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# IAEA's International Conference on Opportunities and Challenges for Water cooled Reactors in the 21st Century

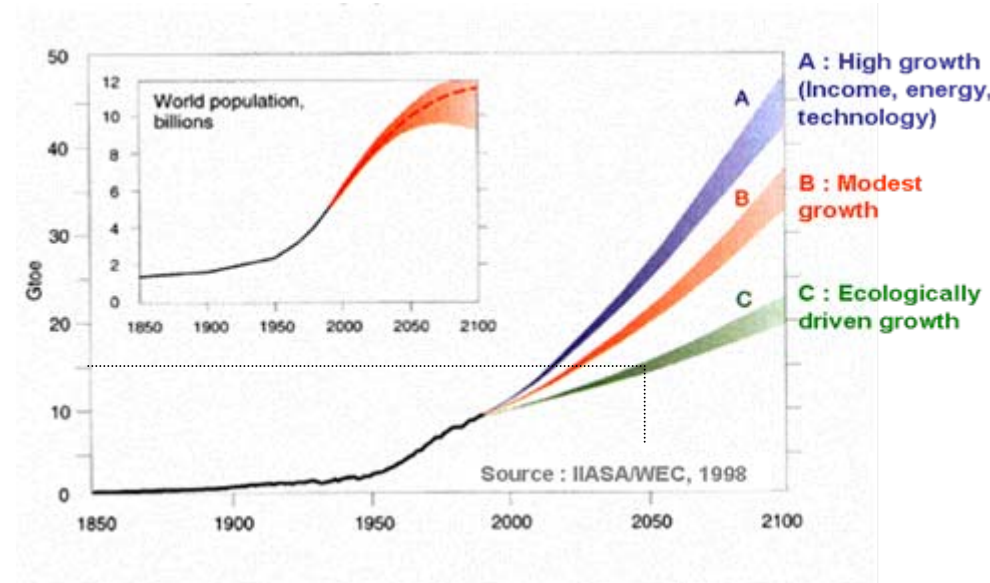
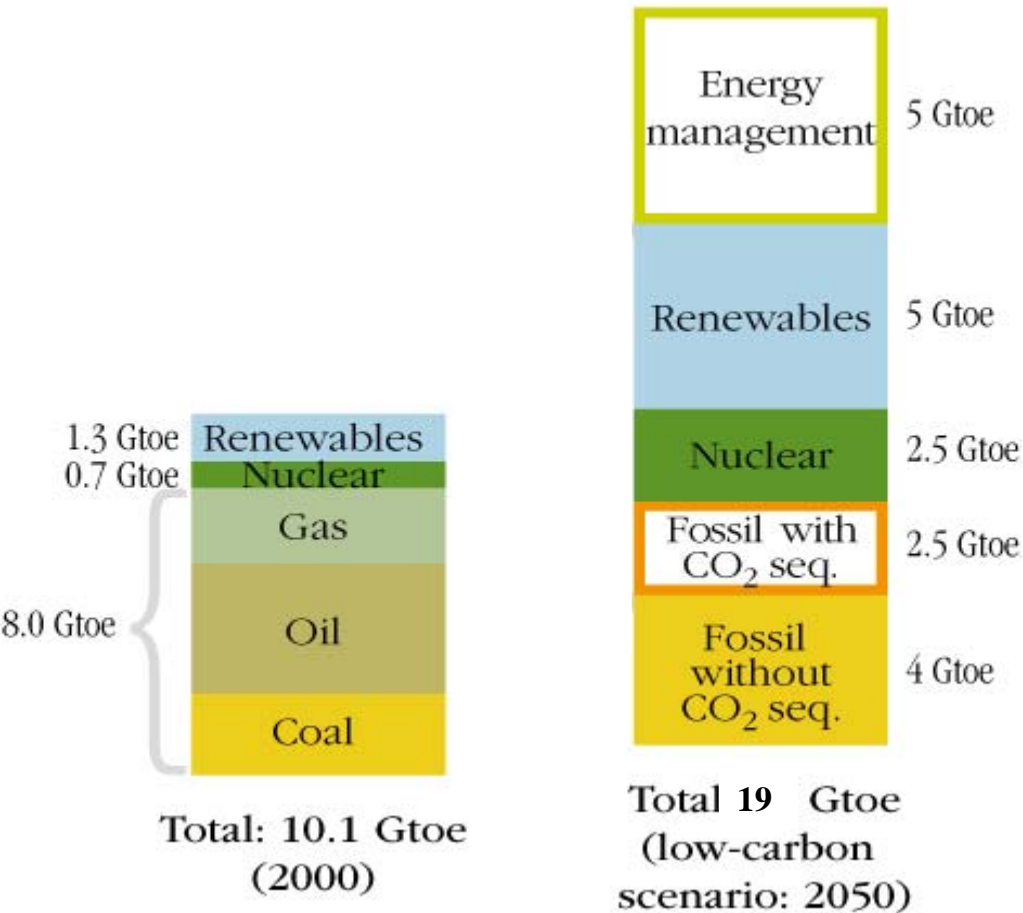
**October 27, 2009 – Vienna**

## ***Nuclear Power: an Irreplaceable Option for Sustainable Development***

**Philippe Pradel**

French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)

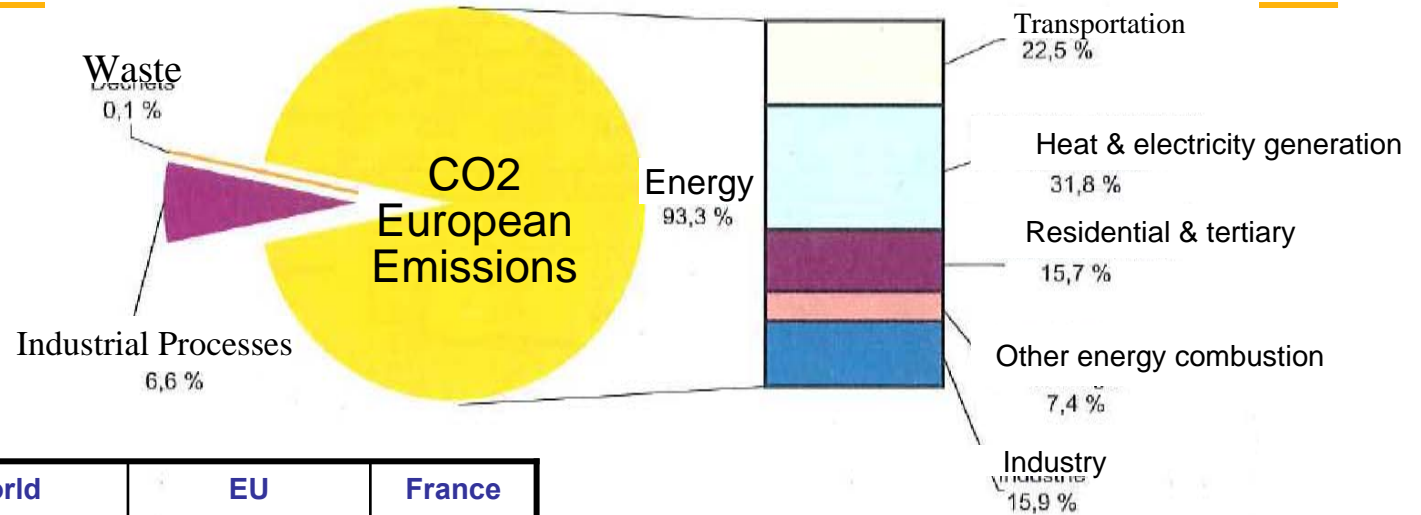
# Low carbon energy scenario for 2050



- Energy demand will increase (approx. double if no strong energy management / saving policy is implemented)
- Nuclear will play a major role along side renewables (including hydro), fossil with carbon sequestration (still under development).

**Today, nearly 2 billion people without electricity**

# Climate challenge & sustainable nuclear energy

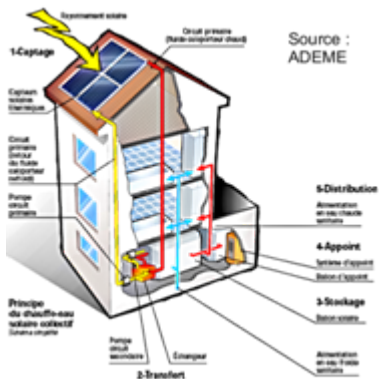


	World	EU	France
electric power in the final energy consumption mix	16%	20%	23%
Nuclear electricity / total electric power output	15 %	30.5 %	78.5 %

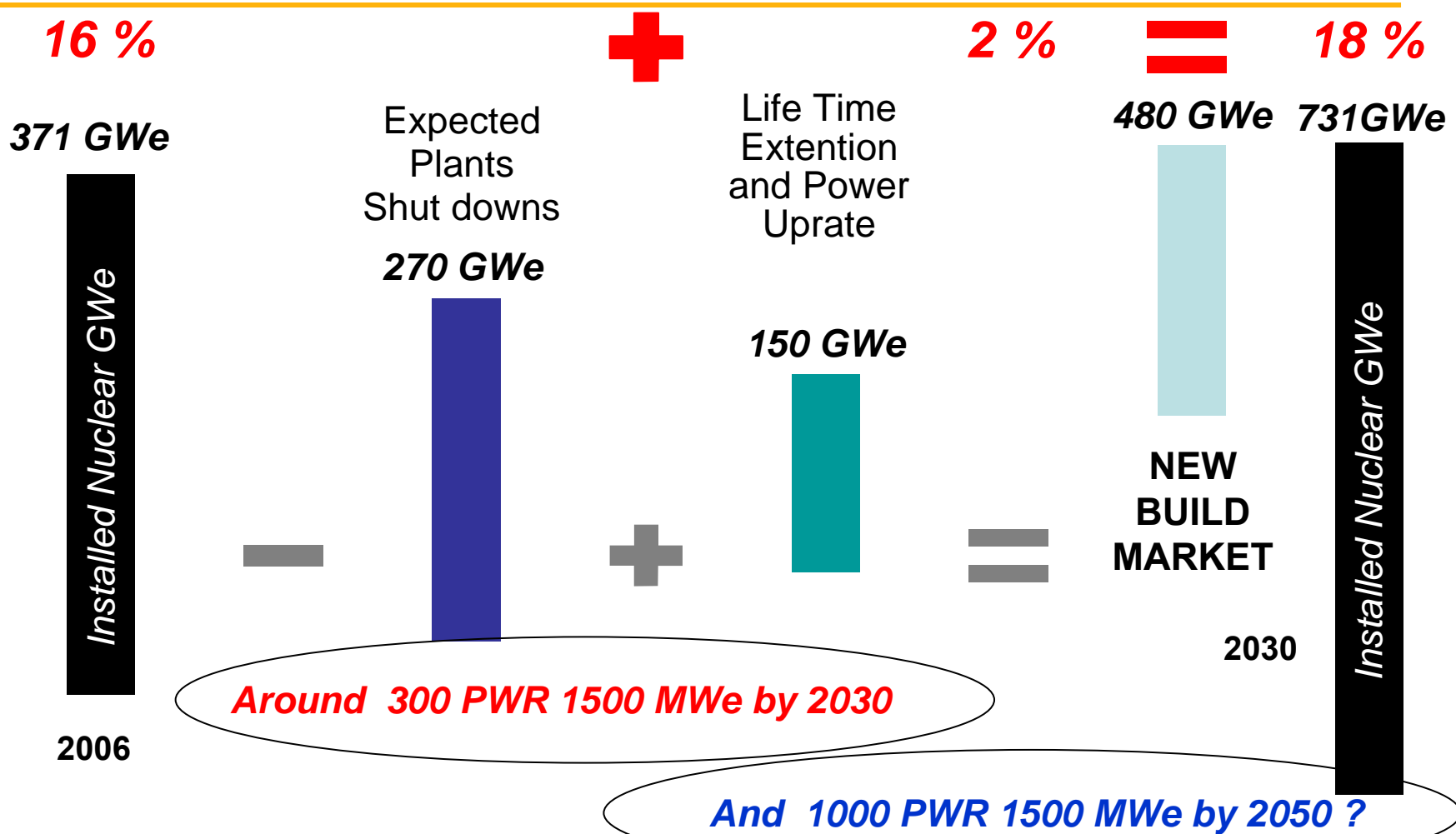
• 1st low carbon track : Electricity,

• 2nd low carbon track : transportation,

• 3rd low carbon track : residential and tertiary sector



# 2008 Vision : nuclear part in the energetic mix



A target for nuclear contribution in the energy mix by 2050:  
 30% such as in European Union **↔** *Around 2500 PWR 1500 MWe*

# Gen III on the tracks with safety improved EPR

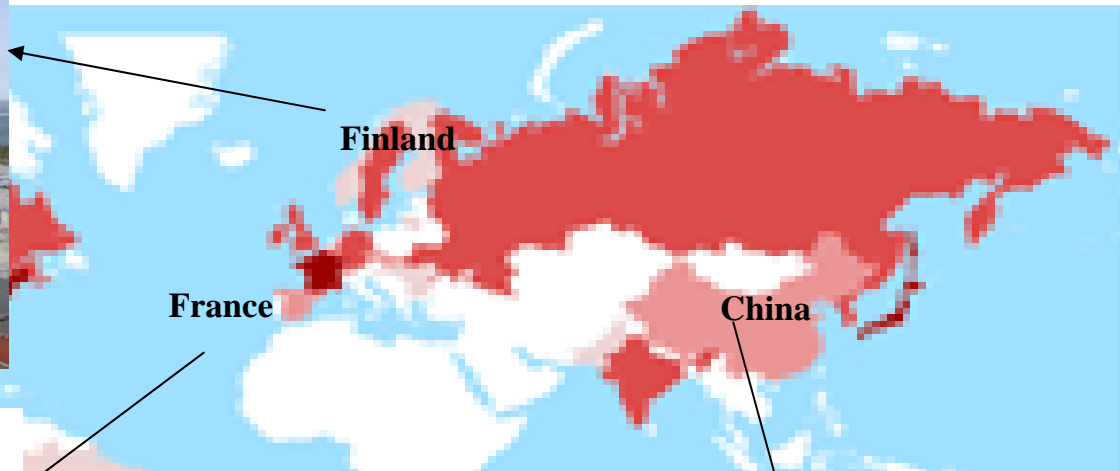


- **A 1600 MWe reactor, lifetime 60 years**
- ***A mature concept, based on current PWRs' experience***
- ***Significant improvements in safety and economy***

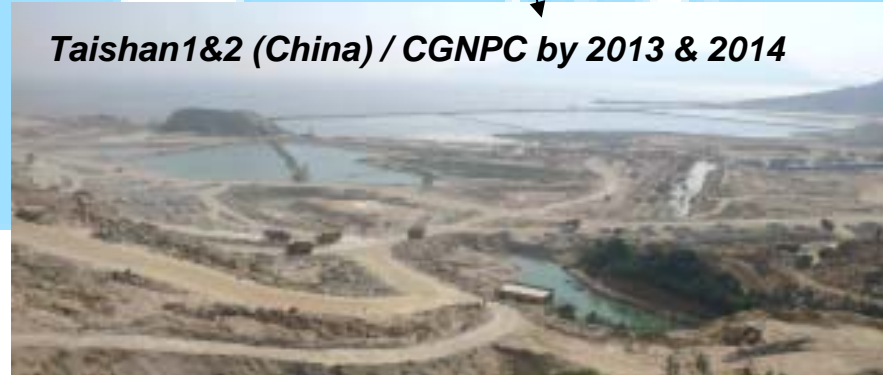
***Olkiluoto (Finland) /TVO by 2012***



***Flamanville (France) / EdF by 2012***



***Taishan1&2 (China) / CGNPC by 2013 & 2014***



# Gen III on the tracks with today envisaged EPR around the world



Calvert Cliffs (USA)

**USA:** 4 EPR with Constellation Energy Group, operated by 2016

**France:** a second EPR with EdF under project (Penly)(2017)

**United Kingdom:** 4 EPR with British Energy, operated by 2017

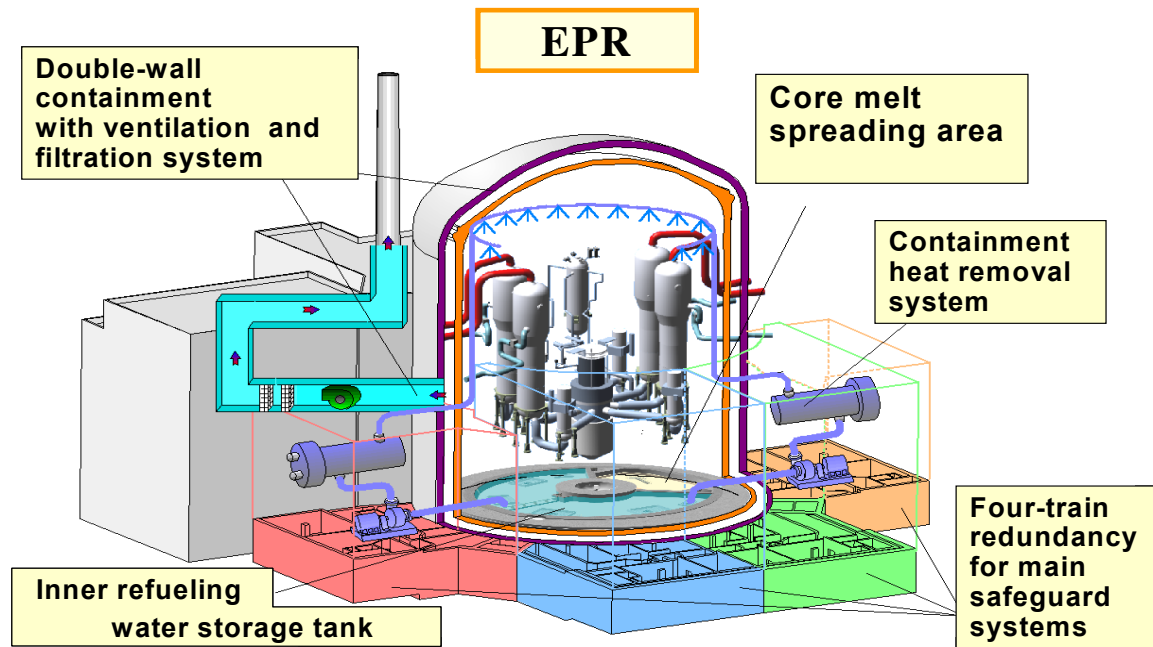
**Italy:** Intent to restart a nuclear program

**India:** 2 up to 6 EPR

**South Africa:** Eskom interested by EPR

Development, investment & operation of more than 10 EPRs by 2020,  
Potential Countries: United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Vietnam ...

# EPR Safety Objectives



- **Enhanced defense in depth** to reduce by a factor ten the number of significant incidents and global frequency of fusion core meltdown,

- **Significant reduction of release and consequences** in any situation (including fusion core meltdown),

- **Improved resistance of the reactor containment to external impact and majored seism**

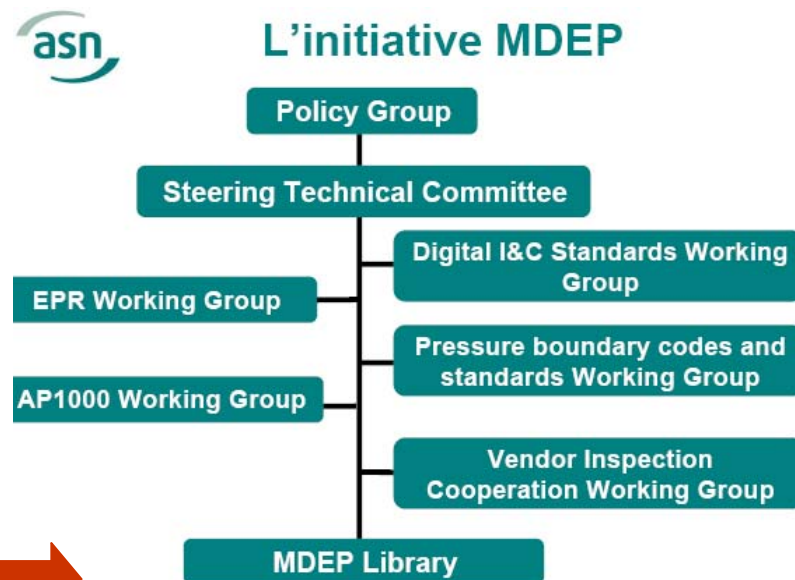
# Towards a high safety level with the rising multinational safety initiatives



- An International Nuclear Safety Harmonization, but:
  - Liabilities in regard to safety remain a national obligation, which can not be assigned to supra-national authorities,
  - Technologies are not the only one safety parameter, « Safety Culture » and an appropriate institutional framework are also necessary

- A long-standing Coopération (>50 years) between:
  - Institutional actors (IAEA ...),
  - Safety Authorities Cooperation (INRA, WENRA...),
  - And Operators (WANO ...).

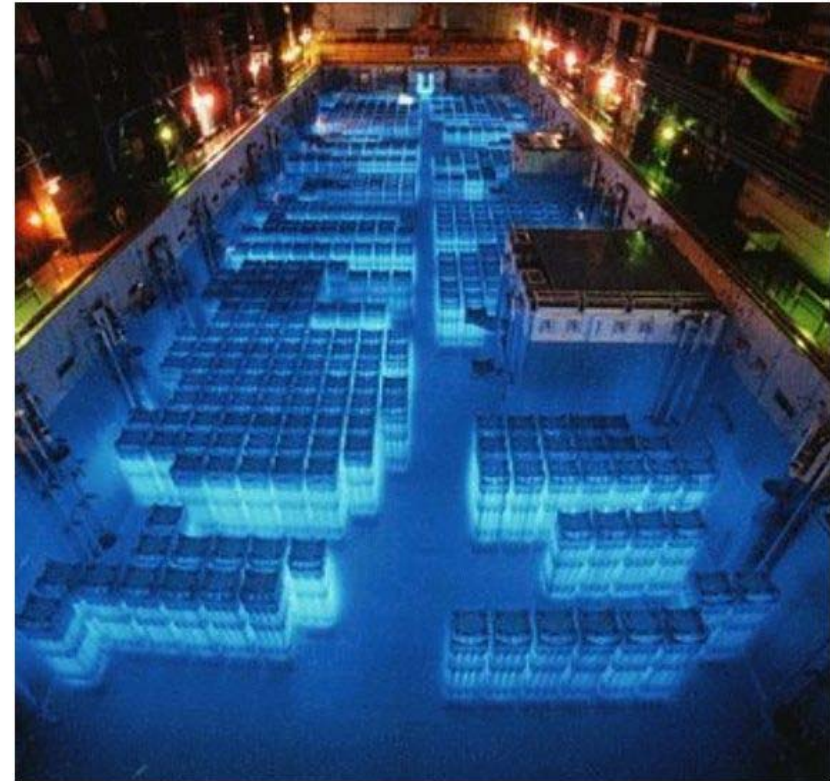
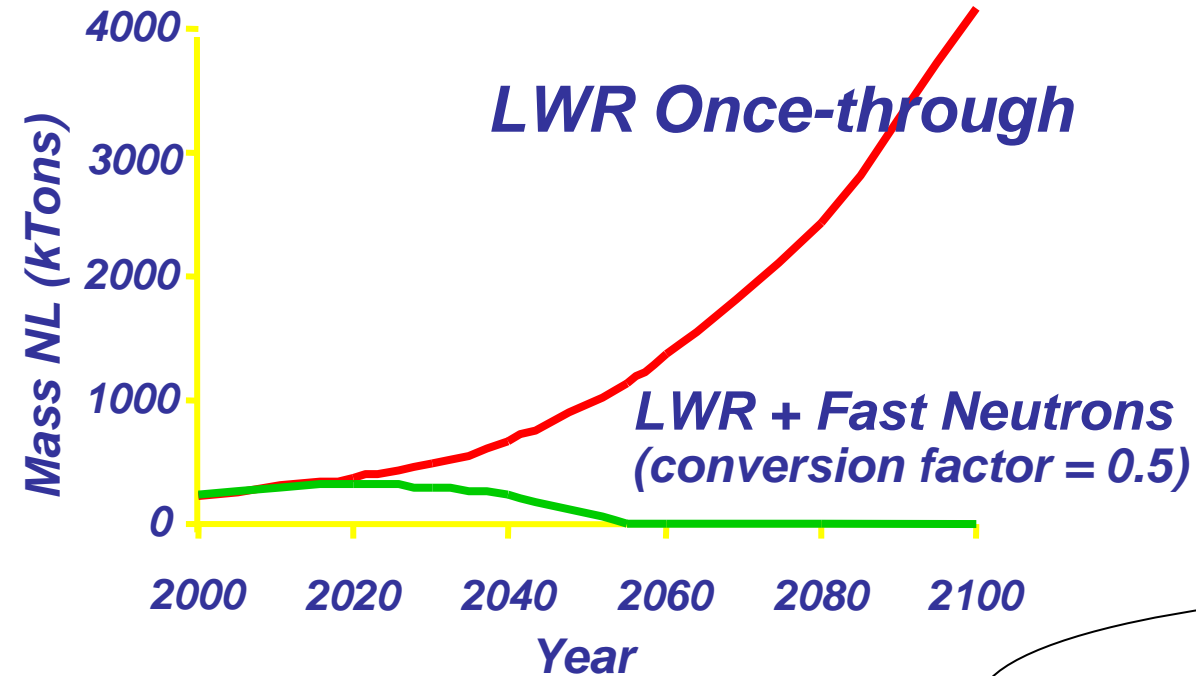
- The 2 driving forces behind harmonization:
  - MDEP (Multinational Design Evaluation Prog.) Initiative to assess the new reactors the safety authorities
  - European Construction



- Present International Safety Initiative such as MDEP to be forsted



# 2008 Vision: world spent fuel amount



	2030	2050
World spent fuel production / year	10 000 t	20 000 t



**700 000 t by 2050,  
Around 400 EPR spent fuel pits,  
+ 2 pits / year**

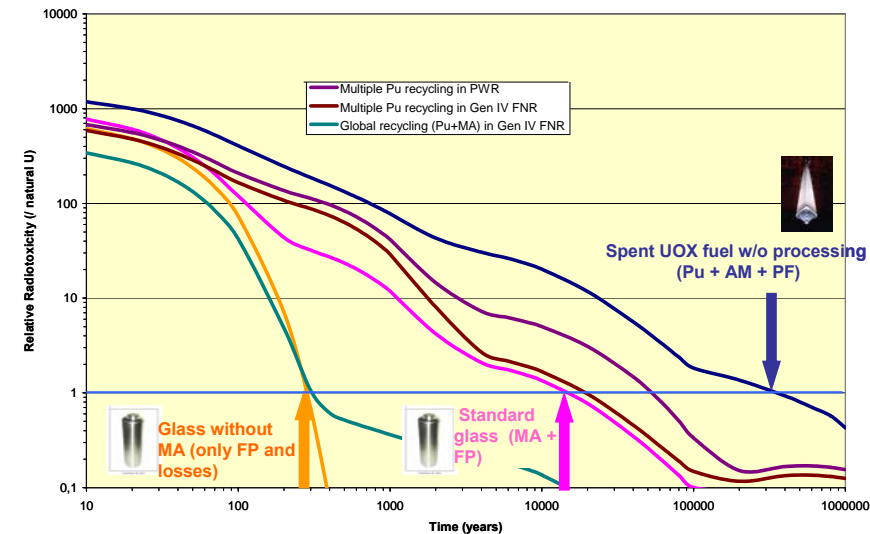
# Closing the fuel cycle, towards sustainability ...



## ➤ First step: Pu recycling in LWRs, Conditioning of waste

Continuous progress has been made in the processing of spent fuel, recycling of nuclear material and conditioning of waste

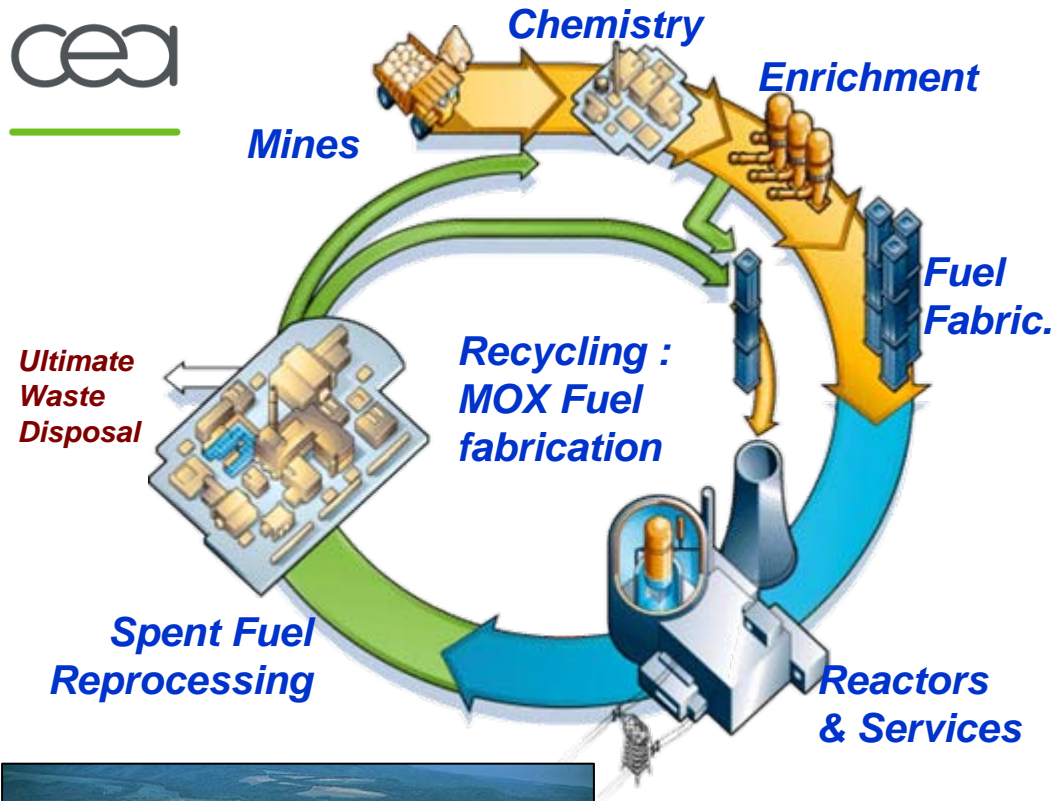
## ➤ Next step: Recycling of minor actinides to reduce thermal load and radio-toxicity of waste is the object of on-going research



- Recycles **96%** of spent fuel materials
- Saves **30%** of natural resources
- Costs less than **6%** of the kWh total cost
- Reduces by **5** the amount of wastes
- Reduces by **10** the waste radiotoxicity

**Adapted technologies allow a safe conditioning of wastes to guarantee their long term confinement and stability, for dozens of thousands of years**

# Closing the Fuel cycle... and an industrial reality



**More than 25 years of unequalled experience in France :**

- Until now: ~ 20 000 Mt<sub>HM</sub> spent fuel reprocessed and more than 1200 Mt<sub>HM</sub> MOX fuel recycled
- 1100 Mt<sub>HM</sub> /yr of spent fuel discharged from the French PWRs
- Up to 1 700 Mt<sub>HM</sub> /yr of spent fuel reprocessed (domestic + foreign)

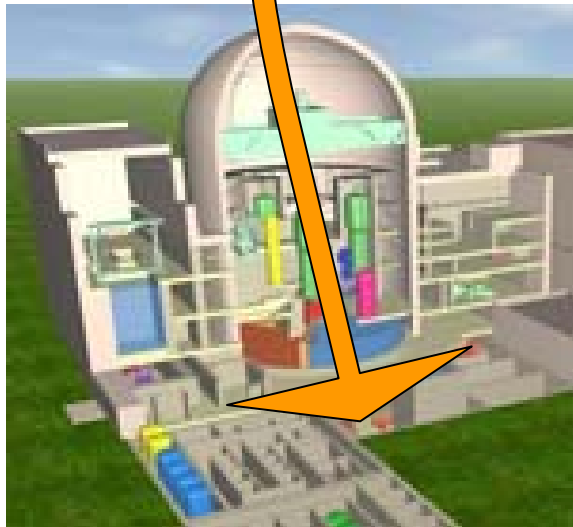


**La Hague**

**Rokkasho-Mura**



# Nuclear Plants for new comers: reactor + Fuel services + Education & training



- To address the expectations of customers interested in developing nuclear energy production plants (*power range, design for site flexibility and various grid conditions...*),
- Combining reliable and proven nuclear technologies, including fuel cycle facilities (*glass canister storage...*)
- Answering non proliferation criteria,
- Setting an ambitious training offer

## RR21 Characteristics:

Power range 10 MW,  
Pool type reactor  
Inherently safe fuel (no fuel melting),  
Spent Fuel recovered for treatment and recycling,  
Easy handling,  
Easy experimental work



**A specific research and training reactor**

# Nuclear renaissance in the world

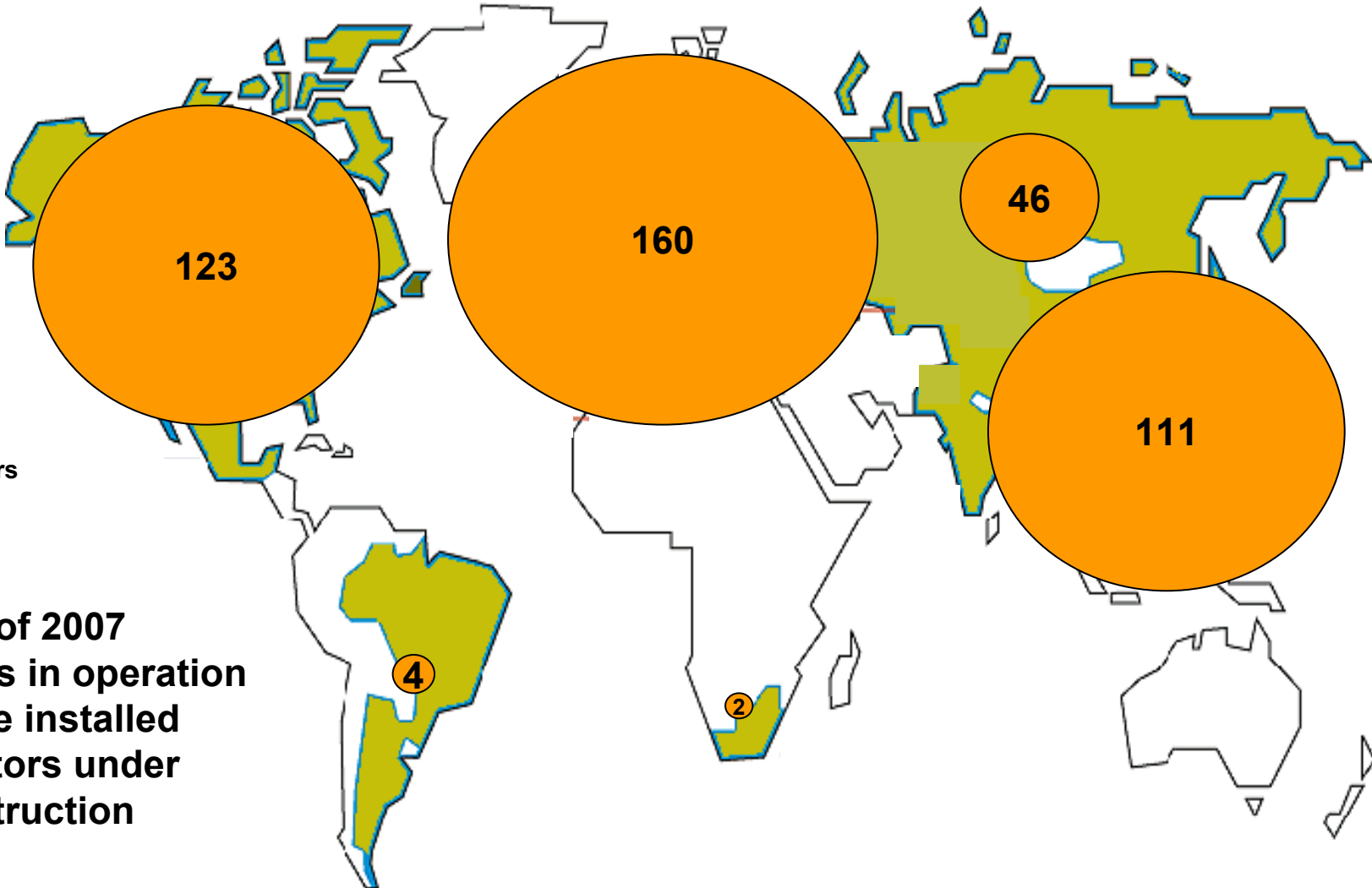


North & South America

Europe

Russia

Asia



 Nb of reactors

**End of 2007**  
**439 reactors in operation**  
**372 Gwe installed**  
**33 reactors under construction**

# Nuclear renaissance in the world

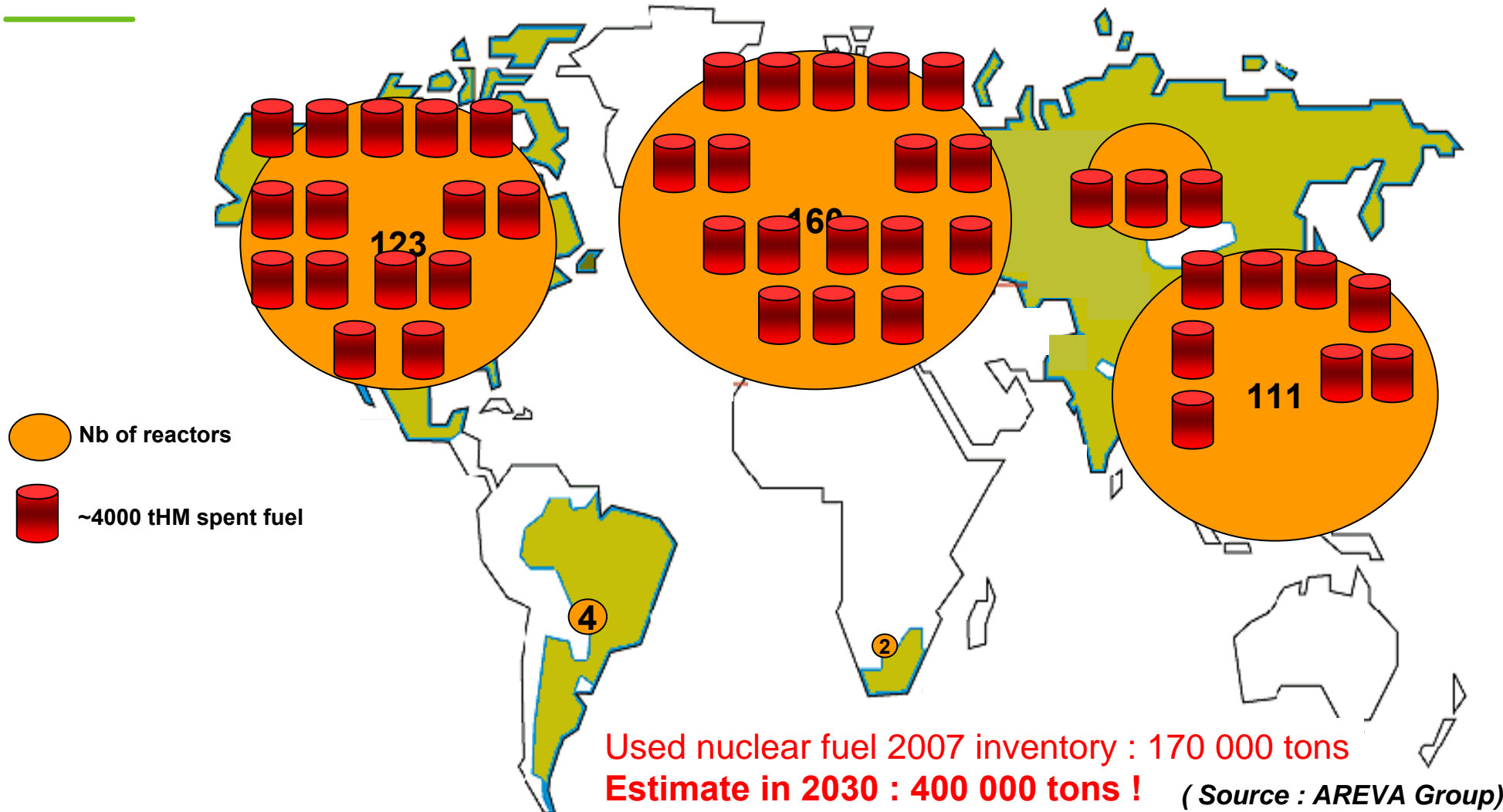


North & South America

Europe

Russia

Asia



Used nuclear fuel 2007 inventory : 170 000 tons  
Estimate in 2030 : 400 000 tons ! ( Source : AREVA Group )

# Nuclear renaissance in the world

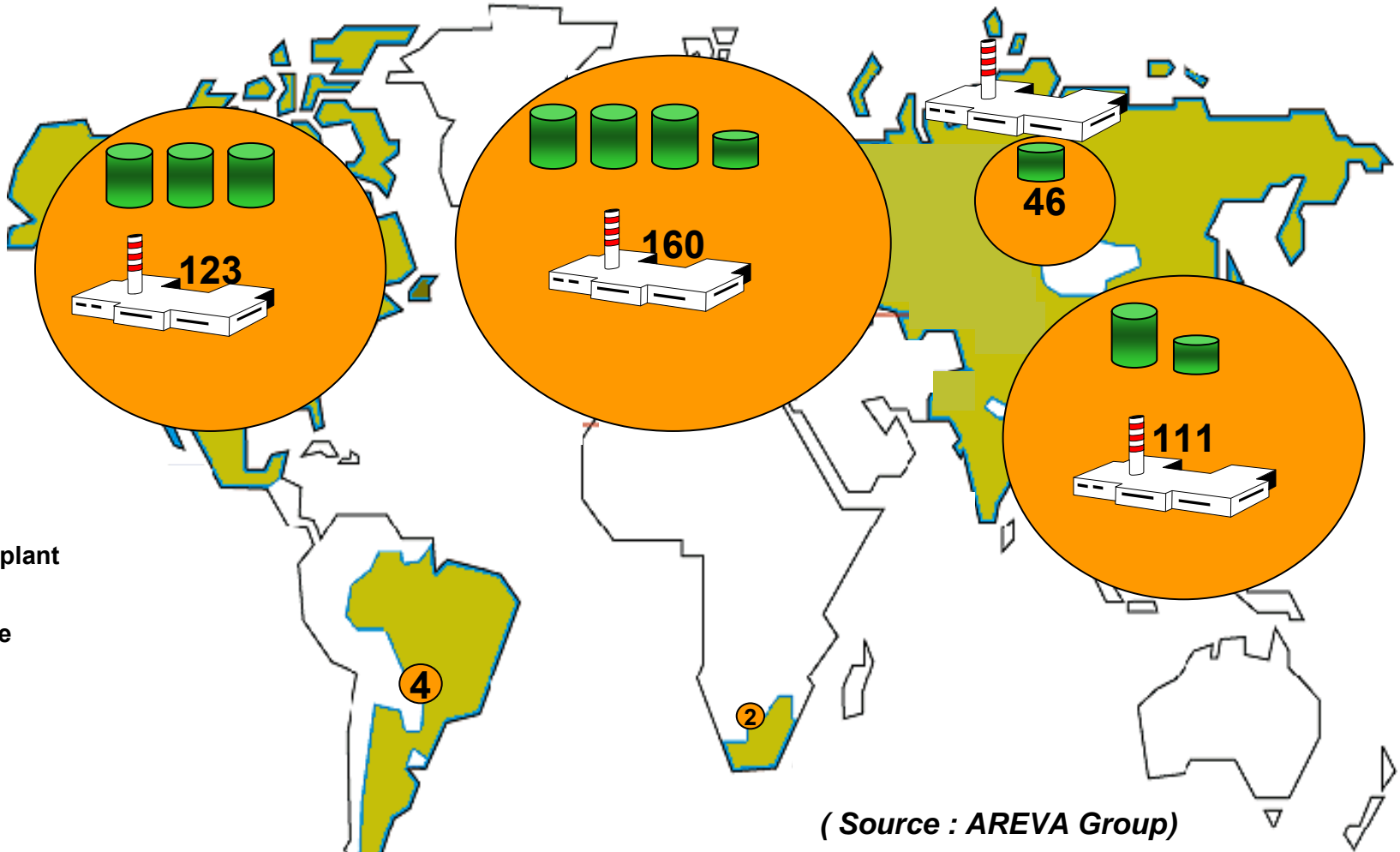


North & South America

Europe

Russia

Asia



Nb of reactors

treatment plant

ultimate waste

( Source : AREVA Group )

→ Drastic waste reduction with only few recycling plants

# Nuclear Renaissance Challenges: Back End Facilities

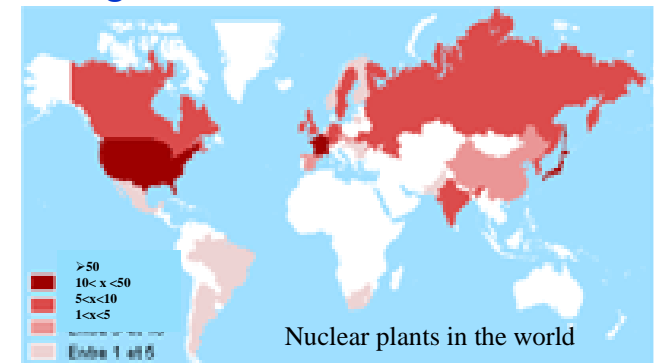


Commitments and international obligations with regard to safety, security and non proliferation standards, shall be strictly observed.

1. The stockpiling in indefinite interim storage is not a responsible management of the fuel back-end, in the perspective of a wide nuclear renaissance,
2. Spent fuel recycling shall be carried out vitrified waste sent back to countries of origin, to be safely and economically stored, waiting for final disposal: for a safer, a more secure and a more proliferation resistant spent fuel management
3. A global service offer for spent fuel reprocessing and recycling shall be set up with the appropriate international framework, i.e; the IAEA umbrella
4. Supply of recycling plants based on best available proven technologies:

**by current La Hague / Rokkasho and future facilities  
operated by major players**

Distribution of the recycling facilities on a regional basis  
with respect of commercial contracts





# Bridging Technologies from the Renaissance to Sustainability



Adapted initiatives taking into account the best available technologies, towards the emerging economies



to enlarge the access to the nuclear energy in terms of

- electricity production without green gas emission (up to 40-50% in 2050),
- natural resources conservation,
- waste minimisation,
- potential for new applications (hydrogen, desalination, heat...)

RENAISSANCE

BRIDGING TECHNOLOGIES

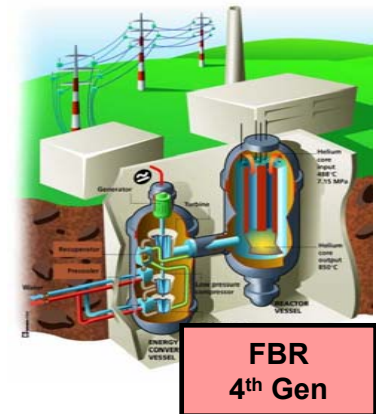
SUSTAINABILITY



new fuel (MOX)

Proven advanced recycling technologies

new fuel

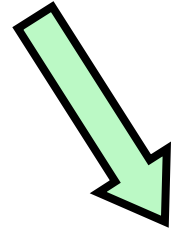


FBR 4th Gen



# Durability

- R & D ( 2000 )
- Prototypes (2015 – 2030)
- Industrial deployment (by 2040)



**R&D sharing  
in GEN IV Forum**



**International harmonization  
of prototypes**

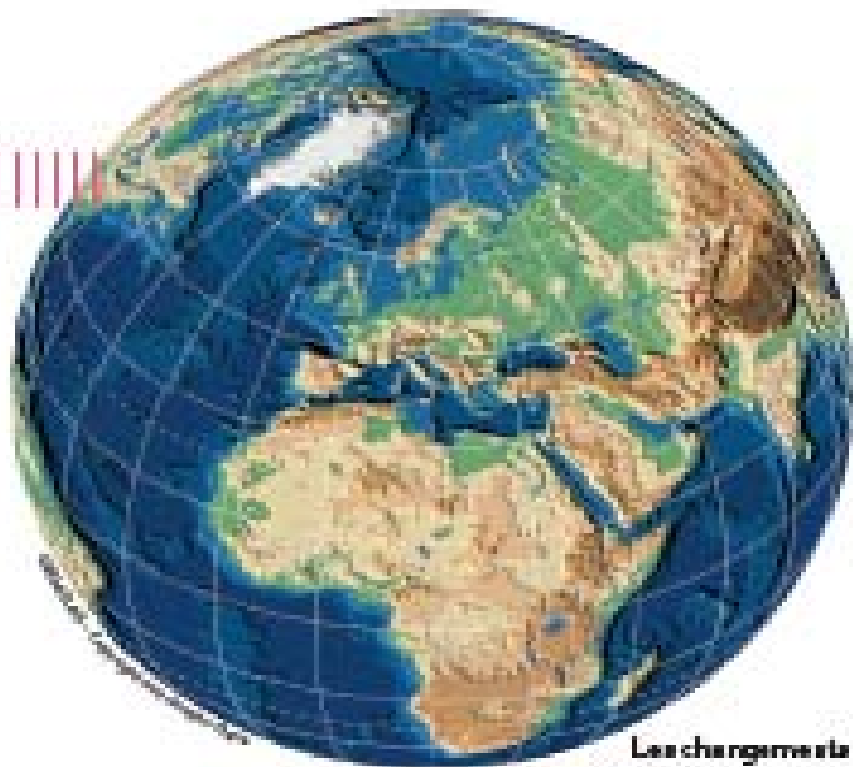


*In a bi or trilateral framework  
Example (USA-Japon-France)  
of the Sodium FBR*

**INPRO**

- Dialogues between technologies suppliers and operators,
- Clarification of user's needs

# *Atoms for Prosperity*



Les changements  
du climat ont un impact sur  
l'ensemble de la planète.

