



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Plasma Science and Fusion Center (PSFC) is to expand its fusion energy research and education activities under a new five-year agreement with MIT spinout company Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS).
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/MIT-expands-fusion-collaboration>

2. The US Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) has awarded contracts to Ultra Safe Nuclear Technologies and Avalanche Energy to demonstrate the next generation of nuclear propulsion and power capability for small spacecraft.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Contracts-to-demo-novel-space-propulsion-technolog>

3. Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has been identified as the preferred site for the construction and operation of the sodium-cooled fast neutron reactor in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) released by the US Department of Energy (DOE). The Versatile Test Reactor (VTR) will be used to provide a source of fast neutrons for testing and evaluating nuclear fuels, materials, sensors, and instrumentation to support the development of advanced reactor technologies. Such facilities are currently available in only a few locations worldwide, and the USA has not operated one in more than 20 years.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Final-environmental-impact-statement-for-US-Versat>

4. Energoatom's CEO Petro Kotin says that construction work on two new Westinghouse AP1000 units at the Khmelnitsky nuclear power plant "will begin as soon as the war is over". In an interview with vesti.ua, he said that the agreement signed with Westinghouse covered the construction of five units in total, with the other three units to be distributed at the country's other existing nuclear power plants.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Ukraine-planning-for-post-war-nuclear-power-plants>

5. Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) missions aim to improve operational safety by objectively assessing safety performance using the IAEA's Safety Standards and proposing recommendations for improvement where appropriate. Follow up missions are standard components of the OSART programme and are typically conducted within two years of the initial mission.EDF has strengthened operational safety at its Civaux nuclear power plant by addressing the findings of an

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) review which took place in 2019, a follow-up mission has concluded.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-sees-improved-operational-safety-at-Civaux>

6. South Korea's SK Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TerraPower of the USA to jointly develop "next-generational technologies" needed for small modular reactors (SMRs).SK said the cooperation between TerraPower and group member companies SK Corporation and SK Innovation will "contribute to fostering the next-generation nuclear power plant industry in Korea through cooperation in securing and commercialising core SMR technology ... it is expected to contribute to not only securing new technologies related to nuclear power plants, but also enhancing the vitality of the entire nuclear power plant industry ecosystem."

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Korean-conglomerate-to-cooperate-with->

7. Slovenské Elektrárne has released a series of photos of work on a cooling tower at unit 1 of the nuclear power plant which has extended its life to 2060 and enabled an increase in power output. The reconstruction work began last October and was necessary "due to the condition of its concrete structures and the gradual degradation of the internal structure", the company said.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/In-pictures-Refurb-of-125-metre-cooling-tower-at-M>

8. Tributes have been paid to ITER Organization Director-General Dr Bernard Bigot, after his death at the age of 72 was announced by the organisation which is building the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor fusion project in southern France.From 2003 to 2009 Bernard Bigot served as France's High Commissioner for atomic energy, an independent scientific authority whose mission is to advise the French President and the French government on nuclear and renewable energy policy and in all the other scientific and technological domains where the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) intervenes. Prior to his appointment at ITER, Bigot completed two terms (2009-2012 and 2012-2015) as Chairman and CEO of the CEA.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/ITER-Director-General-Bernard-Bigot-passes-away>

9. The Magnox reprocessing plant at Sellafield will end its operations in July, marking the completion of the UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Magnox Operating Programme.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-reprocessing-plant-to-end-operations>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Just days after Finland announced it was ready to join NATO, reports claim Russia has been moving nuclear-capable missiles to the Finnish border. Reports said at least seven Iskander missiles were spotted along Russia's Vyborg town.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-sends-nuclear-capable-iskander-missiles-to-finlands-border-report-479834>

2. The US Air Force revealed on Monday that a hypersonic weapon was successfully tested over the weekend. The Air Force said a B-52H Stratofortress bomber launched an AGM-183A Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) off the coast of Southern California on Saturday, according to the Air Force.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/united-states-successfully-tests-a-hypersonic-weapon-479714>

3. Chancellor Olaf Scholz may be engineering one of the biggest shifts in German foreign policy after Angela Merkel stepped down after 16 years in office. According to a German daily newspaper report, Berlin may supply the advanced IRIS-T SLM surface-to-air missile system to Ukraine.
Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/ukraine-challenge-russian-fighter-jets-attack-helicopters/>

4. The Lhasa, a Type 055 stealth-guided missile destroyer — the largest and most advanced warship in the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) — was seen leading three Type 056A corvettes in a three-day military exercise in the Yellow Sea.
Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/china-biggest-destroyer-goes-on-a-hunt-in-yellow-sea/>

5. As the Indian Navy gears up to purchase a carrier-based fighter jet, American defense giant Boeing appears confident that its F/A-18E Super Hornets Block III / 3 variant would put the French Dassault Rafale out of competition.
Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/super-duper-hornets-meet-us-navys-block-3-f-18-fighters/>

6. In a fresh tactic to bamboozle Russian forces, Ukraine has stationed mannequins in some areas north of Kharkiv, clad in full combat gear. It's still unknown who clothed and positioned the 'dummy soldiers'.
Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/ukraine-deploys-dummy-soldiers-in-full-combat-gear-with-assault-rifles/>

7. The US conducted a successful test of the Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) hypersonic missile over the weekend, the US Air Force said in a press



release.

Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/us-air-force-goes-hypersonic-tests-another-missile-from-b-52h-bomber/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. US Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Tuesday said that what appears to have “temporarily paused” the nuclear deal with Iran is that “the ayatollahs’ demands are so extreme and so radical.”

“[I am] hopeful, which may not be the same as optimistic,” Cruz told The Jerusalem Post when asked about the stalled agreement.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-707038>

UN REFORMS

1. New Zealand's tone on both security and Beijing's growing presence in the South Pacific has toughened, a shift analysts say reflects concerns the agreement will give Beijing a strategic foothold and potentially a military presence in the Pacific that could destabilise Western influence.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/alarmed-by-solomon-islands-china-pact-new-zealand-finds-its-voice-on-security-479757>

2. The US has issued a warning to the worldwide community, especially the commercial sector, about North Korean remote IT workers attempting to secure jobs by impersonating non-North Korean citizens.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-alert-north-koreas-remote-it-workers-posing-as-non-nationals-eyeing-freelance-recruitment-479855>

3. According to a leaked list, China has imprisoned or arrested around 10,000 Uyghur Muslims. More than one million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are believed to be imprisoned in a secret network of detention centres and prisons, according to researchers. These are the persons who have vanished as a result of China's Xinjiang crackdown.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/leaked-database-shows-thousands-of->

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[uyghurs-held-in-detention-by-china-479843](#)

4. Vietnamese blogger Le Anh Hung held for three years in a mental hospital while awaiting trial for criticizing Vietnam's one-party communist state has been sent back to his former detention center on the orders of the Hanoi Police Investigation Agency, RFA has learned.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/sent-05172022150635.html>