*new*cleo becomes first advanced reactor technology accepted for UK regulatory design assessment

- ***new*cleo reaches new significant licensing milestone with acceptance of its Generic Design Assessment (GDA) application**
- **Acceptance by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) marks further progress for *new*cleo's UK project after submission of the first Advanced Modular Reactor application for Regulatory Justification Decision in the UK**
- **Acceptance of GDA application follows licensing progress and site acquisitions across Europe**

LONDON, UK – 10 June 2025 – DESNZ have confirmed their acceptance of *new*cleo's GDA application for its commercial-scale 200MWe Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR) technology in Great Britain – the first ever such acceptance for an Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR).

The GDA process was developed by the UK's principal nuclear regulators, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency (EA), as a means to scrutinise new nuclear power plant designs and assess their acceptability for use in Great Britain. *new*cleo aims to complete a two-step GDA with the ONR, EA, and Natural Resources Wales (NRW), including a fundamental assessment of their technology by the regulators. The GDA process will take around two years, with the start date to be agreed with the regulators.

This application acceptance reflects the progress that *new*cleo Group has made in their UK project as well as the advancement of their research, development, and design activities. This step follows the application to the UK authorities for a Regulatory Justification Decision on *new*cleo's LFR in April 2024 – the first such application for a new reactor for almost a decade and the first ever for an AMR.

*new*cleo employs over 150 staff in the UK across three sites, covering engineering, research, security, and more, with over 1,200 individuals employed across 19 European locations. *new*cleo's LFR reactor design is being developed for commercial deployment and the UK project team is currently investigating a number of potential sites for deployment of the technology in the UK.

The announcement adds to the progress *new*cleo's project has achieved elsewhere:

- *new*cleo's LFR was selected for support by the European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), one of only two Advanced Modular designs to be chosen, a resounding endorsement of the advanced potential of *new*cleo's design.
- In France, *new*cleo achieved two key milestones last December in its nuclear authorisation process. The company submitted a Safety Option File (DOS) to the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR) for its planned fuel assembly testing facility

and successfully concluded the pre-licensing phase for the safety options of its LFR-AS-30 reactor design.

- Building on this momentum, *new*cleo recently acquired a site in Chusclan, France to develop FASTER, an R&D innovation and training centre designed by Pininfarina that will support the development of its future fuel assembly manufacturing facility in France. This state-of-the-art site – which will not store or handle any radioactive materials – will play a central role in advancing *new*cleo's strategy to close the nuclear fuel cycle and safely produce clean, affordable, and sustainable energy essential to a low-carbon future. This work builds on *new*cleo's broader European R&D infrastructure, including its joint centre with ENEA in Brasimone, Italy, among others.

- Additionally, *new*cleo and Jadrová vyraďovacia spoločnosť (JAVYS), Slovakia's state enterprise responsible for spent nuclear fuel management, have signed a joint venture to develop up to four LFR reactors at the Jaslovske Bohunice V1 site in the Slovak Republic alongside a comprehensive solution for the reuse of the country's spent nuclear fuel by *new*cleo's advanced LFR technology.

Since 2021 the company has raised over EUR 570m from institutional and individual investors and has seen an increasing number of European players joining *new*cleo's growing funding base – which to date counts over 750 shareholders.

Stefano Buono, Founder and CEO of *new*cleo, said:

"We are pleased to be entering the Generic Design Assessment process, a key milestone in newcleo's UK project. Furthermore, today's announcements from the UK government send a clear message that the future for nuclear is bright. We are particularly encouraged by the support for private sector-led projects and the potential for routes for future investment – as the first advanced technology to be accepted into the GDA and regulatory justification processes we are looking forward to being part of these discussions and helping to add to the range of nuclear technologies for the UK."

Andrew Murdoch, *new*cleo's Managing Director UK, said:

"We are looking forward to working with the ONR, EA, and NRW and to starting the GDA process as soon as possible. We are delighted to celebrate this further step in newcleo's journey, and the fact that we are the first AMR project to have achieved this milestone in the UK and have done so without any public funding, only underlines the strength of our proposed design and operating model and our determination to delivering advanced new nuclear technologies to Great Britain. This news supports our continued commitment to deployment in the UK as part of our wider strategy to play a leading role in creating a more autonomous, low-carbon British energy system."

NOTE TO EDITORS

About *new*cleo

Since launching in 2021 *new*cleo has quickly established itself as innovator in the field of nuclear energy. *new*cleo is working to design, build, and operate Gen-IV Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) that are cooled by liquid lead and fuelled by reprocessed nuclear waste.

Through an innovative combination of existing and proven technologies, and by reviving a nuclear industry model based on the manufacture and multi-recycling of Mixed Oxide fuel, *new*cleo aims to close the nuclear fuel cycle while safely producing clean, affordable, and practically inexhaustible energy required for low carbon economies.

With a EUR 50m group turnover in 2024, more than EUR 570m of private funding, and over 90 partnerships and collaborations across the nuclear industry, the growth of the *new*cleo group is supported through the targeted acquisition of key companies with strong capabilities in nuclear engineering, manufacturing, and waste management.

Through its workforce of over 1,200 highly qualified employees across France, the UK, Italy, Switzerland, and Slovakia, *new*cleo is not only developing and delivering the skills and services required for the group's own ambitious project timelines but also supporting the development of Small Modular Reactor supply chains in Europe and beyond.

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