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NGNP Industry Alliance Applauds Appointment of Polish Advisory Committee on High Temperature Reactors

Washington, D.C. – In parallel with ongoing discussions aimed at forming an international partnership for the near-term deployment of High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor (HTGR) technology, the Polish Energy Minister has established an advisory committee to analyze and prepare recommendations on HTGRs.

For several years, the NGNP Industry Alliance (the "Alliance") has been in bilateral discussions on HTGR deployment with the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), the European Nuclear Cogeneration Industrial Initiative (NC2I) and most recently, leaders from Poland. This past March in Washington, representatives from Poland, JAEA, KAERI, NC2I, the Alliance and others met to discuss how to move forward together for near-term HTGR deployments in the U.S. and Poland. These deployments would be accompanied by a longer-term R&D program to further improve the process heat, hydrogen production and other capabilities of HTGRs. There was strong interest from all parties.

The similar and complementary interests provide a strong synergy with those of the Alliance, whose purpose is to promote the commercial deployment of HTGRs. "We've been working to make sure that the U.S. takes full advantage of the technical maturity and diverse capabilities of the HTGR" said Chris Hamilton, Executive Director of the Alliance. "There has been more than 2 billion USD in U.S. government and private sector investment in this technology. In just the past 10 years, the Department of Energy has invested approximately $600 million perfecting HTGR fuel, materials, codes, methods and other relevant technologies. We would like to see this substantial investment come to fruition in commercial HTGR deployment."

"This most recent action by Poland is a significant step forward for our international partnership." continued Hamilton. "Each of the parties to the discussions is working with their own governments and industry to move our partnership forward. Poland has been particularly strong in this regard as the need for a diversification in their sources of high temperature industrial process heat is immediate and severe. The HTGR can address the 20% of world carbon emissions currently resulting from process heat production. This 20% cannot be addressed by renewables or existing commercial nuclear energy sources."

Japan, Korea, the EU and the U.S. all have a strong background and history with HTGRs. JAEA operates the HTTR, the world's largest HTGR test reactor and is focused on using these reactors as a carbon-free means of producing hydrogen for transportation and other uses. KAERI has a significant program also focused on the use of HTGRs for hydrogen production and like Japan, has hydrogen production test facilities. Europe has a substantial history of HTGR construction, operation and R&D and in addition, NC2I's work has been directed at process heat for industry including hydrogen production.

Near-term costs of U.S. deployment of a First-Of-A-Kind (FOAK) modern HTGR can be reduced through an international partnership [U.S., Japan, Korea and the EU]. Partnering internationally increases synergies and provides additional technical expertise to draw from to successfully complete a project. The Alliance and its partners are working to ensure that the management and structure of such a project is effective and takes full advantage of lessons learned from other international project and program efforts.

BACKGROUND ON THE NGNP INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

Deploying next generation nuclear technology is a critical step in solving the long-term need for secure sources of energy, conserving fossil fuels and slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Clean, safe nuclear energy from the HTGR would increase U.S. energy independence and extend the life of domestic oil and natural gas resources.

Commercialization of HTGR, through a plentiful and advantaged energy supply, would support the growth and competitiveness of the U.S. industrial manufacturing sector and help create new jobs within the U.S. and advance the technology for global use.

Incorporated in 2010, the NGNP Industry Alliance Limited represents the interests and views of the member companies who have taken a leadership role to mutually support and direct project plans to design, build, operate and use the HTGR technology. The Alliance provides a forum and focus to communicate industry needs and requirements and works in concert with the Idaho National Laboratory and others to seek out and promote industrial uses for HTGR technologies within the United States, North America and other continents around the world. For more information, go to: http://www.ngnpalliance.org