The First EU Workshop on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) was held on 29 June 2021. One of the major outcomes of this workshop was the proposal from all stakeholders for the creation of a ‘European SMR Partnership’ in the form of a collaboration scheme involving industrial stakeholders, research and technological organisations, interested customers, European regulators and the Commission.

The Commission has since then been closely following this stakeholders’ initiative with the objective of first European SMRs becoming operational at the start of the next decade. The preparations for the launch of the European SMR partnership, currently planned in 2023, are conducted by the European nuclear industry, research community and national nuclear regulators. The first topics to be addressed would be market opportunities, licensing conditions, and supply chain potential. Different options of financing for SMRs are also being investigated.

For a safe deployment of SMRs, the Commission is facilitating cooperation amongst national regulators. Following exchanges with the Commission, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group members have nominated 16 experts from 13 EU countries who are working on the topic of SMRs licensing since March 2022. The Commission also supports research related to safety and licencing aspects of SMRs technologies through the Euratom Research and Training Programme.