
News letter - on making the difference.

Nuclear technologies after Japan crises— new and retro and how they are connected

1. [China Nurses Failed Nuclear Technologies](#)
“China is becoming a kind of nursery for unproven or rejected nuclear reactor technology. Nuclear plant designs that have failed to pass standards in other countries are being transformed into new models and incorporated into Chinese construction plans, but safety concerns are growing. One example is the 18 pebble-bed nuclear reactors or PBRs.. These reactors are fueled by graphite spheres embedded with small uranium pellets and piled up inside to cause nuclear fission. Helium gas is heated as it passes through the spheres, heating water into steam, which in turn power turbines to generate electricity.” <http://english.chosun.com>
2. [China claims new nuclear technology](#)—“China’s ambitions to lead the world in [nuclear power](#) ...scientists had mastered a key technique in the reprocessing of spent uranium. The technology, enables recycling of irradiated fuel... How this differs from existing reprocessing methods in other countries is unclear, but the state broadcaster said that with this technique a kilo of uranium could produce close to 60 times more power than was now possible in China. www.guardian.co.uk
3. [In Search of the Radical Solution](#)
”Khosla: Wind power is scaling, but I’m surprised at how little innovation there is. What wind really needs is energy storage technology, and storage hasn’t yet started to scale. I would call most of the attempts toyish; we need something radical. Solar seems to be doing well, but way too many companies are doing the same thing. Costs are declining, but not enough to reach unsubsidized market-competitiveness. That’s mostly the fault of investors and entrepreneurs who are trying to do the next marginal thing as opposed to the next radical thing. “ sciamdigital.com
4. [Spent Nuclear Fuel Is Anything but Waste](#)
“Failure to pursue a program for recycling spent nuclear fuel has put the U.S. far behind other countries and represents a missed opportunity to enhance the nation’s energy security and influence other countries, the former chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said.” sciencedaily.com
5. [Thunderous New Nuclear Energy Technology](#) “The current technology used to generate electric power from nuclear fission is a product of the Cold War...There is an alternative...one ton of thorium can generate as much nuclear energy as 200 tons of uranium. But research on thorium reacts was halted in the 1950’s, when uranium reactors were built. ..This is not theoretical. Pilot plants have been built in the U.S. and Russia, and China is currently engaged in large-scale research on thorium-based nuclear energy.” timnovate.wordpress.com/
6. [Micro-reactors may be answer to powering northern lights](#) “despite the disaster in Japan. “There are nuclear designs that have been in development since the 1980s for miniature reactors that could produce a fraction of the power of their larger cousins. Experts say they are not only economical, but also much safer than conventional designs — although no one has taken the steps to build one yet. ” <http://www.cbc.ca/>
7. [China Embraces New Nuclear Technology](#)— China has build a 10 MW prototype “Pebble Bed” reactor at Tsinghua University in Beijing. It holds the promise of safe nuclear-generated power going forward into tomorrow. The Pebble Bed reactor was actually invented in 1947 by Dr. Farrington Daniels at Oak Ridge National Laboratory here in the USA. Then, German scientists took the concept and have been perfecting it since. America... to its shame...has not embraced this technology. dumpdc.wordpress.com
8. [Will A New Nuclear Reactor Power The USA Back To Energy Independence](#)
“Dan Rather Reports” presents a surprising look at nuclear power and how new developments in the field have created cleaner, more efficient reactors that could create a virtual “nuclear renaissance nuclearpowerdaily.com