



Atomic Show #289 – All Reactors Large and Small

January 29, 2021 By Rod Adams – 16 Comments



Pro-nuclear advocates generally agree that there is a large and growing need for new nuclear power plants to meet energy demands with less impact on the planet and its atmosphere.

There is frequent, sometimes passionate discussion about the most appropriate reactor sizes, technologies and specific uses.

Atomic Show #289 is a lively discussion among some of the world’s most focused experts on the topic of nuclear plant costs and the relationship of costs to sizes and deployment concepts.

Guests include:

- Kirsty Gogan – co-founder of [Energy for Humanity](#), Managing Director of [Lucid Catalyst](#) and Co-Founder of [TERRAPRAXIS](#)
- Eric Ingersoll – co-founder of [Lucid Catalyst](#) and co-founder of [Terraprxis](#)
- Nick Touran – creator of [WhatisNuclear.com](#) and advanced reactor design engineer
- Chris Keefer – President of [Canadians for Nuclear](#), founder of [Doctors for Nuclear Energy](#), host of the [Decouple](#) podcast and the [We CANDU It](#) Podcast
- Jessica Lovering, co-founder and co-Executive Director of [Good Energy Collective](#)

We reached several conclusions.

- Nuclear **can** be expensive but it doesn’t **have** to be expensive
- Series building programs can successfully reduce construction and manufacturing costs
- Series building programs that keep crews together on the same site for unit runs of 4, 8 or even more units have an established history of success.
- Factory manufacturing is an intriguing prospect that might best be applied to nuclear plants by using shipyards for production and delivery.
- Seismic isolation techniques can enable systems to be more location agnostic and limit the amount of redesign required for new locations.
- There is room for innovation and new ideas in nuclear.
- Smaller nuclear systems can make the technology more accessible and more widely acceptable.
- Long held beliefs about nuclear in terms of risks, public acceptance, and needs for isolation and security deserve to be challenged.
- Some believe that the more experience you have with nuclear, the better you will appreciate its benefits and capabilities.

Your comments and reactions are welcome and add value to this publication.



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About Rod Adams

Rod Adams is an atomic energy expert with small nuclear plant operating and design experience, now serving as a Managing Partner at [Nucleation Capital](#), an emerging



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climate-focused fund. Rod, a former submarine Engineer Officer and founder of [Adams Atomic Engines, Inc.](#), one of the earliest advanced nuclear ventures, has engaged in technical, strategic, political, historic and financial discussion and analysis of the nuclear industry, its technology and policies for several decades. He is the founder of Atomic Insights and host and producer of The Atomic Show Podcast.

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