepted by INL
- NGNP Team
  - Westinghouse Electric Company LLC (Prime)
  - Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (Pty) Ltd. (Republic of South Africa)
  - Shaw Stone & Webster
  - Air Products and Chemicals Inc.
  - Technology Insights
  - M-Tech Industrial (Pty) Ltd. (Republic of South Africa)
  - Nuclear Fuel Services
  - Kadak Associates



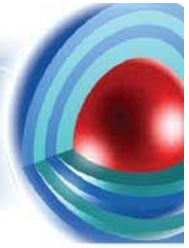
# Water-Splitting Status



- Process Design
  - Westinghouse flowsheet
  - Conceptual economics
- Hybrid Sulfur Working Group (R&D collaboration)
  - Shaw Group
  - PBMR team
  - Savannah River National Laboratories
  - M-Tech Industrial
  - University of South Carolina
  - University of Sheffield
- Industrial clients



# Water-Splitting Plan



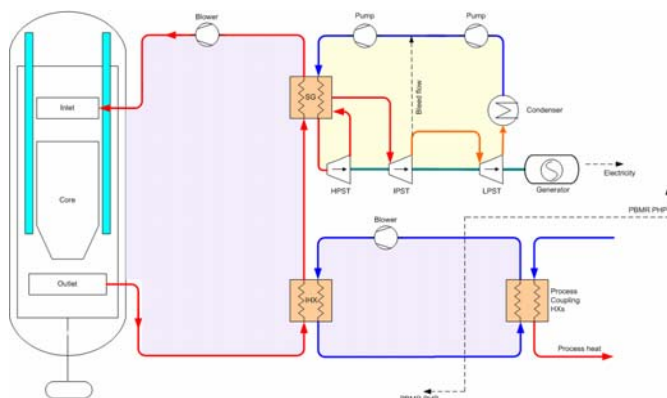
- Consolidate common flowsheet and conceptual estimates
- Develop a coordinated R&D plan
- Develop project definitions
- Leveraging government programs
  - US DOE – NGNP, NHI
  - RSA DST- Hydrogen based program expected to be funded next year



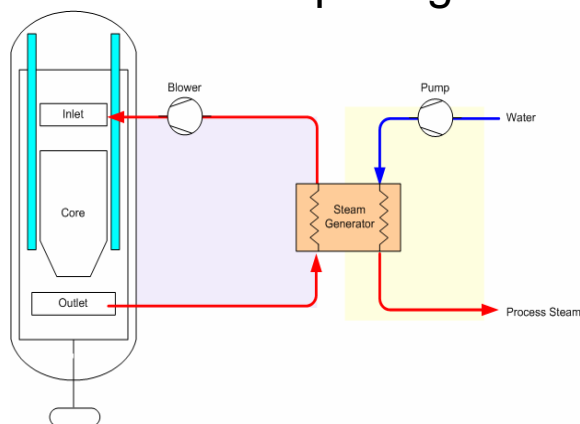
# Heat Delivery Configurations



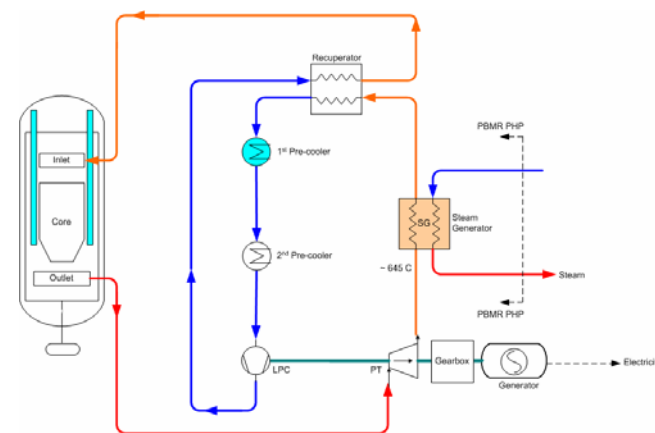
- Depends on specific process heat application
- Options include:



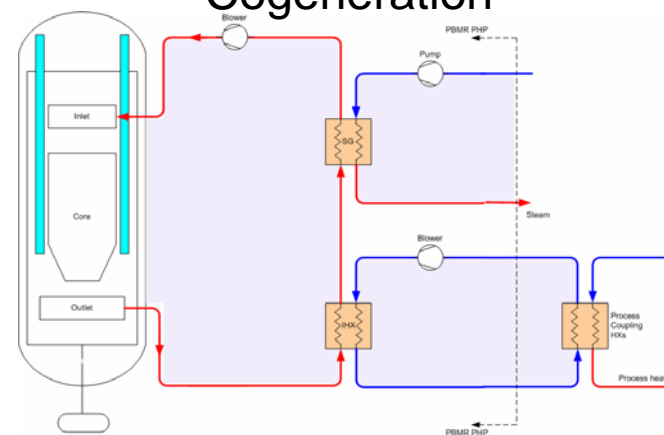
Water-Splitting



Steam Generation



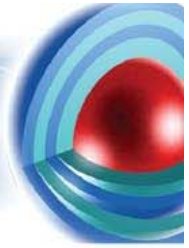
Cogeneration



Steam-Methane-Reforming



# Technology Development



- **Key Parameters**

- Primary: 950C/9MPa
- Secondary: 900C/[TBD]MPa\*

- **Significant technology challenges**

- Metals marginal at these temperatures
  - Pressure balancing likely required
- Ceramic materials being evaluated
- Design rules must be updated and/or developed
  - Extension for metals
  - Development for ceramics
- Licensing basis for IHX pressure boundary needs evaluation

**\*Requires tradeoffs between process and IHX issues**



# Conclusion



- Large process heat markets
- DPP valuable stepping stone to process heat markets
- Several promising process heat applications
- Collaborations have been formed with interested parties







# Thank You

