INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

2016 Top Markets Report Civil Nuclear Country Case Study

Malaysia

Market Type: Newly Emerging

Malaysia has initiated feasibility studies and has expressed interest in developing a civil nuclear program to diversify its energy sources. While the country currently lacks a liability regime and does not have a 123 Agreement with the United States, a more firm commitment by the Malaysian government could position the country as a growing market for U.S. civil nuclear exports.

New Builds	17
Existing Reactors	N/A
Decommissioning	N/A
Overall Rank	26

U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia: Joseph Y. Yun
U.S. Commerce Attaché to Malaysia: Catherine Spillman

Malaysia does not currently have any operational nuclear power plants, and it is not building any.

The Malaysian government has established a nuclear agency charged with planning for new nuclear power development, and it has stated its intention to strongly consider nuclear energy as an alternative to coal. Plans for a nuclear plant, however, have been delayed several times and are still at the feasibility stage. If plans went ahead, construction would be unlikely to begin before 2025.

In late 2013, Malaysian officials announced plans to slow Malaysia's move to nuclear power. The Minister of Energy indicated during the World Energy Congress that widespread support did not yet exist for nuclear power and that current plans would be "kept in view" until further notice.

In 2015, the Malaysia Nuclear Power Corporation (MNPC) noted that it had signed non-disclosure agreements with eight potential partners, including Westinghouse and China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). In addition, the CEO of MNPC stressed the country's current focus on crafting a domestic legal framework for nuclear power.

Planned Nuclear Energy Projects

Owner: Government of Malaysia
Operator: Malaysia Nuclear Power Group
Reactor Type: Enriched Uranium (possible)
Capacity: N/A
Value of Project: 42.3 billion (2010 est.)
Construction Period: 10 years, unlikely to start before 2020
Operation (tentative): 2030

Commercial Opportunities

Services (front-and back-end): No immediate opportunities; possibilities for future feasibility studies and infrastructure development

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U.S. Department of Commerce | International Trade Administration | **Industry & Analysis**

Licensing Support: Potential support for Malaysia's Atomic Energy Licensing Board

Design, Construction, and Operation: New reactors are under consideration.

Components: Study phase

Fuel Management: Study phase

Waste Management: Study phase

Challenges and Barriers to Exports

The lack of a strong government commitment to building new nuclear power is the chief obstacle to U.S. civil nuclear exports. Despite some statements in the late 2000s in support of nuclear power development, the Malaysian nuclear program has not progressed beyond exploratory feasibility studies. More recent policy statements have been muted, detailing a more cautionary, long-term approach.

If government support increased and solid plans took shape, Malaysia would be positioned as a key market prospect for U.S. exports. The lack of a liability regime and a 123 Agreement are current barriers, but Malaysia is better placed to overcome financial obstacles than other newcomer countries.

Nuclear Infrastructure

Research Reactor: The 1 MWe Reactor TRIGA PUSPATI (RTP), which started operation in 1982, is the only nuclear research reactor in Malaysia. It is managed by the Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Nuclear Malaysia).

Waste Management: The Waste Technology Development Centre (WasTeC-Nuclear Malaysia) has been given the responsibility of managing radioactive waste throughout the nation.

U.S. Government Collaboration

123 Agreement**:** Malaysia does not have a 123 Agreement with the United States.

Figure 1: Malaysia Electricity Mix
Capacity, Millions Kilowatts, 2013
Total: 34.4

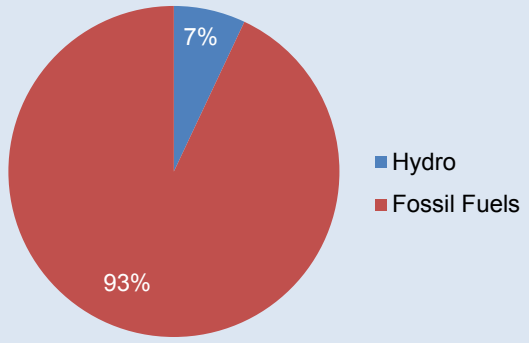

Figure 2: Additional Agreements	
Non-Proliferation Treaty	✓
IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement & Additional Protocol	
Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management	
Convention on Nuclear Safety	
Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident	✓
Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency	✓
Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy	
Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage	
Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and Paris Convention	
Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage	
Organization Membership	
IAEA	✓
Nuclear Suppliers Group	
OECD/NEA	
IFNEC	✓
GenIV International Forum (GIF)	

Resources

For more information on the commercial opportunities in Malaysia, contact: I&A Civil Nuclear Team: Jonathan Chesebro (jonathan.chesebro@trade.gov); CS Kuala Lumpur: Commercial Specialist Randall Liew (Randall.liew@trade.gov), Commercial Specialist Joanne Looi (Joanne.Looi@trade.gov).

For more information on nuclear power in Malaysia:

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Nuclear Malaysia: http://www.nuclearmalaysia.gov.my/

Malaysia Economic Transformation Programme: http://etp.pemandu.gov.my/11_January_2011-@-Malaysia_Nuclear_Power_Corporation.aspx

Sources

CIA Factbook, United Nations, World Nuclear Association, Asian Development Bank, and Commerce Department contacts at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.