

Drivers for a NPP business case in the Netherlands Mario van der Borst Nuclear Innovation Conference, Amsterdam June 8-9, 2022

Summary

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About me

- Over 35 years experience in the Nuclear business
- Studied Applied Physics at the Technical University of Delft (NL)
- Specialised in Thermo-hydraulics, Reactor Physics, Deterministic Safety Assessments and PSA.
- Worked as Expert, Project Manager, Department Manager, NPP Plant Manager and Senior Consultant (EPZ, RWE, Independent)
- Involved in the development of NNB projects, involved in Business Case development :
 - The Netherlands (2X)
 - UK
 - Rumania
 - UAE
 - KSA



Why new nuclear power in the Netherlands? CO2, Space and Reliability



Wind and solar power is depending on weather conditions, introducing grid unbalance. Expensive long term storage facilities will be required. Nuclear is a stable energy

European

3725 PJ

2698 PJ

28%

International

3918

2065

48%

source, independent of the weather.

TIME OF DAY

Major Cost Driver of New Nuclear Power



Investment-costs

Overnight Capital Costs Construction delays:

- Rework costs
- Extra Overhead
- Design changes



Costs of Capital

Interest During Construction (IDC) Interest During Operation (IDO)



System-costs

General system costs Specific system costs, (differ between sources of generation)

WACC(IDC) < WACC (IDO)

Levelized cost of electricity (LCOE): defined as the price at which the generated electricity should be sold for the system to break even at the end of its lifetime (€/MW)(present value calc)

Value Adjusted levelized costs of electricity (VA-LCOE): according to the IEA defined as the LCOE, adjusted for the source-specific systemcosts (€/MW)

The following figures assume the same WACC during and the construction and operation phase. This is normal scenario study practise. In reality WACC(IDC) > WACC(IDO)

WACC: company internal discount rate, used in Business Case calculations

Two examples Nuclear VA-LCOE (year 2040, value €: 2018)



SMR compounds VA-LCOE 75,2 €/MWh



■ Capital costs: IDC €/MWh ■ Capital costs: IDO €/MWh

Assumptions	EPR	SMR
Development/Power	NOAK/1630 MW	NOAK/200 MW
Utilisation factor	100%	100%
Lifetime	60 years	60 years
OCC	7.335 BEuro	1.0 BEuro
WACC	7%	7%

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Nuclear compared with other low-CO2 sources (2040)



Assumed Nuclear WACC: 7% and VRE's: 4,3%

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When a new nuclear could be erected under the same financial provisions as VRE's...



Conclusion

- 1. Taking into account system costs, nuclear energy is competitive with Variable Renewable Energy
- 2. In order of importance, the major cost drivers for new nuclear are:
 - WACC, depending on state support and guarantees
 - System costs, low for nuclear and neglected for VRE's
 - Construction time, mostly because the increase of Interest During Construction (IDC)
- 3. The advantage of nuclear energy for the production of hydrogen is the continuous availability of electricity. Unlike Variable Renewable Energy sources, Nuclear Energy is a continuously available and controllable electricity source, resulting in a stable and reliable grid
- 4. After the Commercial Operation Date (COD), the project risks fall down dramatically, resulting in a lower WACC. This is not shown in the analyses.