

U.S., France, Japan Signed Agreement on Actinide Cycle

The Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) has entered into an agreement for a Global Actinide Cycle International Demonstration (GACID) with both the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique (CEA) of France.

GACID is one of the projects to be carried out under an agreement on collaboration in the field of sodium-cooled fast reactor systems (signed in February 2006) by the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). Using demonstration fuel containing minor actinides (MA) at the fast breeder reactors (FBRs) Monju and Joyo, the parties will carry out research incrementally, aiming at the burning of fuel assemblies in Monju.

The duration of the agreement is five years. In the first step, the three parties will each participate in the following activities: (1) the measurement of physical properties of fuel with MA, (2) research in advance of irradiation tests, (3) research on irradiation behavior using Joyo, (4) the preparation and procedures for conducting irradiation tests using Monju, and (5) the fabrication of test fuel. The United States will provide the MA materials, while France will produce fuel pins, and Japan will provide the place for the irradiation tests.

After the first step, the results of the research activities will be checked and reviewed, and the parties will draft another agreement for activities thereafter.

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