

INDIA

Unit 5 construction begins at Kudankulam

Work on the third phase of the multi-reactor project at India's Kudankulam nuclear power plant formally commenced June 29 with the first pouring of concrete into the foundation plate of the Unit 5 reactor building.

The project's third phase comprises the construction of Units 5 and 6—both VVER-1000 model AES-92 pressurized water reactors supplied by Rosatom, Russia's state-owned atomic energy corporation. According to Rosatom, preliminary work already completed at Unit 5 includes the concrete bedding for the foundations of the reactor building, the auxiliary reactor building, and the turbine and power supply buildings.

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India's Kudankulam plant, during the June 29 Unit 5 construction launch ceremony. (Photo: Rosatom)

release from Nuclearelectrica, the state-owned Romanian utility that operates Cernavoda. The projects would also contribute to the development of the internal supply chain, generate up to an additional 9,000 jobs, and stimulate research, innovation, and development in the nuclear industry, Nuclearelectrica said.

Romania's sole nuclear power facility, Cernavoda consists of two operating 650-MWe CANDU-6 pressurized heavy water reactors, Units 1 and 2, plus the partially completed Units 3 and 4, also CANDU-6 reactors, work on which was halted not long after the collapse of the Ceausescu regime in 1989.

POLICY

Legislation introduced to extend production tax credits to nuclear

Companion bills that call for amending the Internal Revenue Code to establish a tax credit to help existing merchant nuclear plants continue operations debuted on Capitol Hill in June.

In the House on June 21, Rep. Bill Pascrell (D., N.J.) introduced the bipartisan H.R. 4024, dubbed the Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production

Credit Act of 2021. Cosponsors of the legislation include Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R., Pa.), Tom Suozzi (D., N.Y.), John Katko (R., N.Y.), Danny Davis (D., Ill.), Anthony Brown (D., Md.), Dutch Ruppersberger (D., Md.), Cheri Bustos (D., Ill.), Mike Doyle (D., Pa.), and Bobby Rush (D., Ill.).

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Pascrell

increasing contribution of renewable electricity, and nuclear power generation proved to be resilient, reliable, and adaptable. The flexibility of nuclear power demonstrated how it can support the clean energy transition."

Among the summary's 2020 data points are the following:

- Global operating nuclear power capacity was 392.6 GWe from 442 operational reactors in 32 countries.

- Overall, nuclear capacity since 2011 has gradually increased, including some 23.7 GWe added by the connection of new units to the grid and upgrades to existing reactors.

- Nuclear power reactors supplied 2,553.2 TWh of low-emission and dispatchable electricity, accounting for about 10 percent of total global electricity generation and almost one-third of the world's low-carbon electricity generation.

- Nuclear power production was slightly lower

compared to 2019's 2,657.1 TWh. Since 2012, however, there has been an increase of more than 8 percent.

- Five new pressurized water reactors with 5.5 GWe of nuclear capacity were connected to the grid.

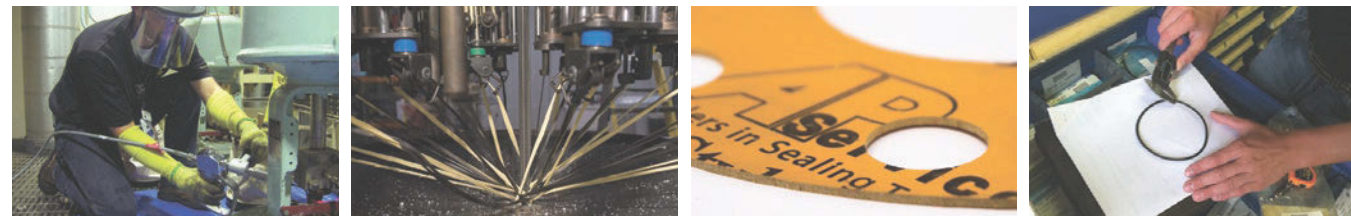
- Over 44 percent of new capacity, equating to more than 2.4 GWe, was added by two countries with no previous nuclear power operating experience: Belarusian-1 (1,110 MWe) in Belarus and Barakah-1 (1,345 MWe) in the United Arab Emirates.

- At the end of the year, 52 reactors with over 54.4 GWe of capacity were under construction in 19 countries, including in two countries building their first power reactors.

- The global median capacity factor was 84.6 percent, in line with the load factor in recent years.

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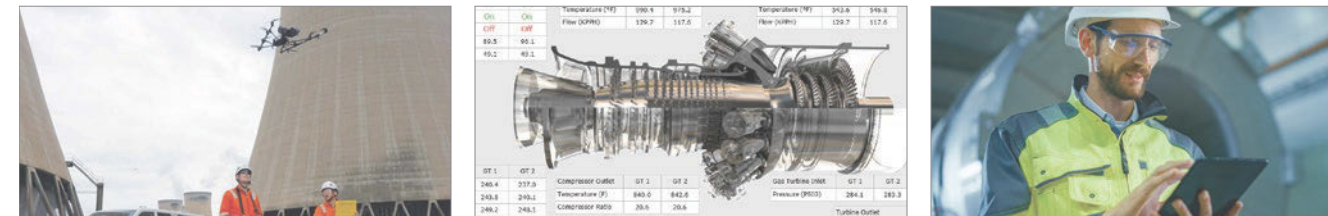
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