

Crosbie calls for international coordination to turn maritime nuclear momentum into deployment



Speaking at the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency's Roadmaps to New Nuclear conference in Paris today, NEMO CEO Virginia Crosbie called for greater international coordination to translate growing interest in maritime nuclear energy into safe, secure and commercially viable deployment.

During the conference's opening plenary on Thursday 17 September, Ms Crosbie brought the maritime perspective to a high-level discussion about the policy, market and institutional conditions required to deliver new nuclear at scale.

The plenary was co-chaired by Nuclear Energy Institute President and CEO Maria Korsnick and OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Director-General William D. Magwood IV. It brought together ministers and policymakers from the United States, Belgium, Croatia, France, Japan, Korea and Poland, alongside senior nuclear industry leaders.

Maritime nuclear applications include propulsion for commercial vessels, floating nuclear power plants and nuclear energy for offshore industrial operations. There is also growing interest in using nuclear energy to support synthetic-fuel production and provide dependable, low-carbon power for energy-intensive infrastructure.

NEMO believes the next practical step is for governments, regulators and industry to work together on carefully bounded demonstration projects and defined maritime corridors. This would enable port entry, licensing and emergency-response arrangements to be tested, while generating the operational experience needed to inform durable international standards.

Virginia Crosbie, CEO of NEMO, said:

“Among shipowners, ports, insurers, classification societies and technology developers, the conversation has moved decisively from whether maritime nuclear is technically possible to how we practically create the regulatory, commercial and financing frameworks needed for deployment.

“Maritime nuclear is not limited to propulsion, it can also provide floating nuclear power for electricity grids, offshore industrial applications, synthetic fuel production and power for energy-intensive infrastructure.

“The strongest message is that industry is ready to move, but it needs governments and regulators to coordinate internationally. Without aligned standards, clear licensing pathways and early demonstration projects, that momentum risks becoming fragmented.

“We do not need to wait for a perfect global treaty before taking practical steps. Governments, regulators and industry can work together on carefully bounded demonstration projects and defined maritime corridors, using that experience to inform the durable international framework the sector needs.

“The technology is advancing. Our task now is to build the complete operating system around it and turn global momentum into safe, secure and commercially viable deployment.”