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**EURADWASTE**  
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**SNETP Forum**

**WÖLFEL ENGINEERING GMBH + CO. KG**

DIPL.-ING./ B.SC. THOMAS RIEF | COORDINATOR R&D



Developing people. Engineering the future.

- Studies of **Mechanical Engineering** and **Material Sciences**
  - B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering (2011 Oregon State University)
  - Dipl.-Ing. in Material Science (2011 Saarland University)
- **Research Assistant** at Leibniz-Institute for Composite Materials (2015 – 2022)
  - Department of Design of Composite Structures
  - PhD Thesis pending
- **Coordinator R&D** at Wölfel Engineering GmbH + CO. KG (started 2022)
  - Responsible since 2023 for Plant Engineering including all topics related to Nuclear Power Plants



**Dipl.-Ing. / B.Sc. Thomas Rief**  
Research and Development  
Tel.: +49 931 49708-368  
E-Mail: rief@woelfel.de

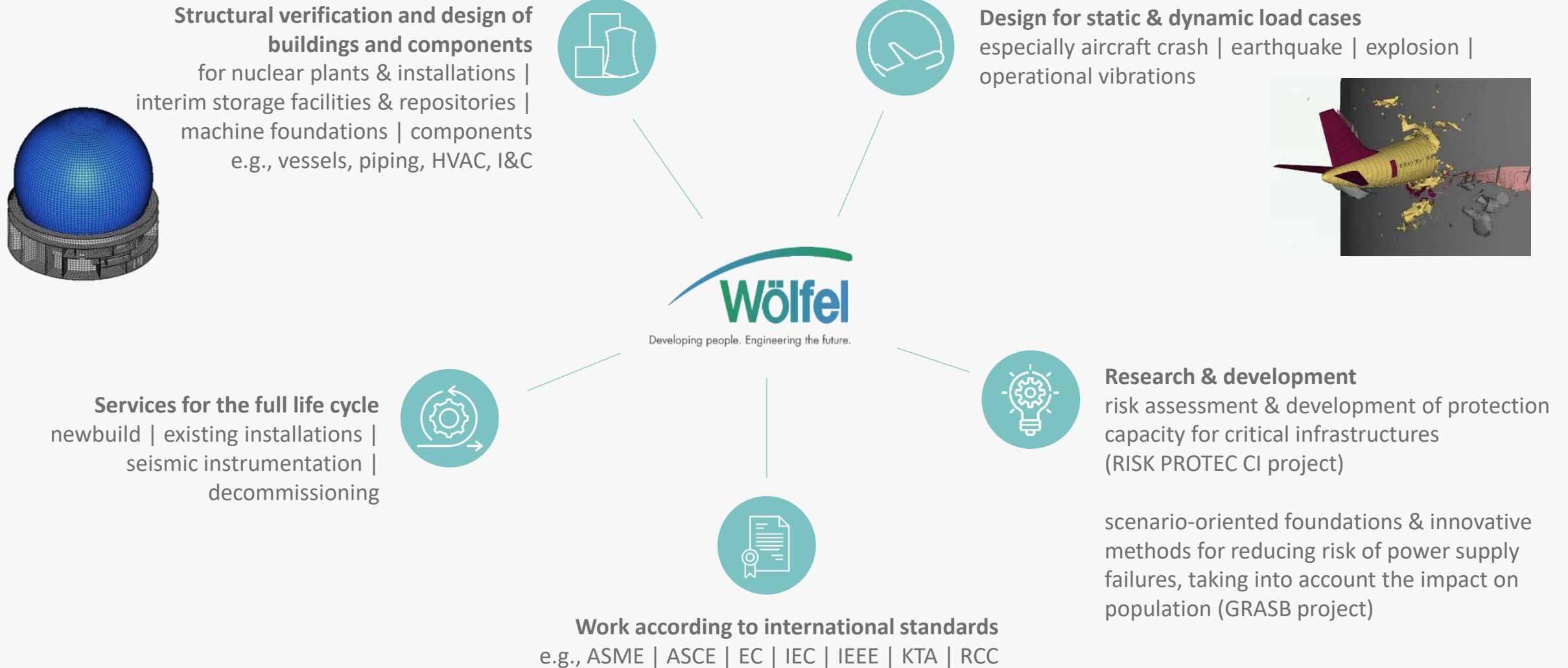


<https://www.woelfel.de/en/>



Wölfel Group  
Max-Planck-Str. 15  
97204 Höchberg / Germany

# WHAT DOES WÖLFEL DO IN NUCLEAR FOR 50 YEARS?



# DRIVERS FOR INNOVATION & STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS

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## 1. RESILIENT LOW CARBON ENERGY SUPPLY

- New NPPs & SMR | Lifeteme extension | Fuel Efficiency & Autonomy | Resistance against external hazards & events

## 2. INNOVATION AND WORKFORCE QUALIFICATION

- Next Generation of nuclear Expertise | Knowledge Transfer & Management

## 3. POLICY AND INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

- Harmonizing regulations | Secure funding possibilities





# Enablers for innovative nuclear, strengthening the EU strategic competitiveness and autonomy

Ioana Davidescu – Case Manager,  
State aid control in the energy sector  
Directorate-General for Competition

14 May 2025, Warsaw, Poland





# Ioana Davidescu



- *Case Manager at the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission, specialising in State aid control in the energy sector.*
- *Experience in competition enforcement overseeing several high-profile State aid cases involving nuclear newbuild projects, energy infrastructure, renewable energy technologies, coal phase-out, and various large investment projects.*
- *Previous experience in policy making at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.*
- *Background in economics and finance, Master in Business Administration from the Central European University.*



# Nuclear innovation and a competitive and decarbonised EU economy

## Cost reductions and economic competitiveness

- Advanced reactor design
- Construction innovation
- Improved fuel technologies

## Flexibility and integration with renewables

- Load following capabilities
- Heat applications and hybrid energy systems

## Safety and public acceptance

- Solutions for waste
- Improved safety systems
- Safer and cost-effective decommissioning

# Important Projects of Common European Interest

 What is the rationale of an IPCEI?

**Ambitious EU goals on advanced technologies call for ambitious private projects**



The EU and its Member States share ambitious policy goals aiming at the green and digital transitions and in strengthening the EU's competitiveness and its open strategic autonomy.

Achieving those goals requires important investments in breakthrough innovation and important infrastructure and creating European value chains.

**Funding ambitious projects can be challenging**



The high financial and/or technological risks of such innovative and front-running projects can sometimes be too big for one company or Member State alone, leading to reluctance among investors and financiers.

Besides, European value chains require cross-border collaboration between companies and Member States.

**Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) can offer a solution**



Based on State aid rules, the European Commission can approve that Member States give State aid to support an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI).

An IPCEI consists of integrated large-scale cross-border projects from at least 4 Member States that entail a high level of technological or financial risks and benefit the entire EU.

*Note: this factsheet is a simplified explainer – not a legal document from which rights can be drawn*

[https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei\\_en](https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei_en)

- Mobilized more than EUR 91 billion investments into R&D in microelectronics, batteries, hydrogen, cloud infrastructure, health, etc.
- Design support hub – dedicated technical and expert support to the Member States involved in the design phase of an IPCEI.



# Enablers for innovative nuclear, strengthening the EU strategic competitiveness and autonomy

**FISA**   
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2025  

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**SNETP Forum**

**walter tosto**   
INNOVATION AND DELIVERY

Massimiliano Tacconelli  
14 May 2025, Warsaw, Poland



# MASSIMILIANO TACCONELLI

**Vice President Nuclear & Big Science Director**

**Vice President, TWG3 Supply Chain - EU Industrial Alliance SMR**

- Background in Mechanical Engineering, Strategic Industrial Development, Industrial Marketing
- Driving technology transfer and advanced manufacturing in the nuclear sector
- Engaged in EU and global initiatives on Nuclear Fission and Fusion [Components Manufacturing]
- Actively contributing to EU nuclear policymaking initiatives, with a focus on bridging industry and institutional dialogue
- Advocate of “Artisanal Intelligence” in the age of AI

**Driven to bring the voice of the nuclear supply chain to the forefront, especially the companies where know-how meets hands-on excellence**



**Founded in 1960** as a privately-owned industrial company, we are **recognized for our excellence in manufacturing high-complexity steel equipment** for the **Energy** and **Industrial** sectors.

Our specialization is **built on a strong work culture**, the use of **strategic infrastructure**, and a **synergic balance** between **manufacturing tradition** and **cutting-edge technologies**.



**Employees**  
1.350+



**Value of Production**  
~ € 220 Mln / Year

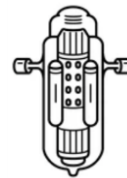


**Investments:**  
€ 75.Mln 5 Years



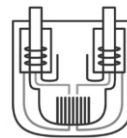
## Gen. III+ New Nuclear Plants

NSSS and Turbine Island HX and Vessel for Steam and Water Cycles, Containments



## SMRs

Reactor Vessel, Steam Generators and Special components. Including main Hxs and Containments



## Gen. IV

Reactor Vessel, Steam Generators and Special components. Including main Hxs and Containments



## Fusion Energy

TOKAMAK Vessel, in-vessel components and special steel structure.



## Decommissioning & Life Extension

Short-Term, Interim and Long-Term Storage Vessel, Parts or Entire ITEM replacement based on dwg.

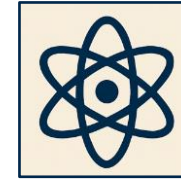


## Enablers for Innovative nuclear, strengthening the EU strategic competitiveness and autonomy'



**competitiveness**

/kəm'pet.ɪ.tɪv.nəs/



**autonomy**

/ɔ:'tɒn.ə.mi/

### Session Expectations

Reassess the nuclear supply chain as a main pillar for EU competitiveness and autonomy,  
by addressing its key dimensions:

**#Technological   #Technical   #Environmental**

**#Engagement   #Commitment   #Readiness   #Innovation**



# Enablers for innovative nuclear, strengthening the EU strategic competitiveness and autonomy

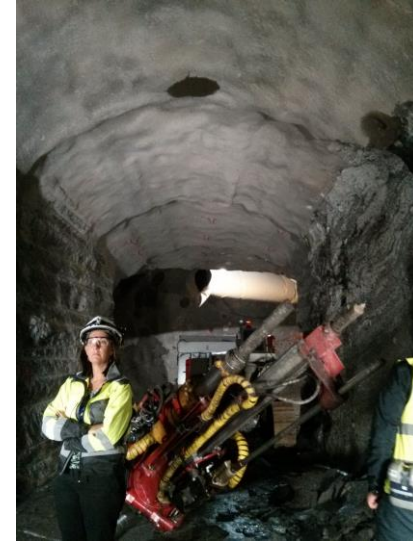
Dr. Erika HOLT, Lead – Nuclear Back End,  
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

14 May 2025, Warsaw, Poland



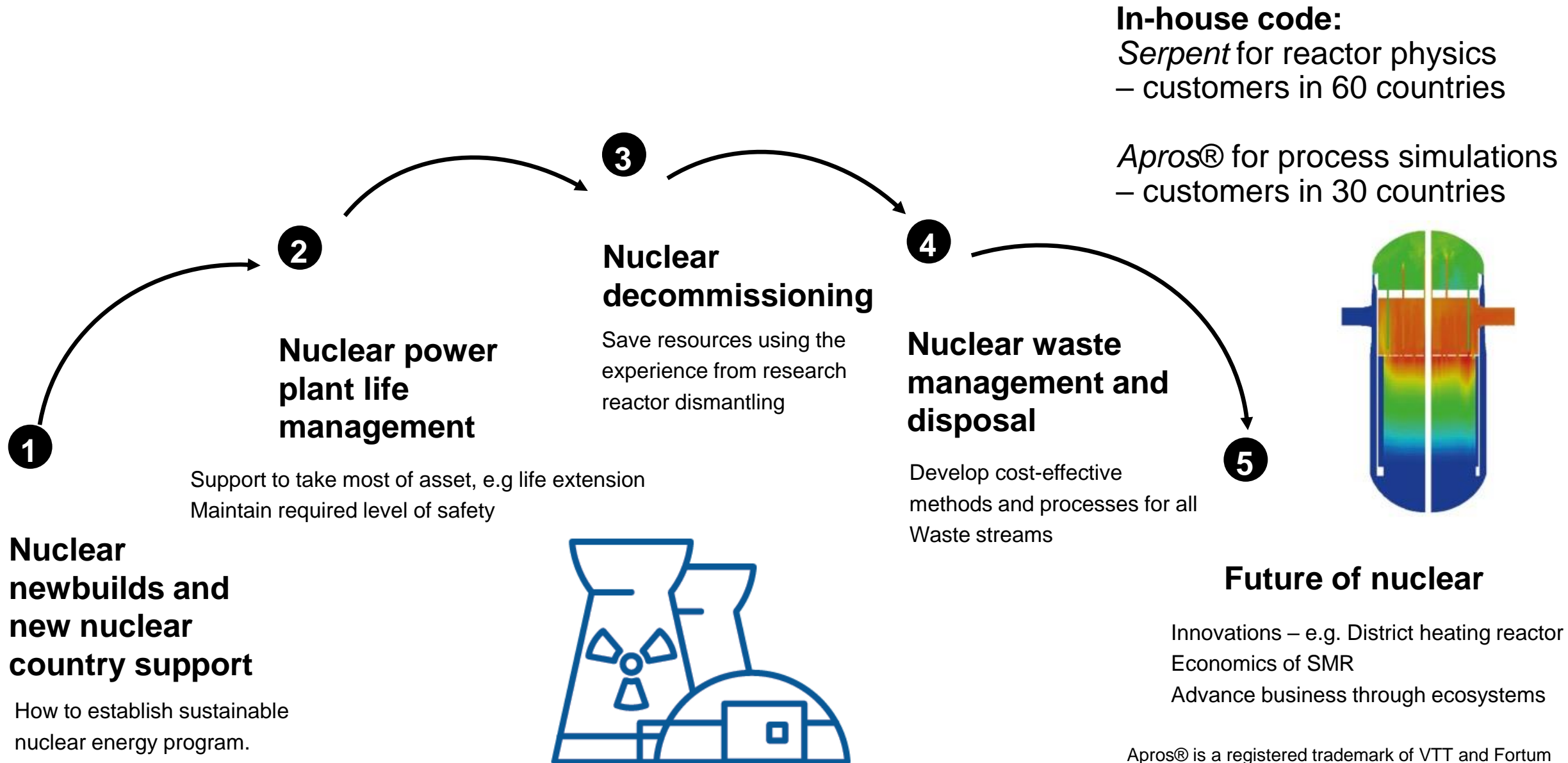
# Erika HOLT, PhD

- Expert in radioactive waste management (20 years)
- Current role: Lead – Nuclear Energy Back End, at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. Earlier roles as Customer Account manager, Strategy manager, Team Leader, Principal Scientist.
- IMPA-B Certified Project Manager
- PhD Civil and Environmental Engineering (2021, University of Washington, Seattle, USA) – emphasis on concrete materials (BSc & MSc work related to geotechnical design & tunnelling, building materials pavement durability)
- Recently co-coordinator of Euratom PREDIS project (2020-2024) on innovation for pre-disposal of radioactive waste, 23.7 M€ and 47 partners
- Currently part of the Programme Management Office of Euratom EURAD-2 project (2024-2029) on radioactive waste management
- EU project work & management since FP5 (1998)



# VTT Services to the nuclear sector globally

VTT



# Drivers for Innovation & Strengthening Competitiveness

- **Understanding** of needs & opportunities
  - Awareness of market & competition
- **Engagement** with end users / industry
  - Ability to use “real” parameters, readiness for upscaling
- Cross-sectoral and regional **collaboration**
  - Eco-systems & adapting from other sectors
- Ability to take **risks**

*Expectations for session: learning from others about successful practices & setting cooperative action points for improvement*





IAEA

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Enablers for innovative nuclear,  
strengthening the EU strategic  
competitiveness and autonomy

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**Frederik Reitsma**

**Nuclear Power Technology Development**

**Division of Nuclear Power**



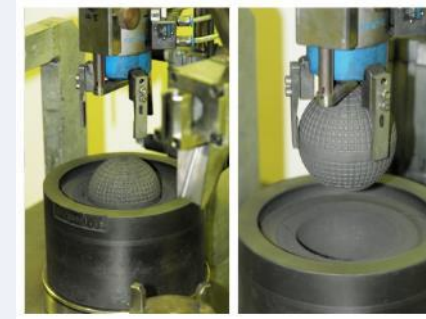
# Frederik Reitsma

Section Head

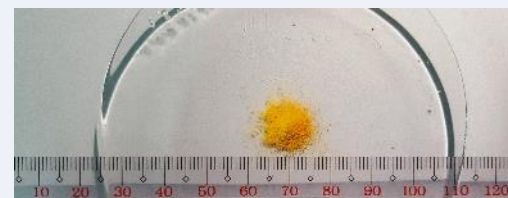
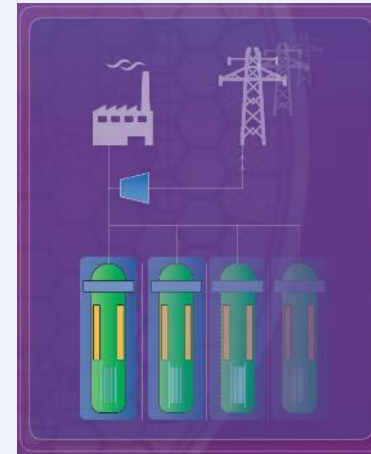
Nuclear Power Technology Development



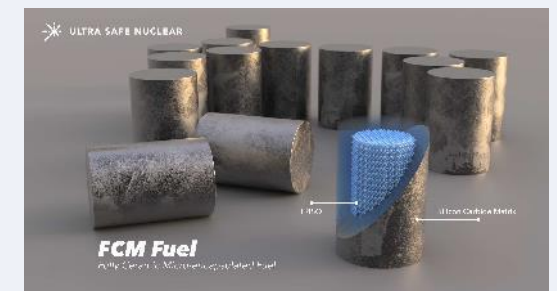
F.Reitsma@iaea.org



- Reactor Physicist with MSc in Reactor Science
- Core analysis and OSCAR software development for MTR Research Reactors (Necsa South Africa) 1989 – 2006)
- Core design and safety analysis of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (1999-2012)
- Core designer at STL (Thorium pebble bed)
- Technical Lead SMR and HTGRs at IAEA (2013-2020)
- Director of Analysis for Ultra Safe Nuclear (2020-2024)
- Section Head at IAEA since June 2024
- Worked at 4 startups.., contributions to OECD NEA, GIF and GEMINI4.0



YELLOWCAKE:  
0.2 g SODIUM URANYL CARBONATE (SUT)  
 $\text{Na}_2\text{UO}_2(\text{CO}_3)_3$   
U3O8, wt% = 51%





# The International Atomic Energy Agency

**Total Membership:** 180 (as of 15 November 2024)



## 6 Departments

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Offices Reporting to the Director General

Management

Technical Cooperation

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Safety and Security

Nuclear Sciences and Applications

Safeguards

Nuclear Fuel Cycle and  
Waste Management

Nuclear Power

Planning, Information and  
Knowledge Management



### Nuclear Power Technology Development Section

Fostering information exchange and collaborative research and development for advanced nuclear reactor technologies, this Section provides information to the IAEA's Member States on technology status and development trends for advanced reactor systems and their applications. [Read more →](#)

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field. It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



Advanced nuclear reactors, non-electric applications and Fusion technology:

- Information sharing, Publications, Training, Simulators
- Joint research projects, Toolkits, E-learning
- Coordination with GIF, Euratom, OECD NEA, etc



**IAEA**

## Enablers for Innovative nuclear, strengthening the EU strategic competitiveness and autonomy

Energy planning and  
Economics



Technology Development and  
Deployment

- ARIS Database
- SMR Booklet



Reactor Technology Assessment



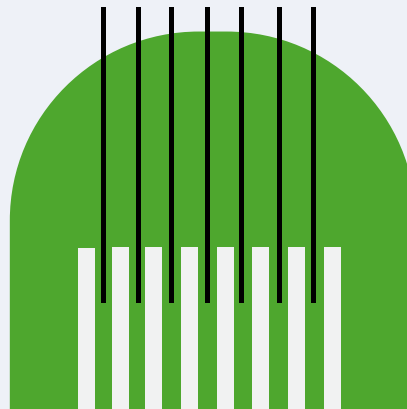
Approaches to Commissioning  
and Operation



Fuel, Safe management of  
Spent Fuel, Radioactive Waste  
and Decommissioning



**IAEA Platform on SMRs and  
their Applications**



**Nuclear Harmonization and  
Standardization Initiative**



**Legal Frameworks for safety,  
security, safeguards and civil  
liability for nuclear damage**



**Safety & Security**

- Applicability of Safety Standards and Security Guides
- Emergency Preparedness and Response



**Safeguards-by-Design**



**Infrastructure Development**



**Technical Cooperation**

**URGENCY, COMMON APPROACH, PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE**