

School of Chemical and Process Engineering
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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Providing A nuclear fuel Cycle In the uk For Implementing Carbon reduction (PACIFIC)

Funded by EPSRC and Industry - £3.75M

Principle Investigators: Prof. Tim Abram (University of Manchester) - Fuels

Prof. Bruce Hanson (University of Leeds) - Separations

Imperial College
London





Providing A nuclear fuel Cycle In the uk For Implementing Carbon reduction (PACIFIC)

- Overall objective – prove the concept of recycling from thermal to fast reactors
- Strategic view (Nuclear Fission Technology Roadmap) – likely to be advanced Purex for separations
- Programme Objectives:
 - Build a sustainable academic consortium in Nuclear Fuel Technology with strong links into other UK and international Universities, National Laboratories, Regulatory Organisations, and Industries.
 - Conduct academically excellent research in key aspects of nuclear fuel technology, underpinned by strong analytical modelling methods and experimental programmes.
 - Pursue a range of research topics that address key aspects of current generation nuclear fuel performance, as well as more advanced fuel technology options.
 - Engage with partner organisations to identify opportunities for collaboration and to access relevant data, expertise, facilities, etc.
 - Train a cohort of young PhD and post-doctoral researchers in nuclear fuel technology that will be available to meet future UK research, regulatory, and industrial needs.



Providing A nuclear fuel Cycle In the uk For Implementing Carbon reduction (PACIFIC) – Fuels Theme

	Title of Project	Lead Investigator	Partners
In-Reactor Damage Effects in Advanced Ceramic Fuels and Coatings			
1	Fuel Modelling	R Grimes	Imperial College, Cambridge Manchester, Leeds Westinghouse
2	Thin Film and Fuel Pellet Sample Manufacture	T Scott	Bristol, Manchester, NNL
3	Advanced TRISO Coated Particle Fuel	P Xiao	Manchester, NNL
4	Materials Characterisation and Irradiation	T Abram	Manchester, Bristol, NNL
In-Reactor Damage Effects in Cladding Materials			
1	Mechanistic Study of Pellet-Cladding Interaction	M Preuss	Manchester, Imperial College, Westinghouse



Providing A nuclear fuel Cycle In the uk For Implementing Carbon reduction (PACIFIC) – Separations Theme

Research Area	Title of Project	Lead Investigator	University
Minor actinide separation	Direct monitoring of speciation in fuel cycle separations	S Faulkner	Oxford
	Optimising Interfacial Transfer Kinetics During Nuclear Separations	C Boxall	Lancaster
	Actinide behaviour and radiolysis effects of complexants in advanced separations	C Sharrad	Manchester
	Actinide Separation and Selective Extraction Technology (ASSET)	L Harwood	Reading



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Research Area	Title of Project	Lead Investigator	University
Advanced separations technology	Developing a better understanding of conventional solvent extraction technology	B Hanson	Leeds
	Intensified separation using impinging jets	P Angeli	UCL
	Development of high efficiency coalescers and settlers	B Hanson	Leeds
	Continuous Chromatographic Separation of Actinides and Fission Products	H Eccles	Uclan



Providing A nuclear fuel Cycle In the uk For Implementing Carbon reduction (PACIFIC) – Separations Theme

Research Area	Title of Project	Lead Investigator	University
Product conversion to fuel	The Conversion of Mixed Fuel Oxides to Fuels and Fuel precursors using Molten Salt systems	A Mount	Edinburgh
	Electro-reduction of spent nuclear fuel oxides for separation and conversion to fuel precursors	D Brett	UCL
	Decontamination and immobilisation of pyroprocessing wastes	N Hyatt	Sheffield



To date...

- Links with EU programmes (SACSESS, GENIORS) well embedded with three projects sharing/leveraging resources in the Reprocessing domain in.
- Access to NNL Central Lab offered as a contribution in kind.
- Shared facilities at Lancaster (UTGARD) and Manchester (DCF) have been made available to researchers across the programme..
- Cross disciplinary team effort involving chemists & engineers
- The programme has provided five PhD, plus over 10 Early Career Researchers to add to the UK's skills base.