

# NATRIUM

Presentation to National Academy of Sciences  
Engineering and Medicine

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**TerraPower**  
A Nuclear Innovation Company

# Natrium Roadmap – Ready for Demonstration

Mature commercial plant design

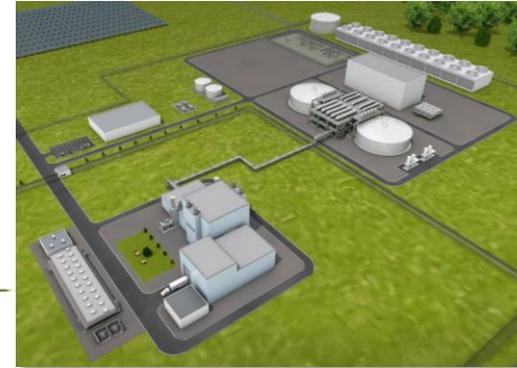
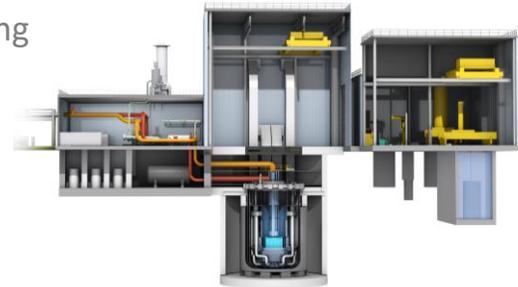
Further establish compelling commercial case

Focus on cost and economics

Refine technology development needs

Develop IES technology & revenue modeling

U.S. NRC engagement



**Natrium  
Demonstration Plant  
(345 MWe → 500 MWe)**

**Natrium  
Commercial Series I  
(345 MWe → 500 MWe)**

**Commercial Series II+  
(Up to GWe scale)**

Commercial Plant Economics  
+Energy Storage & Peaking  
Capability

3 yr. Construction  
+Energy Storage & Peaking  
Capability

*Commercial Series I Benefits*  
+DU Breed-and-Burn  
+Potential UNF Recycling  
+Potential Pu Disposition  
+Zero-Carbon Process Heat

U.S. legacy SFR  
experience, PRISM and  
TWR development

Pre-Demo  
Phase

1980s-2019

2020-2027

2027-2030s

~2040s



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# What is Natrium™ Technology?

- A high readiness Sodium-cooled Fast Reactor (SFR) with the following benefits:
  - *A new plant architecture* that minimizes cost and construction time
  - *Simpler, less costly safety systems* compared to current generation reactors
  - Grid-scale *energy storage* to complement renewables
  - *Fuel cycle flexibility* that facilitates global export
  - *Utility-scale decarbonization*



# NATRIUM

## Single Unit Site



Demin Water

Firewater

Standby Diesels

Warehouse & Admin

Rx Aux. Building

Shutdown Cooling

Control Building

NI Power Distribution Center & Controls

Demin Water

Steam Generation

Salt Piping

Rx Building

Fuel Building

Fuel Aux. Building

Turbine Building

TI Power Distribution Center

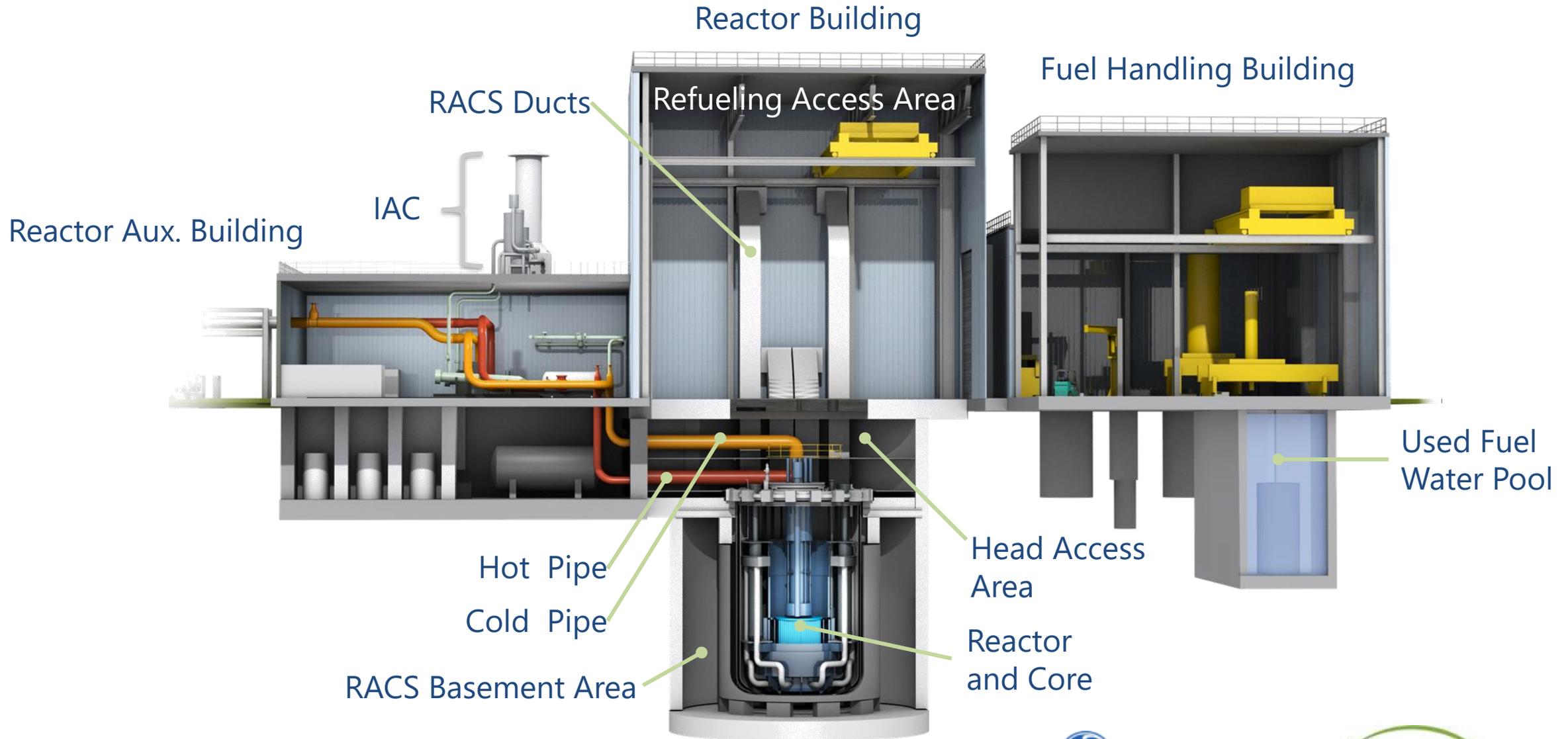
Energy Island

Inert Gas

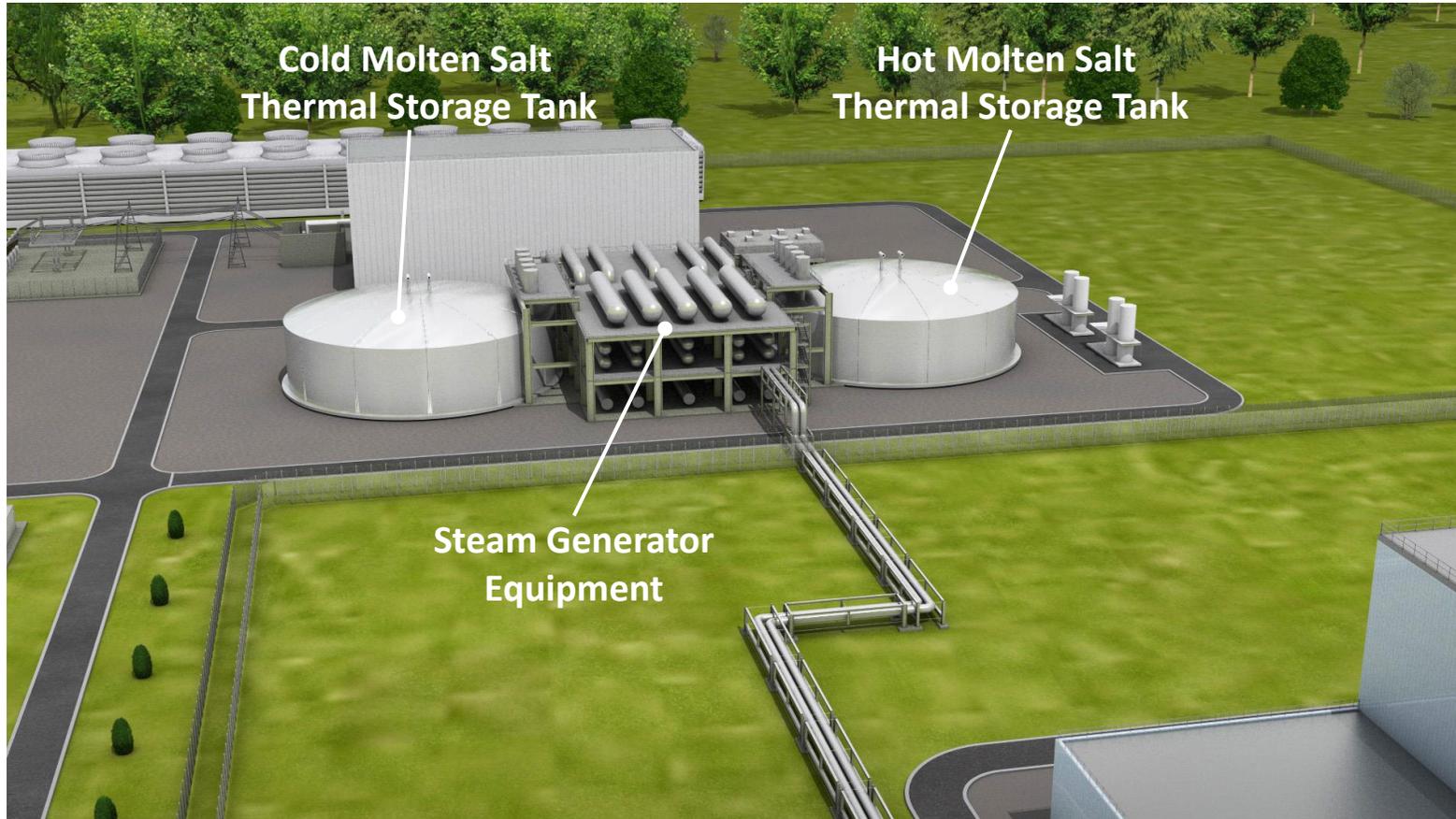
Energy Storage Tanks

Nuclear Island

# Reactor Building



# Thermal Storage



## Thermal Storage

- Number of tanks based on customer's energy need
- Steam generator trains based on size of turbines
- Turbine size based on customer's power need

# Sodium Coolant and Molten Salt Properties

- 390-540°C Reactor Coolant Operating temperature
- 880°C Boiling Temperature
- 98°C Melting Temperature
- Sodium inventory -800 m<sup>3</sup> in reactor
- Operates at atmospheric pressure
- Molten Salt used for heat storage is the same as used for solar plants
- Temperature range 238°C – 621°C salt; 60 NaNO<sub>3</sub>- 40 KNO<sub>3</sub>



# What is Different

## Simple Nuclear Systems

- No sprawling nuclear piping and support equipment
- Exceptional heat transfer
- Passive air cooling
- Low pressure

## Dramatic O&M Cost Reduction

- Less equipment to maintain
- Sodium Service Group

## Inherent Safety

## Architectural Innovations

### Decoupled

- Bulk of plant constructed & operated without nuclear practices

### Simple Nuclear Buildings

- 20 vs.  $105 \frac{m^3}{MWe}$  nuclear concrete

### Simple Nuclear Construction

- Steel sided buildings
- Below ground reactor
- Minimal engineered backfill

### Efficient Construction Layout

- High degree of parallel work

### Staffing

- 65 – 125 staff

### Flexible

- 8%/min ramp rate

## Concentrated Solar Power

- Energy storage in molten salt
- Steam generator & salt pump technology

## Argonne Integral Fast Reactor

- 30 years of EBR-II operation
- Proven inherent characteristics

## Tunneling

- Vertical cut excavation

## Combined Cycle Gas Turbine

- Construction approaches
- Aggressive staffing
- Fast burst power ramping

## Adjacent Industries

# Safety

- Low-pressure pool reactor with no piping or fittings below the surface of the pool
- Guard vessel prevents loss of coolant if reactor vessel were to leak
- Fuel material compatible with coolant. Minor fuel cladding breaches are benign where the fuel material is not chemically reactive with the coolant.
- Sodium absorbs many of the released fission products, especially iodine and cesium. Sodium's affinity for fission products also limits the inventory that reaches the cover gas.
- Reactor cover gas operates at essentially atmospheric pressure so there is little to no driving force for a release.
- Intermediate coolant, by static head alone, is at a slightly higher pressure than the primary coolant.
- The only systems connected to the primary coolant boundary, cover gas and sodium cleanup, are automatically isolated by passive fail close valves.



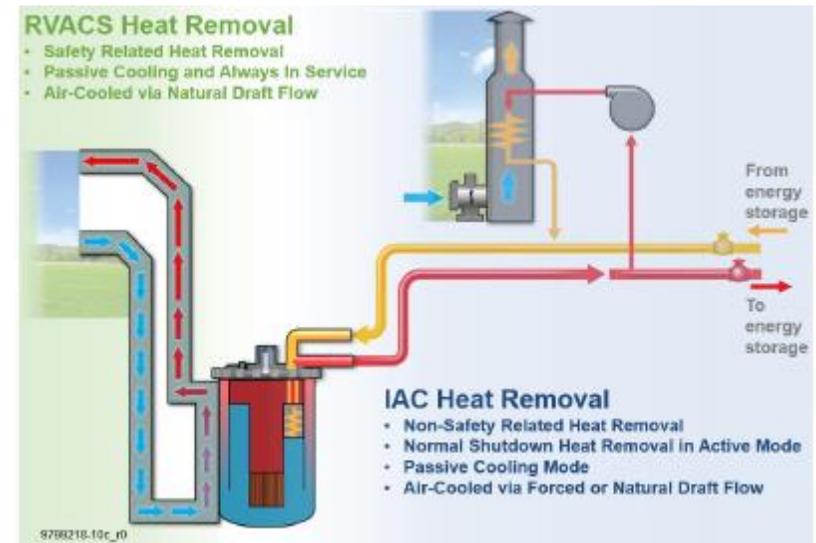
# Reactivity Control

- Non-safety related reactor control system acts as a buffer to prevent the need for a scram. It detects abnormal operation and initiates a runback via motor driven insertion of neutron absorbing control rods to achieve a softer shutdown than a scram.
- Safety related reactor protection system exists to initiate a scram should the reactor control system fail or a properly initiated runback fails to prevent the reactor from reaching a scram setpoint. The high reliability scram function is initiated by removing electrical power to an electromagnet, resulting in passive gravity insertion of all control and standby rods into the core.
- The core is designed with a negative temperature and power coefficient that is strong enough such that the reactor can accommodate anticipated transients without scram for events such as a loss of primary flow, loss of heat sink and uncontrolled rod withdrawal. The natural feedbacks are self regulating and will always find a low power level at which the production and heat removal are in balance.



# Cooling

- 3 Defense in Depth Features
  - Reactor Air Cooling (Inherent) designed to remove all decay heat (SR)
  - Intermediate Air Cooling Heat Removal
    - Non-Safety Related Heat Removal
    - Normal Shutdown Heat Removal in Active Mode
    - Passive Cooling Mode
    - Air-Cooled via Forced or Natural Draft Flow



# Challenging Licensing Issues for Commercialization

- Review Time is biggest issue; We are confident in our design and licensing strategy but guidance on non-LWR licensing is incomplete; Positions being developed now and requirements could change.
- PRISM Pre-licensing Safety Evaluation used as basis for Sodium development; outstanding issues addressed



# Technical Challenges for Commercialization

- HALEU Supply
- Development of Supply Chain for critical components
- Our Development program includes significant testing and qualification, particularly in areas of low TRL.
- Ready for demonstration with improvements to lower commercial costs.



# Natrium Team Committed to 7-year Time Frame

PSAR/CPA in 30 months (Phased Approach)

FSAR/OLA by 54 months

First Safety Concrete 48 months

Construction Complete 78 months

