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# The Changing Geopolitics of the Nuclear Energy Market

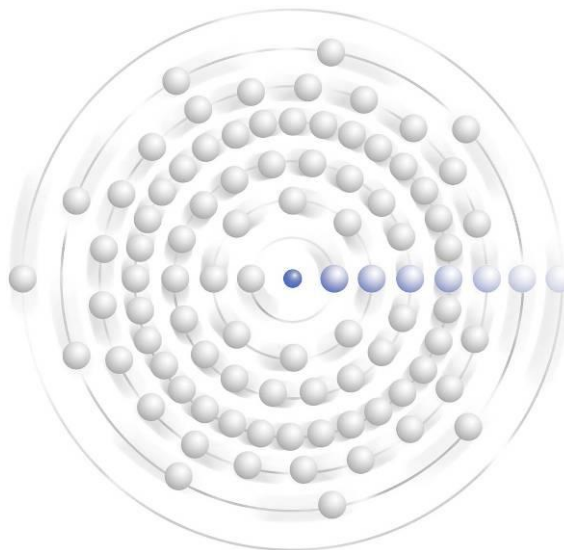
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## China

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**Ux Consulting**  
1401 Macy Drive  
Roswell, GA 30076  
(770) 642-7745  
[www.uxc.com](http://www.uxc.com)

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## 1 – Introduction

The motivation for our study, *The Changing Geopolitics of the Nuclear Energy Market*, is to examine the dramatic shift that is taking place in the nuclear energy market from the standpoint of not only expected growth in nuclear capacity and demand for nuclear technology and materials, but also in terms of geography and international political considerations. Nuclear power is expected to grow rapidly in the East in order to meet the growing electricity needs in certain Asian nations, and this creates associated demand for reactor components and nuclear fuel, impacting prices and supply availability.

With aggressive plans for its nuclear energy program, China has become the focal point of the international nuclear industry. Nowhere else in the world today are there so many nuclear power plants being built and so many more under consideration. The goal of this report is to provide a comprehensive study on China's nuclear energy program, emphasizing its nuclear reactor projects, evaluating implementation of these projects, and drawing lessons from the country's nuclear energy goals. A solid understanding of China's nuclear energy program is of the utmost importance for those who are taking part in the country's nuclear energy program as well as interested stakeholders looking for market opportunities in the country.

No country in the world comes close to matching China's plans for nuclear power expansion. China's latest official target of reaching 5% of total electricity from nuclear plants by 2020 means that around 78 gigawatts-electric (GWe) of new nuclear capacity should be built over the coming decade – adding to the current 8.6 GWe. In fact, given current trends, China is on track to potentially becoming the world's largest user of nuclear power by the year 2030. China's tremendous new reactor numbers speak for themselves:

- 11 reactors in operation (8,602 MWe)
- 16 reactors under construction today for a total of 15 GWe in new capacity
- 250+ planned new reactors
- 70+ identified reactor sites
- 5 main owner/operating companies and 34 secondary owners identified

This report has been prepared using several sources of information, including primary research in the form of contacts with experts on the Chinese nuclear energy program, as well as detailed research of industry publications, industry websites, company reports and press releases, proceedings of international conferences, reports published by specialized international organizations, and news reports. UxC has made major efforts to confirm all the information provided in this report. UxC has gathered all available data to provide the reader with a reliable single source of information on the

Chinese nuclear energy program. It must be mentioned, however, that although information about China's nuclear energy program is accessible, there are still areas where questions need to be answered. Given the size and speed of the developments in China's nuclear power program, it is not surprising that many aspects continue to evolve and new information adds to our understanding of China's nuclear future.

The importance of China for the global nuclear industry can not be underestimated. Ultimately, with this report, UxC hopes to provide readers with a sound understanding of the Chinese nuclear energy program and a glimpse of its future.

## Organization of Report

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This report starts with a review of the broader national and energy issues impacting China's future, and then focuses in later sections on the specific aspects of China's nuclear power program and its future direction. The report is organized as follows:

**Chapter 2 – Country Overview** provides an overview of China, including information on its geography, people, government, economy, and international relations. Here, we examine some detail how the economic development in China is impacting the prospects for nuclear power expansion in the country.

In **Chapter 3 – Energy in China**, we examine the role that energy plays in China's economy, and the specific situation of the electric power sector in supporting China's rapid development.

**Chapter 4 – Overview of China's Civilian Nuclear Program** introduces the broad outlines of China's nuclear power program, including the history of nuclear power in China, and the role played by the various key government agencies in shaping this important sector.

**Chapter 5 – China's Nuclear Industry** reviews all the main industrial players in the nuclear power program, both state-owned and private sector companies.

**Chapter 6 – China Nuclear Power Strategy and Implementation** examines the government's goals for nuclear power deployment in China and the approaches being taken to implement this vision.

**Chapter 7 – China's Nuclear Power Plants** details each of the reactors that are now in operation, under construction, and planned in China.

**Chapter 8 – Nuclear Power Forecasts for China** provides UxC's expert analysis of China's nuclear power targets and explains our reactor forecasts for the country through 2030. This chapter also includes an analysis of the anticipated reactor market size (in U.S. dollars) for China's growing nuclear power program.

**Chapter 9 – Nuclear Fuel Cycle Program** details each of the primary sectors in China's nuclear fuel cycle, including the country's capabilities in uranium mining, conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication, reprocessing and other aspects of the back-end of the fuel cycle. In addition, this chapter provides UxC's forecasts for current

and future demand of each nuclear fuel component utilizing our reactor forecasts and proprietary UxC Requirements Model (URM).

**Chapter 10 – Strategic Analysis and Potential Future Scenarios** provides a look at key strengths that could help China’s nuclear program expand in the future along with potential hurdles and also makes predictions on the rate of China’s nuclear program expansion by 2020 and 2030, with high, base, and low case scenarios.

**Chapter 11 – Conclusions** offers our overall conclusions to this in-depth analysis of China’s nuclear power program.

In addition, there is a helpful **Glossary** as well as four appendices, which include additional useful information and data. **Appendix A** is a timeline of key events in China’s commercial nuclear power program development. **Appendix B** provides a complete list of all nuclear power plants in China (operating, under construction, planned, and future). **Appendix C** includes additional information on the supply chain and major foreign suppliers for China’s rapidly expanding nuclear reactor program. **Appendix D** provides links to the websites of key government organizations and companies that participate in the nation’s nuclear industry.

- **Work in Progress**

It should be understood that our study of China’s situation is very much a work in progress. Constant changes are taking place in China in terms of demand, supply capacity, government and business structure. Along with providing information on China’s current nuclear power situation, our intention is for this report to give the reader a framework to view these changes as well as an indication of where things are headed in the future. In conjunction with the other reports in this *Geopolitics Series*, the aim is for the reader to gain an appreciation of the important ways that the nuclear energy markets are evolving, especially with the much greater emphasis on growth in Asia. In addition to our *Geopolitical Series*, UxC is also expanding and enhancing coverage of the latest policy and related developments in key countries, such as China, through our *Policy Watch* briefing service. In addition, given the rapid changes in China’s nuclear power plant program, UxC’s *Nuclear Power Outlook* reports provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of the latest developments in terms of reactor projects and future nuclear capacity forecasts for both China and the world on a quarterly basis.

- **Note on Taiwan**

Please note that this study only covers aspects of the nuclear power program in the country of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and does not discuss the nuclear power situation in the Republic of China (ROC), otherwise known as Taiwan.