

- [home](#)
- [about](#)
- [faq](#)
- [msrp](#)
- [tech](#)
- [plan](#)
- [contact](#)
- [site-admin](#)

[EnergyFromThorium](#)

Devoted to the discussion of thorium as a future energy resource, and the machine to extract that energy—the liquid-fluoride thorium reactor.

Devoted to the discussion of thorium as a future energy resource, and the machine to extract that energy—the liquid-fluoride thorium reactor.

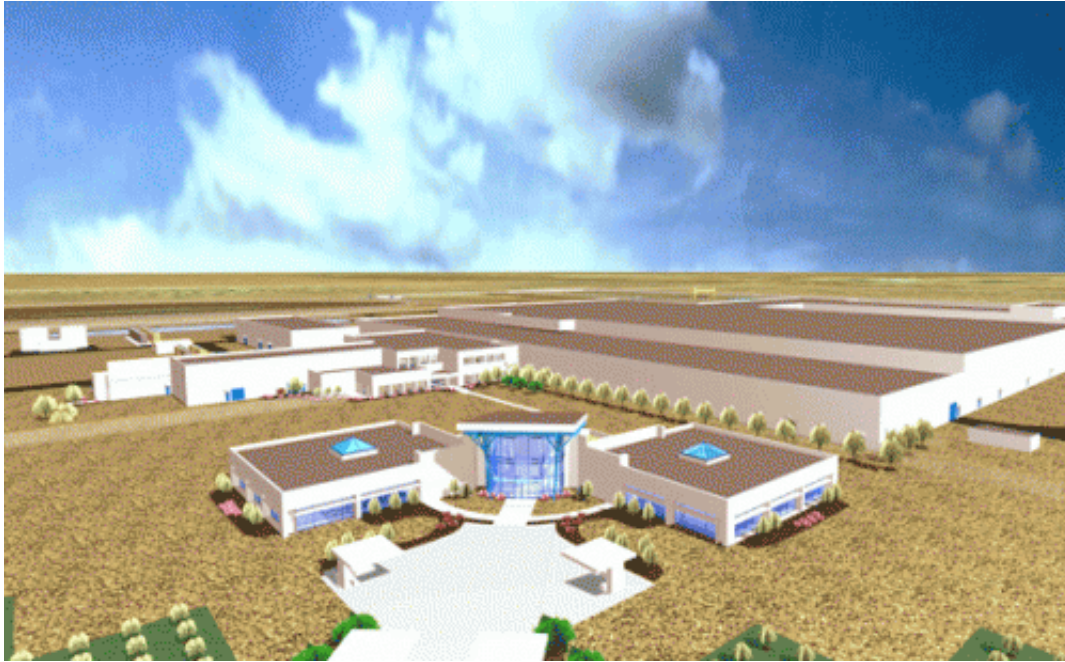
« [Help Dr. John Snyder save the U-233!](#)

Congratulations to Urenco USA!

Published in [Depleted Uranium Isotope Separation](#) by [Kirk Sorensen](#) on August 18th, 2010

Boy, sometimes you think you know about something. You think you've got your finger on the pulse of what's up. But you don't.

I was very chagrined when yesterday I was relaxing in a fold-out chair during my daughter's soccer practice, reading my latest issue of "Nuclear News", and lo and behold I read that [Urenco USA had started up their new uranium enrichment plant outside of Eunice, New Mexico!](#)



I couldn't believe it! I've been writing a multi-part series about isotope separation and uranium enrichment on this blog and I completely missed that for the first time in 50 years the United States has a new uranium enrichment plant! And to get even better, it employs a new advanced technology: the gas centrifuge, which promises vast efficiency improvements and far less power consumption than the previous way (gas diffusion) that we've done enrichment.

So let me say, congratulations to the Urenco USA team on their milestone and I wish them the best of success and they bring additional enrichment cascades online at their new enrichment plant!




Let me tell you another really cool thing about this new facility. About 30 miles away, west of Hobbs, New Mexico, another company called [International Isotopes, Inc.](#), is building their own fluorine recovery facility, where they will take the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) that is the main byproduct of uranium enrichment and they will recover the fluorine. They'll recover it as anhydrous hydrofluoric acid, which is exactly the stuff that you need to convert uranium oxide ore to uranium hexafluoride in the first place. That means that between Urenco USA and International Isotopes, they'll be following the classic dictum to "reduce, reuse, and recycle".

They'll reduce the accumulation of depleted uranium hexafluoride. They'll reuse the fluorine that was used to convert uranium oxide to uranium hexafluoride in the first place. And they'll recycle the fluorine into additional uses preparing more uranium for enrichment.

I think that's really cool. I love it when people use uranium and fluorine together to make nuclear power. Hopefully one of these days we'll get to do it much more directly and shave a few complicated steps off the nuclear fuel cycle!


This entry was posted on Wednesday, August 18th, 2010 at 10:51 pm and is filed under [Depleted Uranium](#), [Isotope Separation](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

2 Responses to "Congratulations to Urenco USA!"

1.  [uvdiv](#) says:
[August 19, 2010 at 8:16 pm](#)

While we're bring it up, you also missed the French enrichment plant starting up in December. It has its own "waste not" story: it reduces energy consumption by a factor of 50x relative to its predecessor (gas diffusion!), freeing up some 3 gigawatts of clean nuclear electricity for other purposes.

<http://uvdiv.blogspot.com/2009/12/french-enrichment-plant-reduces-energy.html>

2.  *Frank Kandrnl* says:
[August 20, 2010 at 5:58 am](#)

Obviously, Urenco and the French are pretty confident that nuclear power is here to stay when they committed large investment in new enrichment plants.
 To me this looks like another nail in the coffin of anti nuclear fanatics.

Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

CAPTCHA Code



• Pages

- [Nuclear Historical Timeline](#)
- [Thorium and the Liquid-Fluoride Reactor: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)
- [Save the Uranium-233!](#)

• Top Links

- [Discussion Forum](#)
- [Facebook EfT Page](#)
- [PDF Document Repository](#)
- [Thorium Energy Alliance](#)
- [Twitter "Thorium" Search](#)
- [Twitter EfT Page](#)

• Thorium Videos

- [Dr. David LeBlanc, 2/20/2009](#)
- [Dr. Joe Bonometti, 11/19/2008](#)
- [Dr. Robert Hargraves, 5/26/2009](#)
- [Kirk Sorensen, 7/20/2009](#)
- [LFTR in 16 minutes](#)
- [LFTR in 25 minutes](#)
- [Rep. Sestak's TEAC1 Message](#)
- [Rod Adams, 4/16/2007](#)
- [TEAC1 Keynote Address](#)
- [Zoe and Kaija, 6/20/2009](#)

• Media Coverage

- [C&EN, 2009/11/16](#)
- [Columbus Dispatch, 2010/03/07](#)
- [Columbus Dispatch, 2010/03/07](#)
- [Counterpoint, 2010/03/22](#)
- [Economist, 2009/12/10](#)
- [Machine Design, 2010/03/16](#)
- [Mech Engineering, 2010/05](#)
- [UK Guardian, 2010/07/13](#)
- [WIRED Magazine, 2009/12](#)

• Java Programs

- [Cross Sections](#)
- [Decay Chains](#)
- [Isotope Separation](#)
- [Ternary Mixtures](#)

• Blogroll

- [AREVA Blog – North America](#)
- [Atom Watch](#)

- [Atomic City Underground](#)
- [Atomic Insights Blog](#)
- [Blogging About the Unthinkable](#)
- [BraveNewClimate.com](#)
- [Capacity Factor](#)
- [Carbon Commentary](#)
- [Channeling the Strong Force](#)
- [Depleted Cranium](#)
- [Energy Balance](#)
- [Idaho Samizdat: Nuke Notes](#)
- [Learning About Energy](#)
- [NEI Nuclear Notes](#)
- [New Energy and Fuel](#)
- [Next Big Future](#)
- [Nuclear Desalination](#)
- [Nuclear Dialogues](#)
- [Nuclear Dreams](#)
- [Nuclear Fissionary](#)
- [Nuclear Townhall](#)
- [nuclearactive.com](#)
- [Pro Nuclear Democrats](#)
- [The Nuclear Green Revolution](#)
- [This Week in Nuclear](#)
- [ThoriumMSR](#)
- [Yes Vermont Yankee](#)

• Recommended Books (In-Print)

- [Atoms, Radiation, and Radiation Protection, James Turner, 1995](#)
- [Big Coal, Jeff Goodell, 2006](#)
- [Coal: A Human History, Barbara Freese, 2003](#)
- [Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb, Richard Rhodes, 1996](#)
- [Hubbert's Peak, Kenneth Deffeyes, 2003](#)
- [Nuclear Reactor Physics, Weston Stacey, 2001](#)
- [Out of Gas, David Goodstein, 2004](#)
- [Power to Save the World, Gwyneth Cravens, 2009](#)
- [Prescription for the Planet, Tom Blees, 2008](#)
- [Resource Wars, Michael Klare, 2002](#)
- [Terrestrial Energy, William Tucker, 2008](#)
- [The First Nuclear Era, Alvin Weinberg, 1994](#)

• Recommended Books (Out-of-Print)

- [Atomic Energy: A New Start, David Lilienthal, 1980](#)
- [Evolution of Matter and Energy, Mieczyslaw Taube, 1985](#)
- [Fluid Fuel Reactors, H.G. MacPherson, 1958](#)

- [Light Water: How the Nuclear Dream Dissolved, Irvin Bupp, 1978](#)
- [Nuclear Reactor Analysis, James Duderstadt, 1976](#)
- [Nuclear Ship Propulsion, Holmes Crouch, 1960](#)

• Websites

- [1 Nuclear Place](#)
- [Brush-Wellman Beryllium](#)
- [Haynes' Hastelloy-N](#)
- [National Nuclear Data Center](#)
- [Nuclear Chemistry and the Community](#)
- [Nuclear Information Center](#)
- [Nuclear Townhall](#)
- [ORNL Research Library](#)
- [Per Peterson, UC Berkeley](#)
- [Power Plant Images](#)
- [RadiationAnswers.Org](#)
- [US EIA Nuclear Information](#)
- [UTK Nuclear Engineering](#)
- [World Atlas of N-Plants](#)

• Archives

- [August 2010](#) (6)
- [July 2010](#) (3)
- [June 2010](#) (4)
- [May 2010](#) (4)
- [April 2010](#) (10)
- [March 2010](#) (20)
- [February 2010](#) (20)
- [January 2010](#) (27)
- [December 2009](#) (26)
- [November 2009](#) (25)
- [October 2009](#) (6)
- [September 2009](#) (1)
- [August 2009](#) (8)
- [July 2009](#) (15)
- [June 2009](#) (16)
- [May 2009](#) (14)
- [April 2009](#) (19)
- [March 2009](#) (7)
- [February 2009](#) (10)
- [January 2009](#) (9)
- [December 2008](#) (15)
- [November 2008](#) (12)
- [October 2008](#) (17)

- [September 2008](#) (14)
- [August 2008](#) (16)
- [July 2008](#) (11)
- [June 2008](#) (19)
- [May 2008](#) (13)
- [April 2008](#) (25)
- [March 2008](#) (22)
- [February 2008](#) (2)
- [January 2008](#) (9)
- [December 2007](#) (1)
- [November 2007](#) (4)
- [October 2007](#) (4)
- [September 2007](#) (3)
- [August 2007](#) (6)
- [July 2007](#) (4)
- [June 2007](#) (1)
- [May 2007](#) (3)
- [April 2007](#) (6)
- [March 2007](#) (1)
- [February 2007](#) (3)
- [January 2007](#) (3)
- [December 2006](#) (6)
- [November 2006](#) (7)
- [October 2006](#) (9)
- [September 2006](#) (9)
- [August 2006](#) (10)
- [July 2006](#) (24)
- [June 2006](#) (16)
- [May 2006](#) (10)
- [April 2006](#) (12)

• Categories

- Energy from Thorium is proudly powered by [WordPress](#)
- Design by [Ellis Benus](#) & [Web Advocate](#)