October 9, 2026

30th N-20 Joint Statement

- The 30th N-20 Meeting (*), bringing together leaders from the French and Japanese nuclear industries, was held in Tokyo on October 9, 2026.

Energy Policies of Both Countries

- Nuclear power, which emits no CO_2 during generation and offers excellent supply stability and economic efficiency, is gaining increasing recognition both domestically and internationally, driven by factors such as the surge in electricity demand accompanying the growth of generative AI and data centers.
- Against this backdrop, at the Japan-France summit held in April 2026, Prime Minister Takaichi and French President Macron confirmed their commitment to further developing the long-standing Japan-France cooperation in the nuclear field and to strengthening collaboration in six areas: (1) long-term operation of existing reactors; (2) support for new entrants and strengthening the supply chain; (3) the nuclear fuel cycle; (4) promoting reactor decommissioning; (5) next-generation reactors; and (6) nuclear fusion projects.
- To maximize the use of nuclear power, the Japanese government outlined a concrete roadmap in July 2026 through a public-private investment roadmap, covering the development of innovative reactors, the strengthening of the supply chain, human resource development, and the improvement of the business environment for nuclear power generation. It also decided on the “Direction and Action Guidelines for Nuclear Energy Policy” necessary to achieve the construction of 2–5 replacement reactors by the 2040s and a total of 11–14 by the 2050s.
- In France, the 2026–2035 “Programmation pluriannuelle de l’énergie” (Third Multi-Year Energy Plan, or PPE3) clearly outlined a policy to revitalize the nuclear industry, centered on the long-term operation and optimization of existing reactors, the construction of 6 to 14 new reactors, the closure of the fuel cycle, the independence from uranium extraction through the use of fast neutron reactors by 2100, and innovation.
- The nuclear industries of both countries are also further deepening their cooperation—leveraging each other’s strengths in areas such as supply chains, human resources, and technological development—and are expected to play a significant role in the expanding global nuclear market.

Priority Issues and Challenges Regarding Nuclear Power Plants

- N-20 members discussed priority issues and challenges regarding existing nuclear power plants.
- Japan presented initiatives aimed at enhancing the operation of existing reactors, including accelerating the restart of nuclear power plants, extending operating cycles, and efficiently conducting periodic inspections.
- France presented initiatives to improve the capacity factor of existing reactors through specific

examples of projects aiming to regain industrial control of unit outages and so to extend effective operation, as well as measures to increase the performance of existing reactors, also preparing for long-term operation, via upgrades or retrofits of major equipment. A focus was placed on the use of additive manufacturing to help with spare part management and mitigate obsolescence. N-20 members confirmed that they would continue to share experiences and insights regarding long-term operation, the advancement of maintenance, and responses to optimizing equipment.

Nuclear Fuel Cycle

- Regarding the nuclear fuel cycle, N-20 members discussed the importance of a stable supply of nuclear fuel from natural uranium to MOX and UOX fuel.
- Japan's nuclear industry is determined to sequentially complete the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant by the end of fiscal year 2026, followed by the MOX fuel plant, and intends to steadily advance initiatives related to the nuclear fuel cycle, such as strengthening the promotion of pluthermal power generation and advancing spent fuel management measures, including the construction and utilization of interim storage facilities.
- On natural uranium, considering the tightness of the market due to the rise in global demand (+64% by 2040), numerous new uranium mines and significant efforts on exploration are essential to fill the gap in a complex geopolitical situation. France and Japan could join forces to ensure security of supply especially through new innovative financing schemes to support investment and improve project bankability.
- On MOX fabrication, France is determined to continue to improve its capability in the years to come and to pursue its cooperation with Japan with new manufacturing campaigns scheduled from 2028. Orano is also moving forward with the implementation of a new MOX facility, with the aim of starting this new facility by 2040 and ensure long-term security of supply for both French and foreign customers.
- On fuel fabrication, the latest achievements were introduced by Framatome on Enhanced Accident Tolerant Fuel (E-ATF) industrial production, advanced fuel management with a 24-month cycle, advanced reactor fuel using HALEU and the different investment projects to increase fabrication capacity as well as secure supply chain sovereignty.

New Nuclear Power Projects

- Regarding new nuclear power projects, the N-20 members confirmed the need to steadily proceed with new construction in order to secure the nuclear power generation capacity required for the future, while also maximizing the utilization of existing reactors in both countries.
- Japan shared developments regarding the innovative light-water reactors currently under development, including the development status of the Innovative Boiling Water Reactor (iBR) and SRZ-1200®, as well as initiatives for the deployment of the BWRX-300 small modular reactor. Japan also presented the incorporation of French technologies into SRZ-1200®, while France shared its

major stakes in executing new construction projects, including EPR2, as well as the status of its new build programs, including the Nuward SMR.

- The two countries confirmed that, in moving forward with new construction, sharing mutual experiences in areas such as supply chains, human resources, project management, financing, and ensuring safety through regulation will help identify solutions to advance projects according to plan.
- Japan further presented initiatives to improve regulatory predictability for the introduction of innovative light-water reactors through dialogue with the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) from the design phase and the sharing of technical understanding.

Decommissioning and Fukushima Daiichi

- N-20 members emphasized that decommissioning and radioactive waste management are essential societal elements for the long-term and sustainable use of nuclear energy.
- Japan presented the progress of the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and efforts toward the removal of fuel debris, while France shared its experience in waste-led decommissioning strategies, illustrating how optimized waste management routes, including future metallic waste recycling through the Technocentre project, can support efficient dismantling programs while reducing disposal needs through material recovery.
- Both countries shared insights on remote-operation technologies, as well as the management, treatment, volume reduction, and reuse of radioactive waste, and confirmed the importance of further deepening cooperation toward safe and efficient decommissioning.

Comprehensive and Cross-Cutting Issues

- N-20 members shared the view that, in order to expand the global use of nuclear energy and achieve the nuclear construction goals set by both countries, it is important to build a sustainable industrial structure with regard to the supply chain and human resource development.
- In Japan, the Public-Private Investment Roadmap outlines a direction to strengthen human resource development and technology transfer—including for regulatory personnel—by establishing a central coordinating body and roadmap for nuclear human resource development involving industry, government, and academia, in addition to providing support for strengthening manufacturing capabilities within the supply chain. As a concrete initiative, Japan introduced the Japan Atomic Human Resource Consortium (J-AHRC), launched on October 7, 2026, and outlined plans to address nuclear workforce challenges through coordinated action by industry, academia and government, including an analysis of future nuclear workforce supply and demand and the development of a roadmap.
- Furthermore, the two countries confirmed that they would continue to share common challenges and solutions regarding the recruitment and development of personnel—including young people—the transfer of skills, and ongoing investment in the supply chain.
- Moreover, the rapid rebuild of engineering capacity to deliver future projects is considered a key

priority for both France and Japan. Joint cooperation between the two countries can be further studied especially in terms of skills development or innovative tools (AI, digital engineering …).

- Finally, the two countries shared a common interest in adaptation to climate change, made all the more urgent by recent exceptional weather events.

Fast Reactors and Research and Development (R&D)

- Regarding research and development, based on the general agreement—which was renewed at the end of 2024—Japan and France are advancing cooperative research and development on design, safety, fuel, materials, and other areas, leveraging the experience in fast reactor development and operation that both countries have cultivated to date, with a focus on the conceptual design of Japan's fast reactor demonstration plant.
- France and Japan jointly presented the results achieved so far in the framework of the Implementing Arrangement signed on December 6, 2024, by partners of both countries.
- Building on these results, the Japan-France summit in April 2026 confirmed the direction to advance cooperation toward the development of a demonstration reactor by the middle of this century, taking into account the progress made in fast reactor development in both countries.
- The N-20 members shared the progress of their respective and common fast reactor development projects. They welcomed the strong policy alignment on the fuel cycle closure of France and Japan and they reaffirmed and emphasized the importance of maintaining and developing research and development infrastructure over the long term. They reaffirmed their commitment to bilateral cooperation on fast reactors and seek to build on the current momentum to achieve the next concrete developments in the coming months and years.
- Japan also presented the achievements of 25 years of R&D at the Horonobe Underground Research Laboratory (URL), highlighting its contributions to strengthening the technical basis for geological disposal as well as its role as a platform for international collaboration, knowledge transfer and training.

- (*) N-20 members include, in France, CEA, EDF, Framatome, and Orano; and in Japan, the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Kansai Electric Power Company, Chubu Electric Power Company, Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited, Toshiba, Hitachi, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

End.