

LAUNCH OF « PROGRES NUCLEAIRE »

The French association Progrès Nucléaire, which aims to promote alternative molten salt reactor technologies, will be officially launched on 27th June at the World Nuclear Exhibition.

Place : [World Nuclear Exhibition - Paris Nord Villepinte, Stand 7-G157](#)

Date : 27th June, 10:30 am

Founded by John Laurie and Maxim Romain, Progrès Nucléaire is an independent non-profit association that was born from two observations:

- On one hand, current nuclear energy is socially unacceptable because of persistent hazards, its cost, and waste management. The type of nuclear reactor used for the last fifty years (mostly pressurised water reactors) presents an intrinsic radioactive contamination hazard. The risk of an accident, though very low thanks to immense progress made in the safety of nuclear power plants, remains real, as evidenced by the dramas of Chernobyl and Fukushima, and fear of this technology amplifies the construction costs for new plants. The management of very long-lived nuclear waste remains an unresolved problem with current technologies;
- On the other hand, renewable energies are inefficient, intermittent, currently lacking large-scale storage solutions and would require the use of very large areas of land. Germany, which has invested 400 billion euros so far in renewable energy, has not seen its carbon emissions decline in the last fifteen years.

In this context, and with a growing climate emergency, Progrès Nucléaire intends to support an alternative technology: Molten Salt Reactors (MSR). These reactors have the huge advantage of eliminating or reducing the hazards of current nuclear energy through intrinsically safe concepts.

A prototype molten salt reactor was successfully tested in the United States in the 1960s by Alvin Weinberg, one of the founders of civilian nuclear power. After a 40-year break in research, multiple projects for the development of molten salt reactors are underway in China, the United States and Canada. However, in France, there is currently no project to develop an MSR.

Progrès Nucléaire will therefore firstly work to make molten salt reactors technologies better known to the public, politicians, the media and industry. The association will then aim to promote investment in MSR technology, either via a public project (CEA) or a private one.

During the World Nuclear Exhibition, John Laurie and Maxim Romain, respectively President and Vice President, will explain the association's purpose and objectives in more detail. They are available to any journalist who wishes to know more.

Association website:	https://progresnucleaire.org
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Bio John Laurie :

John Laurie has an engineering degree from the University of Strathclyde. Passionate about innovation and interculturality, he has worked throughout his career in the automotive sector, particularly at Nissan and now at Renault where he is upper body architect in the Collaborative Innovation Laboratory. Inspired by the founders of the global molten salt reactor movement, in 2012 he created a website to communicate in French about this technology, and in early 2017 this activity became a company: Fission Liquide. Seeing the need for further political and communication actions, and the need to build a community, he co-founded Progrès Nucléaire as a voluntary association in February 2018.

Bio Maxim Romain :

Maxim Romain is passionate about the fight against global warming and has therefore co-founded the voluntary association Progrès Nucléaire, and taken European leadership of ofo, the world leader in shared bicycles (14 Million bicycles in circulation). Maxim is also a member of the board of directors of P3G (a French industrial group). He previously served as Managing Director Europe of Wayfair, an e-commerce company that went public in 2014, and worked for 8 years for Decathlon in Asia. He holds a degree in Engineering from Centrale Lille and an MBA from INSEAD. He currently lives in Berlin.

