

USNIC NEWS

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USNIC Working Group Launches Small Modular Reactor Supply Chain Mapping Initiative

The U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council (NIC) has deployed a campaign to develop a generic supply chain map enveloped from available design concept information from member company small modular reactor (SMR) designers. The Council (www.usnic.org) is the leading business consortium for new nuclear energy and involvement of the U.S. supply chain globally.

The initiative was inaugurated under the auspices of the Council's manufacturing and supply chain working group, one of four Council groups focused on new nuclear energy "building blocks". The working group is chaired by Parry Walborn, VP and Director, ATI Electrical Energy for ATI, an advanced alloys and specialty metals company.

The SMR mapping structure will link NIC member companies and their supply chains to areas of commercial opportunity in the SMR supply chain. The supply chain mapping scope covers equipment design, software and services and fuel cycle support that are required for a "generic SMR". The map will provide an estimate of the amount of equipment, services and fuel cycle support for delivery of the quantity of SMRs identified in the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge National Laboratory "SMR Cluster Study", which identifies eight viable first mover government clusters.

Gaps in supplier availability will also be summarized by comparing the estimate with the capabilities of current NIC members. Where gaps exist several new suppliers will be identified. The estimated quantities needed for the base case would be estimated by using discussions with the NIC-member reactor designers and their architect engineering companies. Map structures will also be linked to designated suppliers if feasible.

The mapping initiative also encompasses improved manufacturing technologies such as modular construction and approaches to factory assembly of small modular reactor components. The initiative is structured after a Generation III+ Light Water Reactor supply chain mapping project implemented by the industry in preparation for new builds driven by the "U.S. DOE 2010 Program" – and was designed to attract and expand nuclear suppliers based on the value of the supply chain.

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Highlights from the mapping initiative will be presented at the ATI Nuclear Supply Chain Summit scheduled for October 5-8, 2014 in Birmingham, AL with a report to NIC members and other key stakeholders before the end of 2014.

The initiative is being coordinated by Vince Gilbert, Director of Knowledge Management for Excel Services Corporation, a NIC member company.

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