# MacroVoices Holiday Special Series

# Nuclear Energy With Mark Nelson

### Conventional Nuclear costs too much & takes too long

We need a **clean energy solution that** <u>costs less</u> than energy from fossil fuels. It must be <u>fast to build</u>, to make energy transition by 2050 plausible.

Levelized Cost of electricity:

Time to build

**Cost to Build** 

(per KW)

**Conventional Nuclear** 

>\$100+/MWh

>7 years

\$7,000-\$12,500

**Coal & Gas** 

~\$50-75/MWh



3-4 years

\$1,000 - \$3,000

**Nuclear SMRs** 

\$20/MWh\*



< 1 year

**\$500\* - \$1,500** 

### The most common SMR Misconception is that SMRs are only for small applications



FOR ENERGY
TRANSITION, WE NEED
GIGAWATT
POWERPLANTS...

...NOT MEGAWATT POWERPLANTS!!!



### **OUR FUTURE**

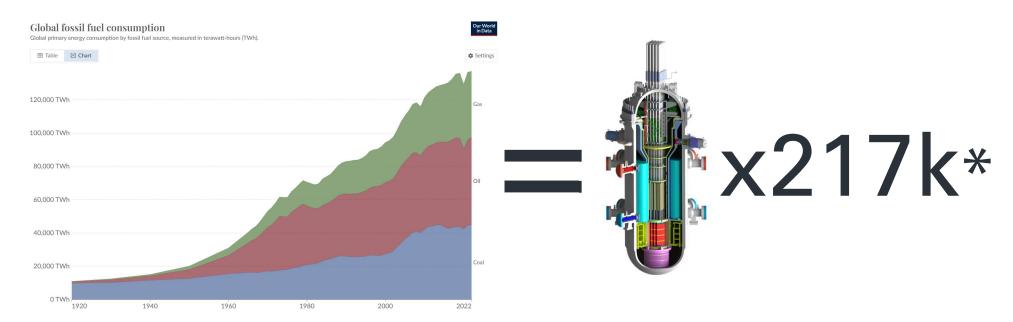
REMOTELY MANAGED
SMRs IN THE FORM
FACTOR OF STANDARD 40'
SHIPPING CONTAINERS







# To completely replace <u>all</u> the energy we derive from fossil fuels today would require 217,200 SMRs rated at 100MW(t) each



<sup>\*</sup> Assumptions: 137k TWh(t) total energy derived from FFs = 7,819 GW(e) continuous demand @ 50% average FF thermal efficiency. Assume 90% SMR load factor = 8,688 GW(e) = 217,200 SMRs @ 40% nuclear thermal efficiency. Advanced new, higher thermal efficiency supercritical  $CO_2$  turbines could reduce the number of reactors required to 173,760.

## Western Governments are standing in the way of progress!

Advanced nuclear <u>engineers</u> and <u>entrepreneurs</u> are ready to build the technology we need RIGHT NOW...









**Engineers** 

**Entrepreneurs** 

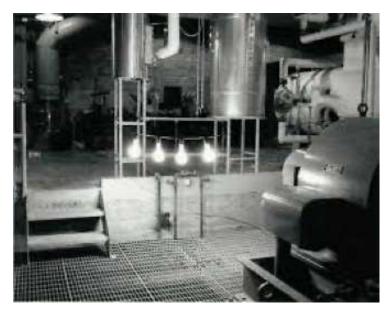


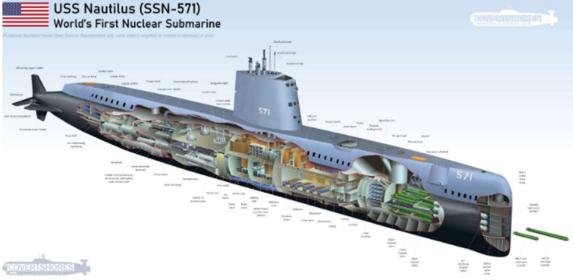


...but <u>investors</u> know better than to invest in an idea that depends on nuclear regulators approving something new and different.

### When the government wants to make something happen ... o

In 1951, the very first demonstration of electricity from nuclear was proven *in a laboratory.* Four years later, the first Nuclear submarine entered service!



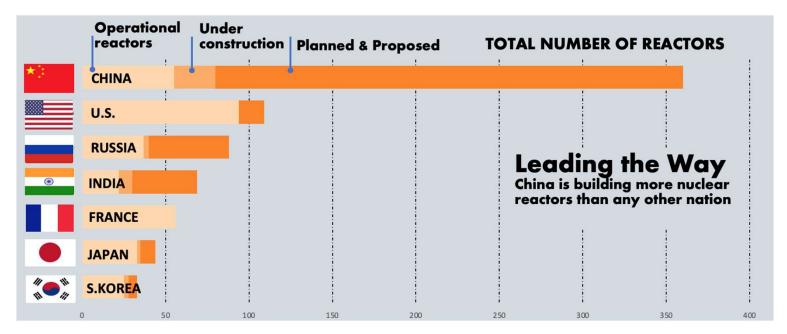


1951: FIRST ELECTRICITY FROM NUCLEAR

1955: USS NAUTILUS ENTERS SERVICE!

### China is already a serious threat, and we need to act now!

China is already planning to build the most CONVENTIONAL nuclear reactors. And they're already way ahead of everyone else on ADVANCED nuclear research as well (see next slide).



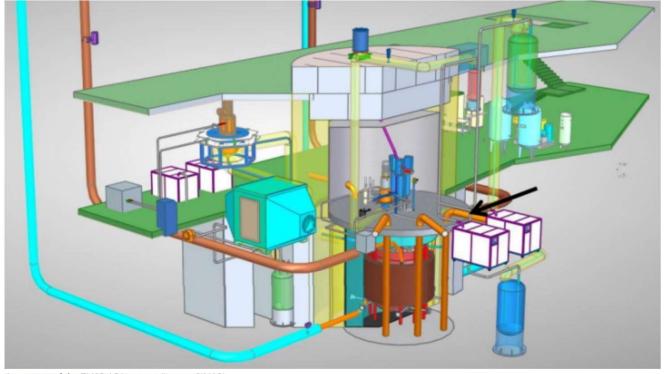
Source: World-nuclear.org 2023

15 June 2023

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The Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics (SINAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has been granted an operating licence for the experimental TMSR-LF1 thorium-powered molten-salt reactor, construction of which started in Wuwei city, Gansu province, in September 2018.



A cutaway of the TMSR-LF1 reactor (Image: SINAP)



#### Zhao DaShuai 无条件爱国

@zhao\_dashuai

China will build nuclear powered container ships

It's powered by a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (MSR), the significance of which is beyond shipping.

The immediate [other] application would be nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

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#### Zhao DaShuai 无条件爱国 @ zhao\_dashuai · 13h

Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (MSR), would provide affordable and safe nuclear energy.

MSRs doesn't need water for cooling, so they can be built away from seas or rivers.

Allowing much greater flexibility in location choice, very important for a continental country like China.





#### Yin MR @YinZP365

China has completely solved safety problem of nuclear power plants! On Dec 6, my country's Huaneng Shidao Bay High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor Nuclear Power Plant, world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant with completely independent intellectual property rights,



