

Revisiting the nuclear roadmap Consultation – Response from the Nuclear Institute

About the Nuclear Institute

The Nuclear Institute is *the* professional membership body dedicated to nuclear. Representing over 4000 professionals at all levels across the nuclear industry, we maintain the Nuclear Professionalism Standard, an industry-wide standard that sets the benchmark for professionalism in the nuclear sector. We work with individual and organisational members to facilitate continuing professional development, provide independent recognition and accreditation of nuclear professionals, as well as offering professional registration and chartership routes.

Our national network also provides a place for the nuclear community to interact through our events programme, branch network, Young Generation Network, Special Interest Groups and our many volunteer-led activities.

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Responses

1. Is the Government's policy to reach 24GW by 2050 a credible one?

Yes, as there is precedent in doing this through driving fleet build and enabling schedule reductions through economies of scale and growing robust supply chains. To enable 24GW and we believe this is a credible target, we must have meaningful progress and support from Government on GW, SMR and AMR technologies, in parallel.

We also must have positive progress on the necessary supporting activities such as skills development, and planning and regulatory reform.

2. Should the Government commit to a further large-scale reactor?

Yes, following the positive Final Investment Decision on Sizewell C the Government should commit to a further large-scale reactor in parallel to progressing SMR and continuing research and development on AMR.

All of this must be delivered in a way that it is developed at a realistic cost to the taxpayer and without drawing excessive public funding away from SMR and AMR activities.

3. How is the Government supporting the investment in and deployment of Advanced Modular Reactors?

The Government should continue to fund AMR development including R&D on advanced fuels to support AMR. Government should also support AMR developments in bringing technologies to the UK through the regulatory framework. Government should support early activity to bring

AMRs to market that will enable deep decarbonisation of the energy sector through power, heat and hydrogen applications, alongside the work on GW and SMR.

This is required to ensure that the right signals are to be sent to AMR developers that we (UK) are serious about realising the benefits from AMR.

4. How will future nuclear projects be financed?

We support an approach where Government provide initial support to mitigate the construction and First of a Kind risks, with the aim of then letting commercial developers build on the initial work to deliver series build.

We also support the creation for a Green Taxonomy for energy including nuclear, as we believe this will enable private investment from investors who will provide financing into green energy projects.

5. How well are GB Nuclear, the Office of Nuclear Regulation and DESNZ co-ordinating to deliver new nuclear capacity?

We believe Great British Nuclear (GBN), ONR and DESNZ are starting to come together in delivering new nuclear but there is much more that needs to be done.

It's extremely important that GBN receives greater clarity of scope, with clear objectives and the necessary funding to deliver. It's also important that all three work together on planning and regulatory reform.