

China Atomic Energy Authority Launches Global Network for SMR Innovation (GNSI) Initiative

Briefing · 14 September 2026

On 14 September 2026, on the occasion of the 70th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference, the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) launched an initiative on innovation and sustainable development cooperation for small modular reactors at an SMR-themed side event in Vienna, calling on interested countries to jointly launch the Global Network for SMR Innovation (GNSI).

The initiative notes that mankind is faced with multiple challenges, including climate change, energy security and the green and low-carbon transition, and that small modular reactors have become an important direction of global nuclear innovation. China is ready to work with countries interested in developing SMRs to launch the GNSI and jointly address the common challenges to the global development of SMRs.

The GNSI is planned to be launched by China together with relevant Chinese nuclear energy enterprises. Following the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and upholding the vision of innovation-driven and safe development and of open, inclusive and widely beneficial cooperation, it seeks to bring together governments, regulators, enterprises, research institutes and universities of countries interested in developing SMRs. In its initial phase, the GNSI will operate as a non-profit, unincorporated and open cooperation initiative, assisting countries in SMR development in technological innovation, standards harmonization, capacity building, and promotion and application.

At the side event, Mr. SHAN Zhongde, Director of the CAEA; Mr. Mikhail CHUDAKOV, Deputy Director General of the IAEA; Ambassador LI Song, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna; and representatives of Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Thailand and other countries attended and delivered keynote speeches. Representatives of the founding member institutions, including CNNC, SPIC, China Huaneng Group Co., Ltd. and CGN, also delivered remarks.

The launch of the initiative has laid a solid foundation for the smooth establishment of the GNSI, and will strongly promote global SMR innovation cooperation and the sustainable development of nuclear energy, contributing nuclear strength to building a community with a shared future for mankind.