

Slovakia Secures US Grant to Advance Small Modular Reactor Development project

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Slovakia has been awarded a grant from the US government's Nuclear Expediting the Energy Transition (NEXT) project to support the selection of a suitable site for the construction of small modular reactors (SMRs).

This grant is a significant step forward for Slovakia's nuclear energy program, following the award of USD2 million last year under the Project Phoenix initiative to conduct feasibility studies for SMRs at former coal-fired power plant sites.

The NEXT program, launched by US Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, aims to assist partner countries in exploring emerging clean nuclear energy technologies. Slovakia's Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister, Denisa Saková, expressed the country's commitment to nuclear energy as a key component of its energy transition and decarbonization efforts.

Slovenské elektrárne, Slovakia's leading nuclear operator, has been actively involved in the SMR development process. CEO Branislav Strýček emphasized that SMRs are not intended to replace existing nuclear sources but rather to supplement the energy mix and ensure the country's energy self-sufficiency.

The grant, secured through a joint bid involving government agencies, nuclear operators, universities, and industry partners, will provide technical assistance and consulting services to support the selection of an optimal SMR site. The project will also focus on developing academic partnerships, technical advice, and site visits to US nuclear facilities.

By securing this grant, Slovakia has strengthened its position in the global race to adopt advanced nuclear technologies. The country's commitment to SMRs aligns with its broader goals of achieving energy

independence, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring a sustainable energy future.