# Nuclear Shorts

### Biggest Arms Dealers Break Sales Record

In December 2025, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) issued its 2024 list of the biggest arms producers. SIPRI's data shows that annual revenue from sales of weapons and military services by the 100 top war profiteers rose in 2024 to a record $679 billion, "the highest level ever recorded by SIPRI," said Lorenzo Scarazzato of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program. In 2024, the combined arms revenues of 39 U.S. companies in the top 100 reached $334 billion. These weapons dealing giants include Lockheed Martin (F-35 jet fighter), Northrop Grumman (Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles), and General Dynamics (*Columbia* class ballistic missile submarines). The three Israeli arms companies in the ranking increased their combined arms revenues to $16.2 billion. "The growing backlash over Israel's actions in Gaza seems to have had little impact on interest in Israeli weapons," said Zubaida Karim, researcher with the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program. — The new data is available from SIPRI, www.sipri.org.

### China Reaffirms Nuclear No-First-Use Policy

Last November, China re-affirmed its policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons and called on other nuclear-armed states to follow suit. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said in Beijing, "China firmly adheres to a no-first-use nuclear weapons policy and upholds a nuclear strategy of self-defense."

The Foreign Ministry issued a white paper in December also noting, "…China has always committed to its policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons, firmly upheld a nuclear strategy of self-defense, and promoted the modernization of its nuclear forces to safeguard China's own strategic security and overall global strategic stability.

"The adoption of a no-first-use policy is a practical move to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security policies and achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament. If the five nuclear-weapon states — China, France, Russia, the UK, and the U.S. — could reach a consensus on mutual no-first-use of nuclear weapons, it would be conducive to reducing strategic risks, avoiding nuclear arms races, and promoting global strategic balance and stability." — Reuters, Dec. 23; Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nov. 27, 2025, and July 23, 2024

### Russian Nuclear-capable Oreshnik Missiles in Belarus

The Russian Federation's Defense Ministry confirmed Dec. 30, 2025 that Russian Oreshnik mobile intermediate-range ballistic missile systems have been deployed in the forests of Belarus, the Atlantic Council reported Jan. 11, 2026.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said earlier in December that the missiles had arrived in the country. Lukashenko said that up to ten such missile systems will be stationed in Belarus, according to PBS Newshour. Russia previously deployed air-dropped nuclear weapons in Belarus, whose territory it used to launch a military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. President Lukashenko has said that his country has several dozen Russian nuclear weapons, a "nuclear sharing" program similar to the U.S. stationing of about 100 thermonuclear gravity bombs at six NATO air bases in Europe. — Atlantic Council, Jan. 11, 2026; and PBS Newshour, Dec. 30, 2025

### Opposition to More Nuclear Waste in Utah

A recent proposal to import radioactive waste from Canada to a dump in Utah faces opposition from 88 environmental organizations in the U.S. and Canada, including Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, the Sierra Club of Utah, and Uranium Watch of Moab.

EnergySolutions, a firm based in Salt Lake City, is proposing to ship 1.31 million cubic yards of radioactive waste from Ontario, Canada to its Clive site in Utah, roughly 80 miles west of Salt Lake City. The site is also supposed to receive radioactive waste set to be transferred from one of the country's largest nuclear waste dumps, located in Parks Township, Pennsylvania. The "clear-out" of the Pennsylvania site, which will involve shipping rad waste across the country to Utah, is slated to cost $500 million and last six years. Likewise, the volume of waste from Canada would be shipped to Utah over a period of ten years.

The proposed dumping needs a license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a permit from Canada's government. EnergySolutions claims that leaders in the host state back the plan, and Utah's Governor Spencer Cox is also pushing for more nuclear power in the state. — The Cold Down; and KSL AM Radio (Salt L. City), Dec. 18, 2025

### Executive Order and Global Hegemony

A plan for U.S. world domination is outlined in glowing, benign terms in a December 2025 executive order (EO) from the White House titled "Ensuring American Space Superiority."

The EO says U.S. "superiority" from outer space should include "expanding American presence in space"; "establishing initial elements of a permanent lunar outpost by 2030"; demonstrating "missile defense technologies by 2028"; "ensuring the ability to detect, characterize, and counter threats"; "[increasing] space security spending"; "investing in America's space industrial base"; "growing a vibrant commercial space economy"; and "attracting at least $50 billion of additional investment in American space markets by 2028."

NASA explained the recent Artemis II lunar flyby in April as "aligning agencywide initiatives to achieve President Donald Trump's National Space Policy and advance American leadership in space."

The EO promotes "utilization of space nuclear power by deploying nuclear reactors on the Moon and in orbit, including a lunar surface reactor ready for launch by 2030." The Artemis flyby can be seen as a scouting mission for U.S. settler occupation of the moon.

The thought of sending nuclear reactors into space might raise a political uproar in Florida and Texas where radioactive fallout from lift-off failures would contaminate soil, water, and the food chain across thousands of square miles.The reentry of failed orbiters would also spread radioactive materials far and wide.

The EO also calls for "detecting, characterizing, and countering potential adversary placement of nuclear weapons in space" — weapons outlawed by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. China and Russia have proposed a treaty more completely prohibiting weapons in space, but the U.S. refuses to join treaty negotiations. — Futurism, Mar. 24, 2026; Executive Orders, "Ensuring American Space Superiority," Dec. 18, 2025

**In 2025, there was installed an estimated 180 times more solar and wind power generation than nuclear.**

### Nuclear Power Fails Another Year in the Global Marketplace

According to Jim Green of RenewEconomy, "The latest World Nuclear Industry Status Report (WNISR-2025) has crunched the numbers to show that 2025 was another underwhelming year for nuclear power. As of Jan. 1, 2025 ... nuclear accounted for nine percent of global electricity generation, half its historic peak of 17.5 percent in 1996."

Overall, the 25-year pattern of nuclear's global stagnation continues, with no end in sight. Installed nuclear capacity of 4.4 gigawatts (GW or 1 billion watts) in 2025 was 180 times lower than the estimated 793 GW of solar and wind capacity (up from 717 GW in 2024). In China, new nuclear capacity in 2025 amounted to 2.5 GW whereas solar capacity installed in the first 11 months of 2025 amounted to an estimated 275 GW — 110 times more than nuclear.

Conspicuously absent from the lists of reactor startups and construction starts are any small modular reactors or any 'Generation IV' reactors such as fast neutron reactors, fusion reactors, molten salt reactors, etc.

Even in the face of such data, the Trump White House, Big Tech, and the acolytes of the "Nuclear Renaissance" are still pushing the wasting of federal dollars on massive infrastructure build-outs for experimental new fuel chains and prototypes of hypothetical small modular nuclear reactors. — World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2025; RenewEconomy, Jan. 27, 2026

### White House Offers Cash Bribes to States to Host High-level Rad Waste Dump

The Trump White House is attempting to entice states to host radioactive waste dumps in exchange for a chance to play for economic development and investment prizes — all as part of the administration's goal of quadrupling U.S. nuclear power production over the next 25 years and to satiate Big Tech and the consolidated wealth of energy monopolies.

Part of the investment incentive may prove to be the "billions" or "hundreds of billions" that administration officials claim will be lavished on new reactor development, from nuclear fuel production and research, to reprocessing and advanced manufacturing.

A former head of the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Nuclear Waste Management, and a former chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission are among the chorus of voices pointing to the federal government's failure to create a plan to handle the country's existing nuclear waste and have called for creation of a privatized, non-governmental corporation, run by reactor owners, to develop a permanent solution for the high-level waste they produce. The Administration continues to heap federal funds onto covering costs for failing to take responsibility for existing irradiated waste fuel, all while redirecting tax dollars away from renewable energy solutions and into the creation of more radioactive waste, with no disposal plan in sight. — Politico, Jan. 20; the American Nuclear Society's Nuclear News Wire, Jan. 15, 2026

### U.S. and Israel Strike Iran Nuclear Reactor

In April, the fourth U.S. and Israeli strike on Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor since the start of the war damaged a building and killed a security staffer.

Iran's Foreign Minister warned such strikes could mean "radioactive fallout will end life" in the Gulf region. He also pointed to the "western hypocrisy" of bombing Bushehr while decrying the dangers of Russian strikes on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear facility in Ukraine.

In a letter to the United Nations, Iran issued another warning of "severe radioactive contamination risk… with grave human and environmental consequences" that could result from attacks on the reactor.

Though the reactor remains operational, the International Atomic Energy Agency's director general also admonished the aggressors, stating that nuclear "sites or nearby areas must never be attacked," as buildings surrounding the reactor may also be vital to safety.

Despite the words of caution, the U.S. and Israel have threatened to step up attacks on industrial sites, including power stations, reactors, and petrochemical infrastructure — war crimes with potentially catastrophic environmental legacies. — *Hindustan Times*; *Chosun Daily* (N Korea) April 5; *Daily Sabah*, Istanbul, Turkey, April 4, 2026