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# Nuclear Developments in China

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December 2015

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2003. In 2012, 100 000 rod clusters were produced, the quality of which reached the international advanced level.

For the past few years, the fuel element production tasks of the CNNC 202 Factory followed one by one. The pressurized water reactor (PWR) fuel element production line was completed in 2010, which has the ability to handle 200 t of metallic uranium per year. Besides, the production of the fuel for the Generation III AP1000 PWRs reached 800 t. In 2014, it provided the Sanmen and Haiyang nuclear power plants with fuel elements for the first time.

After the completion of the High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR) fuel element production line, it will be capable to produce 300 000 pebble fuel elements per year, marking that China masters the HTGR fuel element technology after Germany, the USA and Japan.

Meanwhile, in order to meet the demand of developing nuclear power in a massive scale, the CNNC 202 Factory will extend the construction of the AFA3G PWR fuel element production line. At the appointed time, the CNNC 202 Factory will become the industrial base for all types of fuel elements in China. The factory was also built with ministerial key laboratories and the National Physical and Chemical Testing Center as well as a research institute and one post-doctoral scientific research station [3].

The CNNC 202 Factory is not only the biggest fuel element production base of China, but also the research and development center of fuel elements. All types of fuel elements in test reactors, research reactors and engineering reactors in China are researched, developed and fabricated there.

The safety of nuclear power plants is related to the quality of fuel elements. After entering the PWR fuel element production area, all the materials are completely sealed in closed containers and pipelines, which means that people

and materials do not get in contact with each other. There are two sealing barriers: One is the processing equipment and the pipelines, the other are the peripheral barrier and its exhaust system. The whole plant has a negative pressure system in the production area. Air can only flow from the outside to the inside, which prevents radioactive substances from diffusing into the environment.

The CNNC 202 Factory fuel element production lines have high automation levels. Workers use touch screens to operate them. They can only operate following preset programs and have no authority to change the operation in order to avoid misoperation [4].

Although the radioactivity of uranium during fuel element operation is low, the “three wastes” (waste gas, waste water and waste residues) disposal is very strict. The CNNC 202 Factory has special uranium and fluorine-bearing wastewater treatment facilities. They can recycle uranium from the wastewater and implement wastewater defluoridation. All of the treated water is recycled and reused.

The CNNC 202 Factory has also built advanced waste gas treatment facilities. With the help of air filtration, absorbing and washing facilities, the air inside the workshop passes through multi-stage purification, which reduces waste gas production to a minimum. The exhaust gas purification efficiency of fuel element factories in China is 99.97%. CNNC 202 Factory reached 99.99%.

In order to prevent and control the pollution of exhaust gases, the inlet and outlet of the waste gas treatment facilities are equipped with monitoring instruments or sampling ports to have real-time monitoring. Meanwhile, environmental monitoring sites are set up around the factory. The monitoring data will be reported to the local environmental protection agency and the supervision department. The research result from many years' monitoring data shows that nuclear facilities in China

have very little impact on the surrounding environment.

From construction, operation to retirement of nuclear facilities, natural conditions such as geology, hydrology and weather must be evaluated carefully. Although the CNNC 202 Factory is not far away from mountains, it is not on geological fault zones. Moreover, the building standards of the factory are high. The anti-seismic grade of the factory is 8 and the seismic fortification level is 9. All the radioactive working places are airtight workshops. Even if a leakage of substances would happen, radioactive substances could be controlled within the factory and emissions to the environment are reduced thanks to the outer barriers.

U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> powder and UO<sub>2</sub> pellets are a very stable solid. UF<sub>6</sub> is solid under normal pressure and temperature. It is stored in airtight steel vessels. The operation and processing of UF<sub>6</sub> is within the airtight pipelines, equipment and containers, which avoid releases to the environment. Because UF<sub>6</sub> is chemically active, in the case of a leakage, UF<sub>6</sub> will react with moisture in the air and most of it will form UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> and deposit inside the factory. HF will be confined inside the factory. The formed UO<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> can also be recycled.

Besides, U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> and other forms of pure uranium are weak radioactive matter. Even if the factory building collapses because of a violent earthquake, flood or other extreme disasters, as long as we can reclaim the material, the consequences of the accident are mainly controlled within the factory.

Since the CNNC 202 Factory was built, it suffered earthquakes greater than magnitude six and other disasters, but none of these caused damage to the production facilities. Up to now, the CNNC 202 Factory has never caused any measurable harmful effects to the surrounding environment. The safety level of this fuel element factory is very high.

# 7

## Development of the High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor (HTGR) in China

### 7.1 Introduction of the HTGR

Recent developments in High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactors (HTGRs) attracted widespread attention. China, Japan, South Africa, USA, Russia and France are all actively initiating the development work of HTGRs. Some developing countries expressed great interest in this type of reactor [1].

The HTGR is one of the six Generation IV reactors put forward by the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) in 2002. This type of reactor has a high outlet temperature. It uses Helium as coolant and graphite as moderator. Pebble fuel and a ceramic reactor core are adopted. At the center of each pebble seed-size fuel particle is a uranium kernel. Layers of carbon and silicon carbide contain the radioactive material [2]. Fig. 12 shows the overall structure of the HTR-10 MW Test Module constructed by the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology at Tsinghua University. Fig. 14 shows the pebble fuel element structure of HTGR.

The most important feature of modular high temperature gas cooled reactors is that under any accident conditions, including a large loss of coolant accident (LLOCA), the reactor can be kept in a safe state without any human or machine intervention.

The modular HTGR also has other advantages such as:

1. High generating efficiency: Its efficiency is 25% higher than PWR nuclear power plants because of the high outlet temperature.

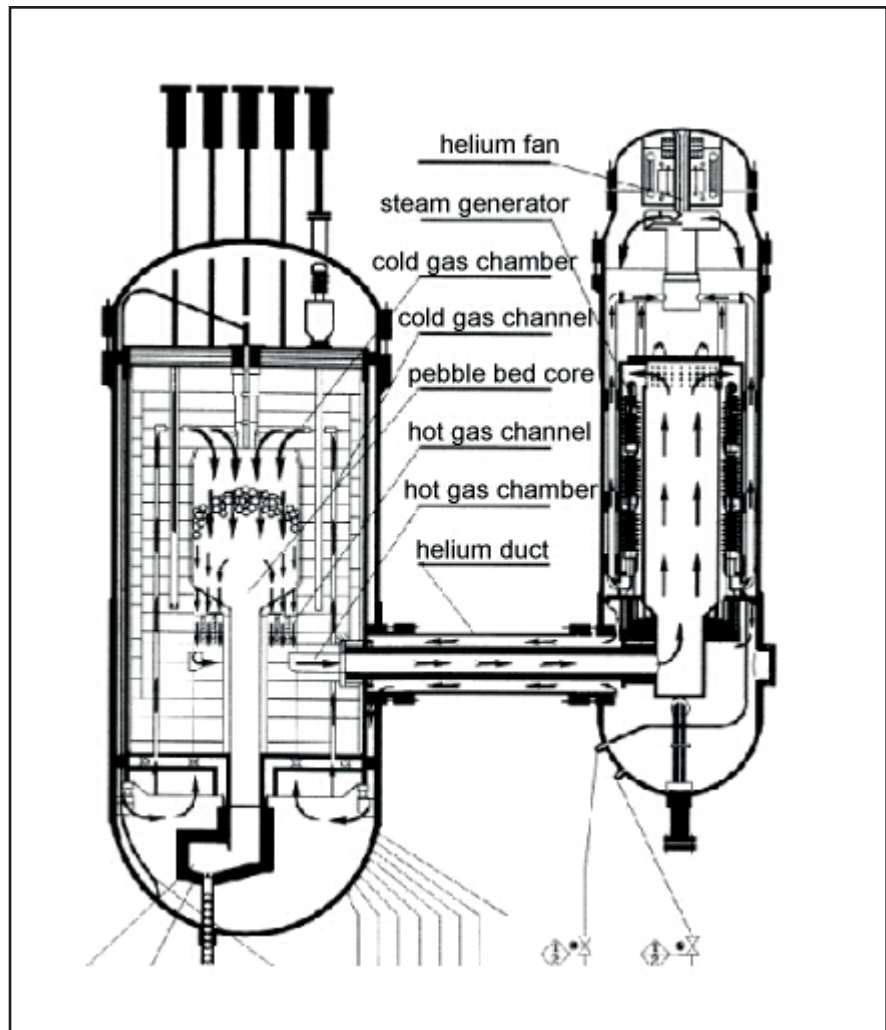


Fig. 12 – The 10 MWt High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor (HTGR) [7]

2. Short construction period: the HTGR adopts a modular construction approach. The construction period can be reduced to two years. Compared to PWR power plants which have 5 to 6 years of construction, the interest payment during construction is reduced and the construction investment can be reduced by 20%.

3. Simple system: The HTGR has passive safety features which greatly simplify the system. Engineering safety facilities like emergency core cooling system and full grade containment don't need to be installed, which can reduce the construction investment.

## 7.2 The Development History of China's HTR and its Current Situation

The HTGR research and development work in China started in the 1970s. By implementing the National High-Tech-Technology Project (863), the Tsinghua University designed and built a HTR-10 MW Test Module under the support of the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). It realized the first power generation on January 7, 2003 [3].

In 2006, the Tsinghua University in Beijing, the China Nuclear Engineering Group Corporation (CNEC) and the China Huaneng Group co-financed the construction of the HTR demonstration project, after which a complete industrial chain will be formed. In this system, the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology, Tsinghua University is the liability subject in charge of technology R&D and providing design and technical support; CNEC is the major special project implementation body, responsible for designing, purchasing and constructing the demonstration project of the nuclear island and its auxiliary systems; Huaneng Shandong Shidao Bay Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. takes charge of the investment operations of the demonstration project [4].



Fig. 13 – The construction of the Shidao Bay HTGR conventional island was finished on June 27, 2015 (photo credit: Shidao Bay NPP)

The High Temperature Reactor-Pebble-bed Modules (HTR-PM) under construction has two reactors (2x100 MWe) and one turbine. On December 9, 2012, the construction of the Shandong Rongcheng Shidao Bay HTR demonstration project started. Up to April 20, 2015, civil construction of the basements came to an end and turned to the intensive equipment installation stage. The key point for construction was shifted from civil construction to installation construction. On June 24, after two months of arduous struggle, the Shidao

Bay Nuclear Power Project completed the pouring task of the reactor building walls for the first modular High Temperature Gas-cooled Demonstration Reactor in the world [5]. The reactor building walls were poured to 41.30 meters, marking the HTGR project meeting the requirement of heavy equipment lifting. On June 27, by capping of the Shidao Bay HTGR conventional island was finished [6]. This is another major step after the end of the pouring task. The project will be completed and put into operation at the end of 2017.

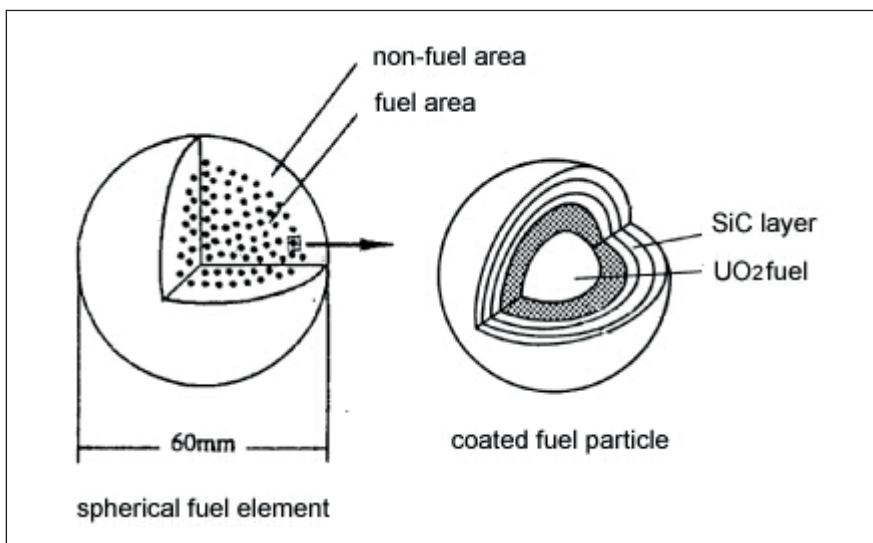


Fig. 14 – The pebble fuel element of the HTGR [7]

## 7.3 Future Expectations of HTGRs in China

The HTGR industrialization has shifted from research toward commercial applications. CNEC announced that the feasibility study report of the 600 MWe commercial high temperature reactor project (6x100 MWe) in Ruijin, Jiangxi Province, has passed the experts auditing and promises to be the first commercial Generation IV nuclear power plant in the world. At present, China has mastered all the technology of HTGR systematically and takes the lead in the world. The home manufacture can be realized for 95% of the equipment.



As next step, CNEC and Jiangxi Province will combine together and submit the project proposals to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), applying to list the project into the National Nuclear Long and Medium Term Development Planning. After receiving the permit, the feasibility study of the project will be carried out. Land requisition, "Five-Outlet-one-Dish"<sup>1</sup> and the construction of the auxiliary facilities will be carried out at the same time. After getting the approval from the NDRC and obtaining building permits from the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), the commencement of work for the two units in the first-stage project is planned in 2017 and they will be connected to the grid around 2021.

#### 7.4 HTGR Cooperation between China and Other Countries

By the way of multi-module combination, the installed capacity of the HTGR nuclear power plants can be 200 MWe (2x100 MWe), 400 MWe, 600 MWe, 800 MWe and 1000 MWe. These power plants can be operated with flexibility to suit the market and meet the need of different power grids. It is suitable for being constructed close to load centers as well as in countries and regions with small or middle power grids.

Many countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe, including some potential users in China, express a keen interest in the application of HTGRs in nuclear electric power generation, sea water desalination, petrochemical industry and coal chemical

industry. The related business cooperations are under way.

At present, CNEC starts working on the HTGR preliminary work in Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Fujian, Shandong, Hubei and Zhejiang Province successively. Meanwhile, CNEC signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation with Dubai's Nuclear Energy Committee and provides King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) with the design scheme of a HTGR for seawater desalination. They have also reached a consensus on signing the memorandum of understanding on cooperation with Saudi Energy City. On April 21, 2015, they signed the MOU with the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA). CNEC is jointly with other organizations responsible to provide nuclear fuels, spent fuel reclamation, nuclear power plant operation, technical support, personnel training and other integration services to the international market.

#### 7.5 Conclusion

Generation IV nuclear power systems are advanced systems which stand for a major revolution in economy, safety, waste treatment and nuclear nonproliferation. The HTGR is considered to be the most possibly actualized and the most promising advanced reactor type in the near future by the international nuclear community [7].

Under the support of the National High-Technology Project, the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology, Tsinghua University, built the HTR-10 MW Test Module successfully, and achieved joining the national power

grid with full power. Long-term operation and safety tests verified the intrinsic safety of the HTGR and proved its technical feasibility. The success of the HTR-10 MW Test Module construction and operation marks that China has made a breakthrough in the R&D of HTGRs. China has been included among those advanced countries in the development of HTGR technology.

In early 2006, the large pressurized water reactors and HTGRs were included in the 16 major scientific and technological projects by "China's national policy for medium and long-term scientific development" in which they are striving to make breakthroughs in 15 years. Actualizing the major scientific and technological project of HTGRs marks that the HTGR technology, in which China has self-owned intellectual property, takes a crucial step towards industrialization.

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<sup>1</sup> Five-Outlet-one-Dish: In order to construct efficiently and orderly, some on-site first-phase preparations have to be made, such as electrifying, communication, road access, water access, gas access and land smoothing.

Entwicklung der hohen Temperatur Gas-kühlte Reaktor (HTGR) in China ab 7,1 Gas-kühlte Einleitung der HTGRRecent-Entwicklungen in der hohen Temperatur Reaktoren (HTGRs) erregte weit verbreitete Aufmerksamkeit ab. Alle China, Japan, Südafrika, USA, Russland und Frankreich ist, welche aktiv die Entwicklungsarbeit von HTGRs einleiten. Einige Entwicklungsländer zeigten großes Interesse an dieser Art des Reaktors [1].

Das HTGR ist einer der sechs Reaktoren der Generation IV, die vorgebracht werden im Jahre 2002 durch das Generation IV International-Forum (GIF). Diese Art des Reaktors hat eine hohe Ausgangstemperatur. Sie benutzt Helium als Kühlmittel und Graphit als Moderator. Kieselbrennstoff und ein keramischer Reaktorkern werden angenommen. In der Mitte jedes Mohnblumensamengrößenbrennstoffs ist Partikel ein Uran Kern. Schichten des Kohlenstoff- und Silikonkarbids enthalten das radioaktive Material [2].

Abb. 12 zeigt die Gesamtstruktur des HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTORS - das 10 MW-Test-Modul, das vom Institut der Kern- und New Energy-Technologie an Tsinghua-Universität konstruiert wird. Abb. 14 zeigt die Kieselbrennstoffdokumentenstruktur von HTGR.

Die wichtigste Funktion des modularen Gases der hohen Temperatur - abgekühlte Reaktoren ist der unter allen möglichen Unfallbedingungen, einschließlich einen großen Verlust des Kühlmittelunfalles (LLOCA), der Reaktor können in einem sicheren Zustand ohne irgendeine Menschen- oder Maschinenintervention gehalten werden.

Das modulare HTGR hat auch andere Vorteile wie:

1. Hohes Erzeugungsefficiency: Seine Leistungsfähigkeit ist 25%, das als Atomkraftwerke PWR wegen der hohen Ausgangstemperatur höher ist.

Abb. 12 – der 10 MWt hohe Temperatur Gas-abgekühlte Reaktor (HTGR) [7]

2. Kurze Bauzeit: das HTGR nimmt ein modulares Bauvorgehen an. Die Bauzeit kann auf zwei Jahren verringert werden. Verglichen mit PWR-Kraftwerken, die 5 bis 6 Baujahre haben, wird die Zinszahlung während des Baus verringert und die Bau-Investition kann um 20% verringert werden.

3. Einfaches System: Das HTGR hat passive Sicherheitsfunktionen, die groß das System vereinfachen. Techniksicherheitsanlagen wie Kühlsystem des Notkernes und volle Gradeindämmung brauchen nicht installiert zu sein, die die Bau-Investition verringern können.

## 7,2 Die Entwicklungs-Geschichte Chinas von HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTOR und von seiner gegenwärtigen Lage

Die HTGR-Forschung und Entwicklung Arbeit in China begann in den siebziger Jahren. Indem sie das nationale Hightechprojekt (863) durchführte, entwarf die Tsinghua-Universität und baute einen HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTOR - 10 MW-Test-Modul unter der Unterstützung der China-nationalen Kerngesellschaft (CNNC). Sie verwirklichte die FI-rst Stromerzeugung am 7. Januar 2003 [3]. Im Jahre 2006 nanced die Tsinghua-Universität in Peking, die China-Kerntechnik Group Corporation (CNEC) und die Gruppen-mitfl Chinas Huaneng den Bau des HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTORdemonstrationsvorhabens, nachdem wird eine komplette industrielle Kette gebildet. In diesem System ist das Institut der Kern- und New Energy-Technologie, Tsinghua-Universität das Haftungsthema verantwortlich für Technologie R&D und Design und technische Unterstützung der Lieferung; CNEC ist der bedeutende spezielle Projektdurchführungskörper, der für das Entwerfen, den Kauf und das Konstruieren des Demonstrationsvorhabens der Kerninsel und seiner Hilfshydraulikanlagen verantwortlich ist; Huaneng Shandong Shidao Bay Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. übernimmt über die Investitionsoperationen des Demonstrationsvorhabens Kontrolle

Die Module Reaktor-Kiesel-Bett der hohen Temperatur (HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTOR - P.M.) hat im Bau zwei Reaktoren (2x100 MWe) und eine Turbine. Am 9. Dezember 2012 der Bau des Bucht Shandongs Rongcheng Shidao HOCHTEMPERATURREAKTORdemonstrationsvorhabens begonnen. Bis zu 20. April 2015 fand Zivilbau der Keller ein Ende und wendete sich an das intensive Geräteeinbaustadium. Der springende Punkt für Bau war Verschiebung vom Zivilbau zum

Installationsbau. Am 24. Juni achtern äh zwei Monate eifriger Kampf, schloss das Shidao-Bucht-Kernenergieprojekt die strömende Aufgabe der Reaktorgebäudewände für den erste modulare hohe Temperatur Gas-abgekühlten Demonstrations-Reaktor in der Welt ab [5]. Reaktor-Gebäudewände des Th e wurden zu 41,30 Metern, Markierung das HTGR-Projekt gegossen, welches die Bedingung des schweren Ausrüstungsanhebens erfüllt. Am 27. Juni indem sie Shidao-Bucht HTGR mit einer Kappe bedeckte, herkömmliche war die Insel fertig [6]. Dieses ist ein anderer bedeutender Schritt nach dem Ende der strömenden Aufgabe. Das Projekt wird und in Operation Ende 2017 sich zu setzen abgeschlossen.

Abb. 13 – der Bau der herkömmlichen Insel Shidao-Bucht HTGR wurde am 27. Juni 2015 beendet (Fotokredit: Shidao-Bucht NPP)

### 7,3 Zukünftige Erwartungen von HTGRs in China

Die HTGR-Industrialisierung hat Verschiebung von der Forschung in Richtung zu den kommerziellen Anwendungen. CNEC kündigte, dass der Durchführbarkeitsanalysebericht des 600 MWe Handelshochtemperaturreaktorprojektes (6x100 MWe) in Ruijin, Jiangxi Provinz, die revidierenden Experten geführt hat und verspricht, das FI-rst HandelsAtomkraftwerk generation IV in der Welt zu sein an. Zur Zeit hat China die ganze Technologie von HTGR systematisch beherrscht und die Führung in der Welt übernimmt. Die Ausgangsfertigung kann für 95% der Ausrüstung verwirklicht werden. Als nächster Schritt kombiniert CNEC- und Jiangxi-Provinz zusammen und reicht die Projektvorschläge zur nationalen Entwicklung ein und verbessert die Kommission (NDRC) und trifft zu, um das Projekt in die nationale lange und mittelfristige Entwicklungs-Kernplanung aufzulisten. Nachdem man die Erlaubnis empfangen hat, wird die Durchführbarkeitsanalyse des Projektes durchgeführt. Landen Sie Forderung, „Fünf-Ausgang-oneDish“ 1 und der Bau der zusätzlichen Anlagen wird gleichzeitig durchgeführt. Nach dem Erhalten der Zustimmung vom NDRC und dem Erhalt von Baugenehmigungen von der nationalen Verwaltung der nuklearen Sicherheit (NNSA), wird der Arbeitsbeginn für die zwei Einheiten im anfänglichen Projekt im Jahre 2017 geplant und sie werden an das Gitter gegen 2021 angeschlossen.

### 4 HTGR-Zusammenarbeit zwischen China und anderen Ländern

Übrigens von der Multimodulkombination, kann die installierte Kapazität der Atomkraftwerke HTGR 200 MWe (2x100 MWe), 400 MWe, 600 MWe, 800 MWe und MWe 1000 sein. Th ese Kraftwerke können mit Florida-exibility bearbeitet werden, um dem Markt zu entsprechen und den Bedarf von verschiedenen Stromnetzen zu erfüllen. Es ist für nah an Lastsmitten sowie in den Ländern und in den Regionen mit den kleinen oder mittleren Stromnetzen konstruiert werden passend.

Viele Länder in Südostasien, im Mittlere Osten und in Europa, einschließlich einige mögliche Benutzer in China, zeigen ein großes Interesse in der Anwendung von HTGRs in der Kerngeneration des elektrischen Stroms, in der Seewasserentsalzung, in der petrochemischen Industrie und in der Kohlenchemikalie 1Five-Outlet-one-Dish: Um leistungsfähig zu konstruieren und geordnet, müssen einige erstphasige Vorbereitungen vor Ort, wie Elektrifizieren, Kommunikation, Straßenzugang, Wasserzugang, Gaszugang und Landglatt machen gemacht werden.

Industrie. Die in Verbindung stehenden Zusammenarbeiten zwischen Unternehmen sind laufend. Zur Zeit fängt CNEC an, an der einleitenden Arbeit HTGR in Jiangxi-, Hunan-, Guangdong-, Fujian-, Shandong-, Hubei- und Zhejiang-Provinz mehrmals hintereinander zu arbeiten. Unterdessen unterzeichnete CNEC die Vereinbarung (MOU) auf der Zusammenarbeit mit

Dubais Kernenergie-ausschuss und versieht König Abdulaziz City für Wissenschaft und Technik (KACST) mit dem Design

Entwurf eines HTGR für Meerwasserentsalzen. Das ey Th haben auch einen Konsens auf dem Unterzeichnen der Vereinbarung auf der Zusammenarbeit mit saudischer Energie-Stadt erreicht. Am 21.

April 2015 unterzeichneten sie den MOU mit South-african Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA). CNEC ist zusammen mit anderen Organisationen, die, Kernbrennstoffe, Kraftstoffverbrauchreklamation, Operation des Atomkraftwerks, technische Unterstützung, Personaltraining und andere Integrationsdienstleistungen dem Weltmarkt zu erbringen verantwortlich sind.

#### 7,5 Schlussfolgerung

Kernstromnetze der Generation IV sind fortgeschrittene Systeme, die für eine bedeutende Revolution in der Wirtschaft, in der Sicherheit, in der Abfallbehandlung und in der Kernnichtverbreitung stehen. Das HTGR wird die als vielleicht verwirklichte und viel versprechendste Art des modernen Reaktors in naher Zukunft von der internationalen Kerngemeinschaft [7] betrachtet.

Unter der Unterstützung des nationalen Hightechprojektes, errichtete das Institut der Kern- und New Energy-Technologie, Tsinghua-Universität, das Test-Modul HTR10 MW erfolgreich und erzielte das Anschließen des nationalen Stromnetzes mit Vollmacht. Langfristige Operations- und Sicherheitstests überprüften die Eigensicherheit des HTGR und prüften seine technische Möglichkeit. Der Erfolg der Test-Modulbau- und -operationskennzeichen HTR10 MW, dass China einen Durchbruch im R&D von HTGRs gemacht hat. China ist unter jenen fortschrittlichen Ländern in der Entwicklung von HTGR-Technologie eingeschlossen worden.

Anfang 2006 wurden die großen Druckwasserreaktoren und das HTGRs in den 16 bedeutenden wissenschaftlichen und technologischen Projekten durch „Chinas Staatspolitik für mittel- und langfristige wissenschaftliche Entwicklung“ umfasst in, welchem sie sich bemühen, Durchbrüche in 15 Jahre zu machen. Das bedeutende wissenschaftliche und technologische Projekt von HTGRs-Kennzeichen verwirklichen, die die HTGR-Technologie, in dem China selbst-eigenes geistiges Eigentum hat, einem entscheidenden Schritt hin zu Industrialisierung nimmt.

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