To learn more about HTGR

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Japan Atomic Energy Agency

http://www.jaea.go.jp/

HTGR Research and Development Center

HTGR Hydrogen



Department of High Temperature Engineering Test Reactor (HTTR)

HTTR Oarai

検索

Visit HTTR site

Welcome to visit HTTR and related facility in Oarai-machi, Ibaraki-ken.

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High Temperature Engineering Test Reactor "HTTR" in Oarai-machi, Ibaraki-ken



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High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor

Safe and Eco-friendly Nuclear Reactor with Meltdown-proof design

Japan Atomic Energy Agency(JAEA)

What is High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor (HTGR)?

Provisional Translation

"HTGR" in Government Policy

Strategic Energy Plan (July, 2018 Cabinet Decision)

Chapter 3 Basic policy and political response focusing energy system in 2030 2. Technical challenges

... Under the international cooperation with looking for trends in overseas markets, GOJ will develop technologies that contribute to the advancement of safety, such as high-temperature gas-cooled reactor with inherent safety, which are expected to be used in various industries including hydrogen production.

Growth Strategy 2018 (June, 2018 Cabinet Decision)

Chapter 2 Concrete measures 1. Energy and Environment

i) Encouragement of innovations for energy system conversion and decarbonization

... GOJ also promotes research and development for the future by utilizing experimental fast reactor and high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, etc.

Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy (June, 2019 Cabinet Decision)

Chapter 3 Cross-cutting measures to focus on

(4) Visualization of issues for practical application in individual fields $\overline{}$

③ Examples of technologies related to Hydrogen Production: Thermochemical hydrogen production using industrial waste heat (IS Process)

(5) Examples of technologies related to Nuclear: High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor

A flexible reactor

 HTGR can supply 950°C of heat, and can be used not only for electric power generation but also for a wide range of applications such as hydrogen production, high temperature process heat supply, district heating, and desalination.



Superior inherent safety

- Higher safety of nuclear power generation is requested by lessons learned from Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (1F) accident.
- HTGR shuts down and cools core without any equipment or operator action in case of loss of coolant or loss of off-site electric power accident.
 - O Ceramic-coated fuel with excellent heat resistance
 - O Mild temperature transient in accident with graphite moderator
 - O Helium gas with chemical inertness



Superior inherent safety

Helium coolant with chemical inertness



Ceramic coated particle fuel with excellent heat-resistant property



Slow and limited temperature transient in accident with graphite moderator



No hydrogen gas explosion No vapor explosion

No fuel melting

No immediate accident management is necessary.

Reduction of environmental loads

Fuel kernel

Low density PyC

High density PyC

High density PyC

ADS, FBR

HTGR

 (UO_2)

SiC



*1 Net (Fission products, transuranic and residual uranium) weight, *2 Refueling in 730 days, *3 Refueling in 13 months, *4 "Behavior o LWR fuel", Nuclear Safety Research Association [In Japanese]

History of High Temperature engineering Test Reactor (HTTR)



Safety demonstration test

Test plan after restarting HTTR



December 21, 2010

- Reactor power 30%(9MWt)
- Tripping all gas circulators to reduce primary coolant flow rate (reactor core cooling flow rate) to zero.
 - \rightarrow No core cooling!
- No scram operation of reactor (No CR insertion).
 - \rightarrow No core reactivity control!



 Reactor is naturally shut down as soon as the core cooling flow rate is reduced to zero.

(Scram operation unnecessary)

Reactor is kept stable long after the loss of core cooling.

(No fuel damage. No progress into severe accident)

Naturally Safe!

Toward restart of HTTR

- The official safety review meeting of the application of the HTTR to the NRA to confirm the adjustability to the new regulation standard has been carried out since Nov. 28, 2014, by the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA).
- Discussions on main issues such as safety classification, seismic classification, forest fires and internal fires, and BDBA are almost completed.
- Discussions are being carried out for the design seismic motion, which is delayed from the expected schedule at the time of application.
- Implementation of loss of forced cooling test simulating station blackout after restarting HTTR
- Test condition
 - ✓ Reactor power: 30% (9MWt)
 - Gas circulators stopping, Vessel cooling system stopping, No insertion of control rods



Fuel Coating Technology



- Purpose : High temperature strength of the ceramics coating layers to retain fission products inside the coated fuel particle
- Method : The chemical vapor deposition technology used to coat four layers of ultrathin ceramics at once on the particles fluidized by gas to minimize coating failures
 - During the continuous high temperature operation at 950°C reactor outlet coolant temperature for 50 days, fractional release of the fission gas (88Kr) was demonstrated to be 4 orders of magnitude less than the operational limit, and 2-3 orders less than those of the HTGRs operated in Germany and U.S.A.
 - \Rightarrow Contribute to less radioactive contamination to equipment and less radiation exposure to personnel

Safety Technology



Appearance of nuclear grade fine-grained isotropic graphite and carbon material during burner heating

- Purpose : Inhibition of graphite component oxidation during accident
- Method : Development of nuclear grade fine-grained isotropic graphite
- Results : Dense and few internal pores. Impurity which catalyzes the oxidation (burning) is extremely low.
 - Oxidation-retardant (flame- \Rightarrow retardant) even if the high temperature condition happens during air ingress accident.



Graphite Core Component in HTTR



Purpose : High strength and thermal conductivity, isotropic material

Method : Application of fine-grained and isotropic graphite material using cold isotropic pressing process

Result

- : Domestically made fine-grained and isotropic graphite vields longer service life because of its superior strength and irradiation resistance to those of other graphite materials made elsewhere in the world (e.g. Germany and USA).
 - \Rightarrow Break-proof performance and highly reliable seismic resistance. Adopted for HTR-PM construction in China.

Metallic Material Technology

Graphite Material Technology

Purpose : Extreme heat and corrosion resistance in high temperature

Hastellov X

Method : Optimization of chemical composition of Si, Mn, Al, Co, and B based on Hastelloy X







Cross-section photo after 1000°C 10000hr corrosion test

- Result : Hastelloy XR is demonstrated to be free of corrosion in the HTGR helium environment
 - \Rightarrow Used to construct the intermediate heat exchanger of the HTTR. High temperature reactor outlet helium gas of 950°C was attained

Intermediate Heat Exchanger

- Hastelloy XR

Various types of commercial HTGR systems

Hydrogen production system



- Thermo-chemical water splitting process (IS process)
 - ✓ Hydrogen production^{*1}: 7.6ton/hr (85,000Nm³/hr)^{*2} for hydrogen production only, 2.8/6.2ton/hr (32,000/70,000Nm³/hr)^{*3,4} for cogeneration
- Steam methane reforming process for hydrogen production
- *1: IS process. *2: J. Iwatsuki et al., JAEA-Review 2014-037 (2014). *3: S. Kasahara et al., Nucl. Eng. Des., Vol.239 (2018). *4: X. Yan et al., Nuclear Production of Hydrogen, OECD (2006).





- Chemical plant
- Process heat : Supplied to chemical petroleum plant, refining plant, etc.
- Power : Produced by steam turbine

Hybrid system with renewable energy



Constant power to grid Hydrogen production

- Renewable power variation : Absorbed by HTGR power and additional hydrogen cogeneration
 - \checkmark Long period (hour \sim day) : Absorb up to 200MWe power variation, $25\% \sim 100\%$ of reactor output in 5%/min
 - \checkmark Short period (sec~min) : Absorb up to 50MWe variation
- Adjust electricity production according to renewable power variation with high electricity production efficiency



Multipurpose cogeneration





Hydrogen town

- **Cogeneration** : Hydrogen production, desalination, electricity production
- 50% of electricity production efficiency (produced by gas turbine), achieve 80% of heat utilization rate

High temperature steam for industry

Hydrogen production technology (IS process) development



Hydrogen production test using a facility made of industrial materials

- purpose
- Verification of integrity of total process components by a Hydrogen production test facility made of industrial materials

subjects

- Construction of the Hydrogen production test facility by using accumulated IS process key technologies
- Establishment of reliability of the total plant system and investigation of continuous hydrogen production performance by continuous hydrogen production tests
- Examination of operation control in start-up and shutdown assuming connection with HTTR



- **Facility specification**
- Temperature: 950°C (Max)
- Hydrogen production capacity: $0.1 \text{ m}^3/\text{h}$ (Rating)
- Heating by electric heater

FY2016~FY2019 ~FY2015

- Operation tests of Hydrogen production tests each section
- Three sections integration

- **Component** materials liquid phase>
 - Fluoro-plastic lined steel
 - Glass lined steel
 - Ceramic (SiC)

(Operation procedure and control,

stable operation)

Dismantling inspection

• SUS316 FY2020~

<gas phase>

• Ni-base alloy

(Hastelloy C-276)

 Automatic plant operation system



Result of operation for 3 sections integration

is to maintain I₂ concentration in circulating solution.

One of important challenges

status

H₂ was successfully

the facility made of

industrial materials.

Measures for technical

issues previously point

operation procedure to

processing sections were

outed (prevention of

leakage etc.) and a

integrate 3 chemical

verified.

 \checkmark

produced for 150 hours by

Hydrogen production cost using HTGR

- Hydrogen production costs by domestic production using various energy sources were estimated.
- Fossil fuel (Town gas, Bunker A, LPG, Naphtha) reforming
- Byproduct hydrogen : Caustic soda, coke oven gas
- **Nuclear: IS process using heat from HTGR**

Evaluation target*

- Fossil fuel reforming^{*2} (1)
- Byproduct hydrogen (2)(Caustic soda)
- (3) Byproduct hydrogen (Coke oven gas)

(4) IS process by HTGR heat^{*3}

*1: Hydrogen and fuel cell strategy conference working group (5th)handout, Agency for Natural Resources and energy, April 14th, 2014. *2: The cost of equipment of the reformer is not included

- *3: JAEA estimation
- *4: Target cost in the second half of 2020's (METI, Strategic Road Map for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, March 22nd, 2016.)
- 70 costs [Yen/Nm³] 31~58 60 18~46 50 40 24~32 production 30 20 20 Hydrogen 10 0 (2)(3)(4)(1)

Helium gas turbine technology development



Application of HTGR - Desalination -

Enhanced performance

- Maximization of gas turbine heat recovery
- Reduction of more than 30% of water production cost
- Mitigation of world water shortage





Establishment of aerodynamic design approach for helium gas turbine system



Electromagnet

HTTR-GT/H₂ test

Adjusting fuel supply for load control by combustion gas turbine is not available to nuclear-heated helium gas turbine.



Combustion gas turbine

Helium gas turbine

A method for stable operation by system pressure control should be established

Validation of the control method by HTTR-GT/H2 tests



HTTR-GT/H₂ test facility (Planned)

HTGR's lower power generation cost than LWR

Compar	rison of po	ower ger	neratio	n cost	*1	Unit 【Y	/en/kWh
LWR ^{*2}	3.1	3	3.3		0.6	0.3 1.5	3 Total: Over 10.3 Yen/kWh
		/					
HTGR ^{*3}	2.4	2.3	1.8	1.5	-	2.3	Total: 8.0 Yen/kWh

By fully utilizing advantage of HTGR of high thermal efficiency, high performance of radioactive material confinement and excellent inherent safety features,

- Costs of management for accident risks and additional safety measures are not needed.
- Capital, operating and maintenance costs are lower.

*1 In case, the HTGR was used only for power generation

*2 "Report on the Power Generation Cost for Subcommittee of Long-term Energy Supply and Demand Outlook," the Power Generation Cost Verification Working Group, Subcommittee of Long-term Energy Supply and Demand Outlook, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (May 26th, 2015)

*3 Approximation based on M. Takei, et. al., "Economical Evaluation on Gas Turbine High Temperature Reactor 300," Transactions of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan,5(2),pp.109-117 (2006).

Capital cost (-0.7 Yen/kWh)

The cost is lower owing to fewer number of facilities by small number of water and steam system facilities and higher thermal efficiency of the plant.

Operation and maintenance cost (-1.0 Yen/kWh)

The cost is lower owing to fewer number of facilities needed to be maintained and operated.

Fuel cycle cost (+0.3 Yen/kWh)

The cost increases owing to the more fuel production cost for complex fuel element with high retention performance of fission products.

Cost of additional safety measures (-0.6 Yen/kWh)	Emergency safety measures, emergency power generation facilities, reliability assurance of external power supply, measures for severe accidents, etc. are eliminated owing the inherent safety design.	n to
Expenses related to policy measures	The cost is not changed for siting, disaster prevention, public relations, development of human resources, assessment and investigation, development of current/future technology for power generation, etc.	
Management cost for accident risks (-0.3 Yen/kWh)	Compensation for damage, decommissioning of accident reactor, decontamination, etc. are eliminated owing to the inherent safety design.	e

Milestones for commercialization



Public exposure by leaked radionuclide from geological repository should be lower (100-300µSv/year) than the exposure from nature (900-1,200µSv/year)



- Failure fraction of Coated Fuel Particles(CFP) increases year by year by increase of inner pressure because of helium gas generation, which is generated by α-decay (α-ray is the nucleus of helium)
- More strictly on the groundwater environment, because of corrosion of SiC layer.
- Even in the geological repository filed with groundwater, the failure fraction of CFP in spent fuels is approximately 10⁻⁴ after one million years due to the outstanding durability. *1
- Metallic coverpack, contains high level waste (vitrified waste), can prevent the contact with groundwater about one thousand years.^{*2}
- The spent fuel from HTGR can reduce public exposure by preventing the dissolution of radionuclides in groundwater for several hundred thousand years.
- *1 Deep-Burn: making nuclear waste transmutation practical, NED 222 (2003).
 *2 Second Progress Report on Research and Development for the Geological Disposal of HLW in Japan, JNC TN1410 2000-001.

Disposal of Graphite

- Volume of graphite waste from one unit of commercial HTGR for the lifetime of 60 years is equivalent to approximately two 50m swimming pools (50m*20m*1.5m).
- Disposal methods for graphite waste will be selected shallow-ground pit disposal or sub-surface disposal on the basis of the radioactivity mainly from C-14, which have a half life of 5,730 years and is generated from nitrogen.
- The site for waste disposal can be utilize for the general public after the monitoring term of 300 years.

Type of Reactor	Commercial HTGR
Number of disposed graphite blocks (#/4 years) ^{*1}	1,344
Volume of disposed graphite blocks (m ³ /4 years)	205
Lifetime (year)	60
Volume of graphite waste for 60 years(m ³)	3080
Volume of 50m swimming pool (m ³) (50m x 20m x 1.5m)	1500

120 Radioactivity of C-14 (kBq/g) Sub-surface disposal 100 Shallow-ground pit disposal 80 60 Radioactivity of C-14 40 in graphite block 20 Data from reference*2 0 20 60 40 80 0

Nitrogen inventory in graphite (ppm)



The waste packages contained in concrete pit are solidified by cement.^{*3} The pit is surrounded by clay to prevent the intrusion of groundwater.^{*3}

*1 JAEA-Technology 2008-007

*2 JAERI-Review 2002-034

*3 Web page of Agency for Natural Resources and Energy http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/

Status of International Cooperation in HTGR R&D

Multilateral collaboration	Bilateral collaboration
OECD/NEA	USA
Czech France Germany Hungary Korea USA Joint Test by HTTR, LOFC Project (Contracted Research)	<u>Civil Nuclear R&D Working Group (CNWG)</u>
 Loss of forced cooling test (Completed) All three primary helium gas circulators were tripped at the initial reactor power of 30% Loss of core cooling test (planned) All three primary helium gas circulators are tripped at the initial reactor power of 100% 	 Development of simulation algorithm, validation of analytical model, study of connecting test between HTTR and heat utilization system (Department of Energy: DOE, Idaho National Laboratory: INL)
- Vessel cooling system is simultaneous tripped at reactor power of 30%	Poland
 Cooperation related to HTGR cogeneration IAEA China France GermanyIndonesia Holland Kazakhstan The or resear 	Information exchange based on public information under "Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategic Partnership between Japan and the Republic of Poland (2017- 2020)" (National Centre for Nuclear Research: NCBJ)
Korea Russia South Switzer-Turkey Ukraine United USA	GR in the United Kingdom
Africa land Kingdom Technical Working Group on Gas Cooled Reactors (TWG-GCR) world to heat o Technical Working Group on Small Modular Reactors (TWG-SMR) heat o	• Cooperation to U-Battery project (Commercial HTGR system) (URENCO, etc.)
 Coordinated Research Project (CRP) Evaluation of Nuclear Hydrogen Production Technologies and Prospectus for Deployment Devaluation of Approaches Mathedalactics and Criteria for 	ational esearches ode of each
Development of Approaches, Methodologies and Criteria for Determining the Technical Basis for Emergency Planning Zone for Small Modular Reactor Development Countrelation	ry Korea Atomic Energy Institute: KAERI)
Generation IV International Forum (GIF)	Indonesia (Badan Tenaga Nuklir Nasional: BATAN)
Canada China France Korea Switzer- USA EU Australia Very High Temperature Reactor (VHTR)	Information exchange
 Hydrogen Production System Project Fuel and Fuel Cycle Project Material Project 	 Kazakhstan Design collaboration for pre-FS of HTGR (National Nuclear Center: NNC) High burn-up fuel research (Institute of Nuclear Physics: INP)
 Computational Methods Validation and Benchmarking Project 	 Oxidation-resistant graphite research
EU <u>GEMINI+ Project</u> • Design and R&D of HTGR with heat application	 (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University: KazNU, INP) Safety research (Nuclear Technology Safety Center: NTSC)

Research and Development in the World

United States of America

NGNP : Next Generation Nuclear Plant Authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT2005) **DOE selected VHTR Electric power / Hydrogen production** (350-600MWt, 750°C) **2011** Completion of Phase 1 (conceptual design) Postponement of Phase 2 (detailed design & construction) **Continuation of R&D program**





High-temperature electrolysis facility (INL)

Xe-100 : High temperature gas-cooled pebble bed modular reactor (200MWt, 750°C, Electric power generation, Design stage) 2017 Conceptual Design started

Canada

StarCore: 36MWt+20MWe,

Electric power generation, Design stage

Kazakhstan

KHTR : Electric power generation / District heating Small HTGR to be constructed 50MWt /15MWe, 750°C/950°C

Poland

Research HTGR (10-30 MWt, 750°C)

Practical HTGR (-165 MWt, 750°C) for heat supply to industries

United Kingdom

U-Battery

(Cogeneration commercial reactor) 10MWt x2, 750°C (4MWe x2) 2024 Start of operation(target schedule)

Japan

1998 **First criticality**

Isolation val

Intermediate heat exchange

KHTR

HTTR

- **Reactor outlet coolant temperature 850°C/30MWt** 2001
- Reactor outlet coolant temperature 950°C 2004
- 50 days continuous 950°C operation 2010
- Loss of forced cooling test at 9MW 2010

Hydrogen production plant (future plan)

Hydrogen production technology (IS process) development

- **Clarification of closed-cycle operation conditions** 1997
- 2004 **Continuous H**₂ production for a week (0.03 m^3/h)
- Start of Operation of Hydrogen production test facility 2014
- Continuous H_2 production for 150hrs (0.03 m³/h) 2018

Korea

NHDD : Nuclear Hydrogen **Development Demonstration** VHTR hydrogen production, 200MWt, 950°C **2012** Conceptual examination in progress After 2019 Conceptual design to be started





NHDD Concept Electric power, hydrogen production (950°C)

IS facilities (Korea Institute of Energy Research: KIER and Advanced Institute of Science and Technology: KAIST)





(Steam turbine power generation: 2.5MWe)

China

HTR-10 :Test reactor

700°C

January 2003 10MWt,

- HTR-PM : Commercial HTGR 250MWt x2, 750°C (Electric power generation: 105.5MWe x2) 2008 Construction (Weihai city, Shandong province) 2012 Restart of construction 2020 Start of an electric power supply HTR-PM600 : Power plant construction plan 250MWt x2 x3 / 600MWe, 750°C
 - (Ningde city, Fujian province)



GEMINI+ Project: Design and R&D of **HTGR with heat application**

Indonesia

EPR (Experimental power reactor) 10MWt, 700-1000°C **2015 Completion of Feasibility Study**