



# ECC-SMART

**Joint European-Canadian-Chinese  
Development of Small Modular Super-  
Critical Water-cooled Reactor Technology**

# Coordinator contacts:



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# Project introduction



Duration: September 2020 – August 2024

Total budget: 8 911 950 €

EC contribution: 3 997 237,50 €

CORDIS: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/945234>

Consortium: 15 European, 1 Canadian, 3 Chinese and 1 Ukrainian partners

# Project partners

- 1) CENTRUM VYZKUMU REZ SRO (CVR)
- 2) JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC)
- 3) CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES ENERGETICAS, MEDIOAMBIENTALES Y TECNOLOGICAS-CIEMAT (CIEMAT)
- 4) INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN (JSI),
- 5) UNIVERSITA DI PISA (UNIPi),
- 6) UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD (USFD),
- 7) SLOVENSKA TECHNICKA UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE (STUBA),
- 8) EUROPEAN NUCLEAR EDUCATION NETWORK (ENEN),
- 9) BUDAPESTI MUSZAKI ES GAZDASAGTUDOMANYI EGYETEM (BME),
- 10) UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM UNOTT),
- 11) REGIA AUTONOMA TEHNOLOGII PENTRU ENERGIA NUCLEARA (RATEN),

# Project partners

- 12) IPP CENTRE LLC (IPP),
- 13) TEKNOLOGIAN TUTKIMUSKESKUS VTT OY (VTT),
- 14) CANADIAN NUCLEAR LABORATORIES LTD (CNL)
- 15) SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY (SJTU)
- 16) KARLSRUHER INSTITUT FUER TECHNOLOGIE (KIT),
- 17) KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOÖGSKOLAN (KTH),
- 18) VYSOKA SKOLA CHEMICKO-TECHNOLOGICKA V PRAZE (VSCHT),
- 19) UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BEIJING (USTB),
- 20) NUCLEAR POWER INSTITUTE OF CHINA (NPIC).

# Evolution of the project



## EU:

- High Performance Light Water Reactor (5th framework programme 8/2000 – 7/2002)
- High Performance Light Water Reactor Phase 2 (6th framework programme 9/2006 – 2/2010)
- SCWR-FQT (7th framework programme 1/2011 – 12/2014)

## Canada:

- National Canadian programmes
- Cooperation under GIF umbrella

## China:

- China SCWR TH&S R&D Project in support of GIF international activities (2020-2022), funded by the MOST.
- China SCWR M&C R&D Project in support of GIF international activities (2020-2022), funded by the MOST
  - China SCWR Project (2012-2014) – China SCWR technology development Phase 1. In this project, the China Supercritical Water-Cooled Reactor design (CSR1000) was proposed.
- China-EU joint project SCWR-FQT-SCRIPT (2011–2014) – Supercritical Water Reactor - Fuel Qualification Test.
- China MOST Project (2012 - 2014) – China SCWR fundamental technology research funded by the China Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

# Evolution of the project



## E-SMART

- EU project
- Applied in 2016
- science-based recommendations and standards for a SCW-SMR to competent bodies in the EU
- **rejected**

## MACHETE

- Joint EU-Canada-China
- Applied in 2018
- Research on Materials, Corrosion and Turbulent Heat and Mass Transfer Issues in high Pressure
- **rejected**

## ECC-SMART

- Joint EU-Canada-China-Ukraine
- Applied in 2019
- Joint European Canadian Chinese development of Small Modular Reactor Technology
- **Approved&supported**

# Previous cooperation + support of the project



- GIF Round Robin test nr.1: Corrosion testing I
- GIF Round Robin test nr.2: Corrosion testing II
- IAEA CRP: Understanding and Prediction of Thermal Hydraulics Phenomena Relevant to Supercritical Water Cooled Reactors
  
- GIF SSC/PMB
- IAEA Technical Expert Group

## The project proposal was officialy supported by:

- NUGENIA/SNETP (the label was awarded in 2016 to the E-SMART project)
- GIF
- EERA JPNM (CVR, KIT, CIEMAT, KTH, JRC, VTT members, StUBA, RATEN, UNIPI associated)

# Motivation - SCW cooled SMR technology



- Based on the SCWR research worldwide
- Need for flexible power source for wide range of users – the SMR
- Passive safety
- Water-cooled design
- Reaching the GIF requirements\*
- Lower capital costs
- Higher efficiency



**SCW-SMR**  
SuperCritical Water-cooled Small Modular Reactor

\*Sustainability, Economics, Safety and Reliability, Proliferation Resistance and Physical Protection

# Design targets



**Objective: collect all experience from design studies in EU, Canada and China to derive a joint design requirements document following the design targets:**

- The electric power output of the SMR should be around 200 to 300 MW.
- The specific plant erection costs (€/kW installed electric power) should be less 30% compared with SMR concepts based on a PWR.
- The power plant shall remove the residual heat without the need of electric power at least within a time period of 3 days.
- The specific fuel cost (€/MWh electric power) shall be smaller than those of SMR concepts based on a PWR, which may be accomplished by a higher efficiency compensating higher fuel production costs.

# Project goals



- To define the design requirements for the future SCW-SMR technology
- Harmonisation and fostering of the trans-continental cooperation in the advanced nuclear technology to gain the most effective multi-national scientific and technical cooperation and gather the knowledge relevant to the SMR-SCWR development
- Harmonisation of the laboratory procedures and tools for effective research and development in the field of SMR-SCWR environment
- To keep and support the EURATOM to be active member of the multinational scientific platforms related to the SCWR/SMR-SCWR research
- Organize the events providing the interaction with regulatory bodies, vendors, operators and other end-users to spread the information of the SMR (especially the SCWR)
- Identify the key obstacles for the future SMR licencing and propose strategy for this process based on the findings on multinational level

# Project goals



- Complete the understanding of the corrosion behaviour of the most promising candidate materials at different conditions to support the qualification procedure of the future SCW-SMR constructional materials and assess the relation to the existing standards and guidelines
- Provide Reactor physics analysis of preliminary core layout
- Verification and validation and further development of the selected thermo-hydraulic system-, subchannel-, safety-, and CFD-codes and assessment of the proposed SMR-SCWR concepts by applying these codes
- Develop pre-licensing study and guidelines for the demonstration of the safety in the further development stages of the SCWR-SMR concept.

# Ambition



- To define the methodologies and tools for future innovative SMR assessment to provide the legislation environment ready for the future SMR-type reactors
- The selected phenomena from the each of the key fields covered by the project (constructional materials and radiation resistance, thermal-hydraulics and neutronics/reactor physics) should illustrate the safety and licensing relevant processed affecting the smooth licensing process for future reactors.

# Major assumptions



- **Intrinsically and passively safe operation:** Particular focus will be put on the conceptual design of a core with a low power density, which allows in principle core cooling based only on the laws of physics (i.e. conduction and irradiation), and in any case assessing the most significant accident scenarios.
- In conjunction with the previous point, participants of the proposed project aim to define design requirements to a system with a neutron spectrum and economy, which will **minimize the minor actinides production** and will be potentially suitable for fertile nuclides fertilization (e.g. thorium resources exploitation).
- **Decommissioning:** Particular attention will be given to neutron fluency minimization outside the reactor core, in order to reduce the amount of activated materials for the dismantling of the reactor after the operational life of the reactor. Technical solutions, which will reduce the complexity of the reactor will be carefully considered.
- **Competitiveness:** The choice of SCW instead of conventional light water as coolant allows to increase reactor efficiency and reduce the capital costs, thus adopting an innovative technology which represents the natural evolution of common LWRs.
- **Cogeneration:** The adoption of SCW technologies, given the better heat conversion exploitation, will also facilitate the implementation of cogeneration in the industrial field, e.g. for water desalination (which represent a critical problem in some areas of the world, even more than energy availability).

# Project bodies (AB and PMB as proposal of members to be appointed by the General assembly Tomorrow)



## Project management board

- Coordinator (Markéta Kryková, CVR)+WP leaders (Alberto Saéz, CIEMAT; Ivan Otic, KIT; Szabolcs Czifrus, BME, Leon Cizelj, JSI; Francisco Suárez Ortiz, ENEN)

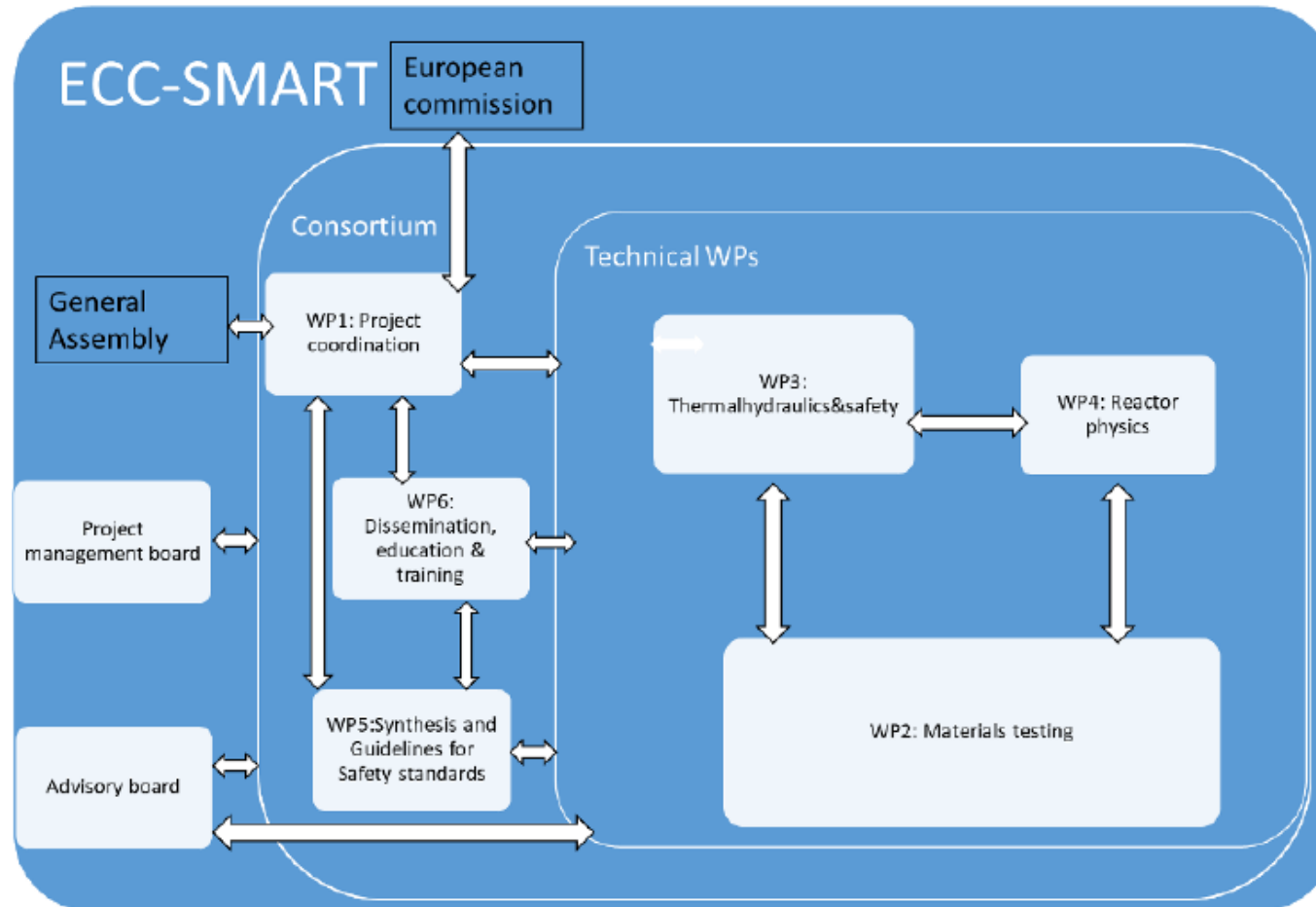
## Advisory board

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Schulenberg, Dr. Laurence Leung, Dr. David Guzonas, Katsumi Yamada, Karel Bednář (Škoda Nuclear Machinery, Czech Republic), Ján Štuller (Ministry of industry and Trade, Czech Republic), Dr. Nithy Nitheananadan (CNSC)

## General assembly

- Each partner already nominated the GA member (1 member/partner)

# Project structure





# WP 2 – Materials testing



**Leader: CIEMAT – Alberto SAEZ ([alberto.saez@ciemat.e](mailto:alberto.saez@ciemat.e))**

Participants: CVR, JRC, STUBA, ENEN, RATEN, VTT, CNL, SJTU, VSCHT, USTB

Total efforts: 430,20 PM

**WP 2.1:** Selection and characterization of materials. **Task Leader: CVR**

**WP 2.2:** Study of the corrosion and EAC behaviour of selected alloys out-of-pile. **Task Leader: JRC**

**WP 2.3:** Study of the corrosion and EAC behaviour of selected pre-irradiated alloys in SCW. **Task Leader: CVR**

**WP 2.4:** Study of the effect of SMR-SCW chemistry and changes in the chemical properties of SCW in the behaviour of candidate materials. **Task Leader: CNL**

# WP2 – Materials testing

## Main goals:



- to identify the licensing-related issues and knowledge gaps by gain more in-depth knowledge into the corrosion behaviour of candidate materials for the Small Modular Reactor cooled by Supercritical Water under non-irradiated and irradiated conditions.
- To perform electrochemical measurements in-situ to understand how changes in the physicochemical properties can affect the corrosion mechanisms in SCW
- To perform new tests focused on the radiolysis processes in supercritical water



# WP 3 - Thermal Hydraulics and Safety of the SCW-SMR



**Leader: KIT – Ivan OTIC ([ivan.otic@kit.edu](mailto:ivan.otic@kit.edu))**

## Main goals:

- To provide a database using experimental and numerical data
- Improvement, implementation and validation of engineering CFD models for turbulent heat and mass transfer
- Development and validation of heat transfer correlations and models for applications in system codes
- Safety and design analysis of the SCW-SMR concept
- Derivation of European-Canadian-Chinese (ECC) design requirements for a ECC SCW-SMR design concept; This design requirement document shall serve as a basis for a future conceptual design project.

# WP 3 - Thermal Hydraulics and Safety of the SCW-SMR



**Leader: KIT – Ivan OTIC ([ivan.otic@kit.edu](mailto:ivan.otic@kit.edu))**

Participants: CVR, UNIPI, USFD, ENEN, BME, UNOTT, IPP, CNL, KTH, NPIC

Total efforts: 358,70 PM

Task 3.1: Conceptual design requirements of ECC SMR SCWR **Task Leader: CNL**

Task 3.2: Reference database **Task Leader: KIT**

Subtask 3.2.1. Experimental investigations of turbulent heat transfer along corroded surfaces **Subtask Leader: KIT**

Subtask) 3.2.2. Experimental investigations of turbulent flows along corroded surface **Subtask Leader: CNL**

Subtask 3.2.3. Exposition of experimental specimens **Subtask Leader: CVR**

Subtask 3.2.3. Direct numerical simulations of flow over rough surfaces. **Subtask Leader: USFD**

Subtask 3.2.4. Direct numerical simulations of flow induced corrosion **Subtask Leader: KIT**

Subtask 3.2.5. Assembling the existing experimental data base **Subtask Leader: IPP**

# WP 3 - Thermal Hydraulics and Safety of the SCW-SMR



**Leader: KIT – Ivan OTIC ([ivan.otic@kit.edu](mailto:ivan.otic@kit.edu))**

Task 3.3: Development and improvement of system-, subchannel- and CFD-codes for SCW-SMR. **Task Leader: UNIPI**

Subtask 3.3.1. Contribution to establish heat transfer correlations and CFD models appropriate for postulated operating conditions. **Subtask Leader: UNIPI**

Subtask 3.3.2. Benchmarking of system codes under SCW-SMR conditions. **Subtask Leader: BME**

Subtask 3.3.3. Investigation and implementation of heat transfer correlations. **Subtask Leader: CNL**

Subtask 3.3.4. Improvement, implementation and validation of engineering models for turbulent heat transfer undersupercritical conditions. **Subtask Leader: IPP**

Subtask 3.3.5. CFD modeling and validation of supercritical water heat transfer along corroded rough surfaces. **Subtask Leader: KTH**

Subtask 3.3.6. Two and more equation RANS modelling of turbulent heat and mass transfer along corroded surfaces  
**Subtask Leader: UoN**

# WP 3 - Thermal Hydraulics and Safety of the SCW-SMR



**Leader: KIT – Ivan OTIC ([ivan.otic@kit.edu](mailto:ivan.otic@kit.edu))**

Task 3.4: Study of a pre-conceptual core layout and passive safety concept for SCW-SMR. **Task Leader: UNIPI**  
Subtask 3.4.1. Thermalhydraulics safety assessment of a proposed SCW-SMR for supporting the design requirements matrix. **Subtask Leader: CNL**

Subtask 3.4.2. Safety and design analysis of the SCW-SMR concept. **Subtask Leader: IPP**

Subtask 3.4.3. Analysis of pre-conceptual core layout and passive safety concept for SCW-SMR. **Subtask Leader: BME**

Subtask 3.4.4. Analysis of passive safety aspects **Subtask Leader: UNIPI**



# WP4 - Neutron physics of SCW-SMR



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**Leader: BME – Czifrus SZABOLCS**  
**(czifrus@reak.bme.hu)**

WP4 aims at studying the design- and safety-related neutronic parameters and reactor physics behavior of SCW-SMR in order to support the pre-conceptual design

## Main goals:

1. Selection of proper neutron/reactor physics code for modelling the complex behaviour of SCW-SMR
2. Calculation of safety related neutron physics parameters
3. Reactor physics analysis of preliminary core layouts

# WP4 - Neutron physics of SCW-SMR



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**Leader: BME – Czifrus SZABOLCS**  
**(czifrus@reak.bme.hu)**

Participants: UNIPI, ENEN, RATEN, CNL

Total efforts: 87,90 PM

WP4.1 Assess the effect of code selection by comparing different neutron-physics codes and cross-section sets **Task Leader: CNL**

WP4.2 Analytical investigation of neutron physics parameters relevant to the safety and feasibility of the SCW-SMR **Task Leader: RATEN**

WP4.3 Preliminary/pre-conceptual core design calculations **Task Leader: BME**



# WP 5 - Synthesis and Guidelines for Safety Standards



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**Leader: JSI – Leon CIZELJ (Leon.Cizelj@ijs.si)**

## Main goals:

- Develop generic and specific safety criteria and requirements for the SCW-SMR concept;
- Synthesize the main safety related findings and conclusions of the WPs 2-4;
- Develop a pre-licensing study demonstrating the feasibility of the design to be licensed;
- Develop guidelines for the demonstration of the safety in the further development stages of the SCW-SMR concept.

# WP5 - Synthesis and Guidelines for Safety Standards



**Leader: JSI – Leon CIZELJ (Leon.Cizelj@ijs.si)**

Participants: CVR, JRC, CIEMAT, ENEN, BME, IPP, VTT, KIT

Total efforts: 34,40 PM

WP 5.1 Generic and specific safety criteria and requirements. **Task Leader: JSI**

WP 5.2 Safety-related findings and conclusions of the WPs 2-4. **Task Leader: BME**

WP 5.3 Pre-licensing study. **Task Leader: JSI**

WP 5.4 Guidelines for the demonstration of safety in the further development stages. **Task Leader: CVR**



# WP 6 - Dissemination and communication

**Leader: ENEN – Francisco Suárez Ortiz ([francisco.suarez@enen.eu](mailto:francisco.suarez@enen.eu))**

## Main goals:

- **Inform the nuclear community and the public about the Project.**
- Provide proper **communication and dissemination** (documents and deliverables)
- **Publication** of Project results
- Organization of **Events**:
- Project findings and advancements
- Interaction with regulatory bodies, vendors, operators and end users to spread info of the SMR
- Organization of **Training** courses + setup exchange program (PhD, postdocs/young scientists)
- Communication channel with stakeholders and authorities

# WP 6 - Dissemination and communication



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**Leader: ENEN – Francisco Suárez Ortiz (francisco.suarez@enen.eu)**

Participants: CVR, JRC, CIEMAT, JSI, BME, IPP, VTT

Total efforts: 26,00 PM

Task T.6.1 Project website, database and new media **Task Leader: ENEN**

Task T.6.2 Data management **Task Leader: ENEN**

Task T.6.3 Dissemination of scientific results **Task Leader: ENEN**

Task T.6.4 Training and exchange program for researchers **Task Leader: ENEN**



# ISSCWR-10

The 10th International Symposium  
on Supercritical Water-Cooled Reactors  
15th – 19th March, 2021  
Prague, Czech Republic



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We are looking forward to  
working together on the  
ECC-SMART project !

**In case you have any  
questions, don't  
hesitate to contact  
us!**



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