



American Nuclear Society

Georgia Section

From the 2022 SMR conference

The [ANS Georgia Section](#) was pleased to be an industry partner for the recent [The Small Modular & Advanced Reactor Conference](#) held in Atlanta.

Organized by Reuters, the SMR conference was a fantastic event. Over 400 participants from the US, Canada, and Europe were there to learn and participate in discussions with technology suppliers, regulators, financing organizations, and more importantly, first mover utilities.

We wanted to do a quick one-pager summary for our members and friends including the presented visions and challenges at hand for this exciting area of nuclear.

Please join us for our next meeting, September 14, 2022, at Georgia Tech. Our speaker will be Brad Adams, vice president engineering at Southern Nuclear Operating Company.

Takeaways:

There was a lot of positivity at this conference about SMRs. The most notable takeaways were:

Climate change is one of the key drivers for this nuclear vision. Utilities are seeking a source of clean dispatchable energy to balance out the growth in renewables.

All of a sudden, it has become **cool to support nuclear energy**. One of the most memorable quotes was by Maria Korsnick of NEI who said, "We are transitioning from 'Not in my back yard,' to 'Please, in my back yard!'"

International growth: Considering the latest geopolitical challenges with China and Russia, the US has become a preferred partner for developing small modular reactors internationally.

Challenges:

Of course, there are challenges still to be overcome:

Due to the lack of recent construction activity, the **supply chain** needs to be both developed and tested.

Regulatory approvals: The time required for a design to be certified continues to be a challenge. However, it's clear that the regulatory bodies are focused on applying recent lessons learned and streamlining the process.

We need **orders from several utilities** so we can take advantage of a factory build approach which will enable reduction of schedule and cost.



ANS Georgia Section leaders attended the conference and also secured two free passes for Georgia Tech students as volunteers. Seen at left are: Ronald Borel, ANS GA media chair, MaryEmma Hughes, GT student, Hugh Nunnally, Juan Villarreal, ANS GA Section Chair. (Not pictured, GT student Hugh Nunnally.)