ThorCon: *Powering Up Our World* Status Report



ThorCon, <u>http://thorconpower.com/</u>, <u>info@thorconpower.com</u> Dane Wilson presenting October 5, 2016 Molten Salt Reactor Workshop 2016

ThorCon Is a Block Constructed, Passively Safe, Molten-Salt, Fission Power Plant

- Based on MSR technology, proven in the 1960s
- Uses low-cost shipyard block construction



1 GWe fission island consisting of 4 paired Cans



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Low Cost, Rapid Construction Is Essential To Meeting Growing Electricity Consumption

World Bank data

- Power needs of 5,040GW
- High-precision steelfabrication builds ships for \$2,000 per ton
- A small shipyard can build 10 1-GW ThorCon power plants a year



World population 7200 million people



Base Cost* Is Estimated To Be Less Than For Coal

	Westinghouse		Coal	Coal
Electricity Project	AP1000	ThorCon	(high)	(low)
Interest rate	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
Capital cost, \$millions	16000	1200	2200	1800
Generating capacity, MW	2200	1000	800	1200
Lifetime, years	40	40	40	40
Capacity factor	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Capital cost per kWh**	\$0.077	\$0.013	\$0.033	<mark>\$0.018</mark>
Operating cost estimate	0.01	0.0056	0.0049	0.0049
Fuel cost	0.007	0.005	0.0145	0.0145
Total cost per kWh	\$0.094	\$0.024	\$0.052	\$0.037

* Base cost: power only; excludes fees, taxes, licenses, R&D, corporate management, investor return, ... ** Excel PMT function (interest rate, lifetime, cost) / capacity factor Riau 800-1200 MW coal plant \$1.8-2.2 billion www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2015/11/10/indon-coal-plant-for-msia

"Can" Modularity (250 MWe) Is Integral To ThorCon And Allows Materiel Transport

Shipyard builds new power plants (PP) Sarge to PP site (around)



Decon hall exterior width: Decon hall interior width:

2: Upper Loop Decon Tank D: Upper Loop Bundle Drop

2014-08-15T20:20:23Z A: Can Cup Pit B: Lower Loop Pit

/ersc 1.05

20 barge loads per GW)

OceanBarge.com Canship delivers new Cans and takes old Cans back for recycling. Also transports new fuel and returns 14.429 spent fuel. One round trip every four Gas tight Door years to each 1GWe site. Bundl Rehab E Secure site stores spent fuel (dry cast) for D (\cdot) possible future processing. Bundle Scrap Crawler Crane Cl.

♦ PP sites (1 GW site shown)

1,000-20,000 GW total

Can recycling center cleans and inspects cans, replace graphite, stores offgas and graphite wastes. Similar to a shipyard.

ThorCon's Heart Is The Can Which Contains:

✤ Pot

- Pressure: 3.5 bar
- Temperature: inlet of 564°C and outlet of 704°C
- Graphite moderator
- Some Th converts to U-233, U-238 to Pu-239
- Pump
 - Fuelsalt pumped at ~ 3000 kg/s
 - 14 sec loop time
- Primary Heat Exchanger (PHX)





ThorCon Is Fuel And Salt Flexible

	Salt			Make	eup Th	Self				
Mission	12% HM	Heavy metal (%)		U distribution (%)			U distribution (%)			generated
		Th	U	U233	U235	Other	U233	U235	U238	fuel (%)
1) Initial tests	NaBe	0	100	0	3	97	0	5	95	30
2) Economic baseline	NaBe	82	18	0	20	80	0	20	80	50
3) Better fuel	FLiBe	82	18	0	20	80	0	20	80	60
utilization		N	ear tuture	. NO CN	anges to	o system.				
4) Best fuel	FLiBe	82	18	12	0	88	12	0	88	Almost 100
utilization *		N	lore distar	nt future.	Chang	es to sys	tem requ	uired.		

* Possible future: Separate of seeker fission products + Pu, Am, Cm. Plutonium goes to a fast reactor and LEU U233 returns. Makeup is almost all thorium.

Neutronics Modeling Is In A State Of Flux



- Neutronics and burnup modeled with both MCNP and Serpent
- ThorCon DNA design control system allows changes to flow to documentation and model preprocessors, facilitating design experimentation
- Moderator mounting system allows graphite changes with temperature and fluence
- Strongly negative temperature coefficient throughout fuel cycle, even on NaBe
- Load response via pump speed confirmed



Fission Product Removed Via Off-gas System

- Recovery involves He sweep, hold-up tanks, charcoal delay
 - Low turbulence flows
- ✤ Gases (Kr, Xe)
 - Removed by spray bubbling
 - ♦ 216 kg/GWe-yr
- ✤ Noble metals (Nb-Te)
 - Plate out into OGR and PHX
 - ♦ 234 kg/GWe-yr
- Solubles (Rb, Sr, Y, Zr, Cs-Gd, Pu-Cm)
 - Stay in the salts
 - ♦ 409 kg/GWe-yr
- Trifluorides approach saturation in fuel salt after 8 years



ThorCon Design Allows For Tritium Control



Beryllium is the tritium source: ${}^{9}Be(n,alpha) \rightarrow {}^{6}Li(n,alpha) \rightarrow {}^{3}H + alpha$

- Tritium migrates through hot metal surfaces such as the PHX
- Tritium is gettered in each sealed gas space
- Solar salt (NaNO₃, KNO₃) third loop will capture the last of the tritium

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ThorCon Is Walk-away Safe

- Safety is intrinsic from physics, not addon safety systems
 - Overheating stops chain reaction
- Any break will drain reactor fuel to cold shutdown Fuelsalt Drain Tank (FDT)
- Decay heat is removed by silo cooling wall continuous passive water circulation
 - Even in power blackout
- Radioactive fuel salt at low pressure
 - No energy for significant dispersion
- Fluoride salt chemically locks up hazardous fission products Cs-137, Sr-90



Layered, Passive Decay Heat Cooling Is Employed

- On station black-out
 - Sentry turbine handles decay heat
 - Avoids drain
- On Sentry turbine failure
 - Loop overheats, fuse valve thaws, primary loop drains to FDT
- On drain at full power to FDT
 - Always-on membrane wall cools
 - After ~3h, temperature peaks at 975°C
 450°C below boiling point
- Nothing the operator can do to prevent the drain and cooling



Additionally, The Silo Wall Is Continuously Passively Cooled

- Silo wall can cool 30 MWt
 - Max decay heat is 5 MWt
- Pond has 72 days worth of water
 - 180 days with wet towers
- Basement water adds over a year of walkaway safety



If level in expansion tank falls below level in pond, pond check valve automatically drains portion of pond water into membrane wall loop.

ThorCon Has 3 To 4 Radioactivity Transport Barriers





Likely Demonstration Site Is Indonesia

- ThorCon discussing test-then-license with regulator
- Site selection initiated by Indonesia
- ThorConIsle prototype will be built on a hull, pretested, towed to Indonesia, settled near shore, and powered up
 - Water depth 5-10 m
 - Allows for changes to prototype at shipyard and siting flexibility
 - Lower-cost land-based version will be available



The ThorCon Indonesia Project Has 6 Phases

Phase	Task	Milestone	Investments
Bid	Complete engineering	Bids in hand	\$10 million
Pre-fission	Build, test unfueled prototype on hull in shipyard	Tests complete	\$120 million
Construction	Add turbine-generator, switchgear, Cans; contract fuel	Ready to tow hull	\$520 million
Prototype	Tow to Indonesia, fuel, test	Power to grid	\$65 million
Power-up	Increase power to 250+ MW	License for +3 GW	\$65 million
Production	Build 3 GW more plants	Revenue from +3 GW	borrowing

		Bid		Pre-fission		C	Construction		Prototype		Power-up		Production		
Month	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	TI84Eon 1790

Summarizing As Two 500 MW ThorConIsles Are Serviced by a CanShip