
Spent Fuel Management and Storage in Germany

A. Jussofie

GNS, Essen

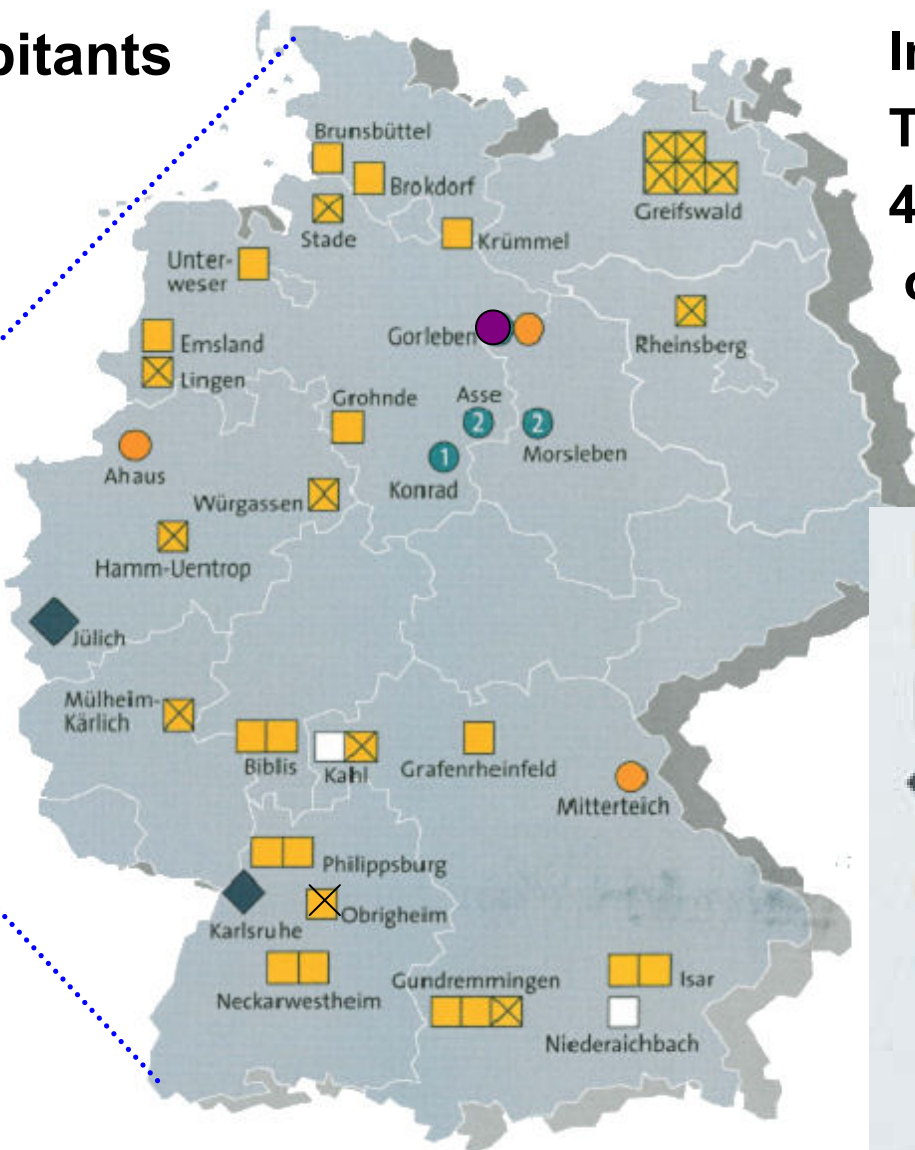
International Seminar on Interim Storage of Spent Fuel
Tokyo, November 15-17, 2010







Nuclear power plants (NPP) in Germany

82 Mio inhabitants

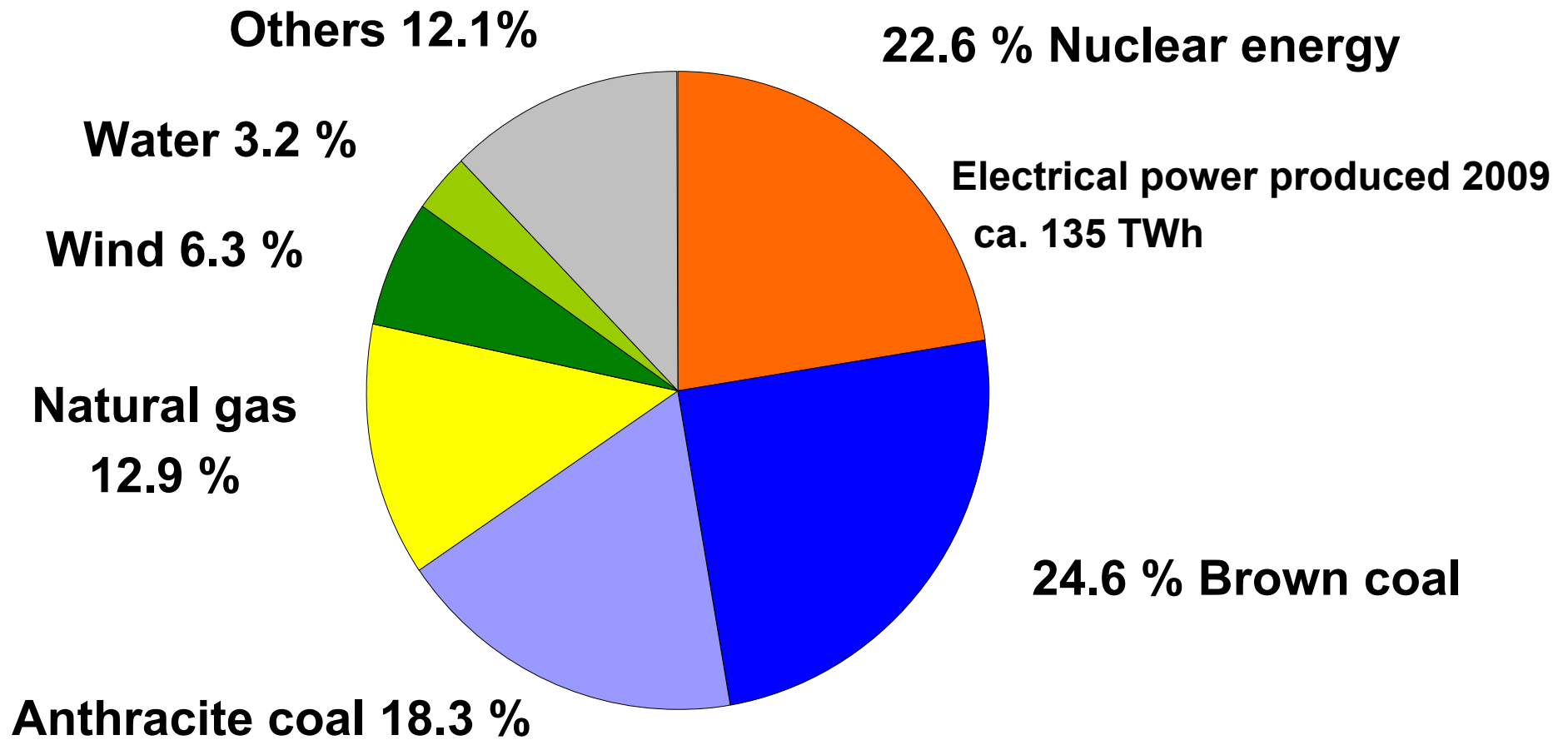
357,104 km²

In total: 17 active NPP
 Thereof: 11 PWR and 6 BWR
 450 tons annual discharge
 of spent fuel



-  NPP in operation/on-site SFSF
-  NPP cut-off or closed-down
-  NPP completely dismantled
-  Research/waste treatment plant
-  Centralized dry SFSF
-  L/ILW: Final repository
- 1 Operating plan licence 2007
- 2 Emplacement stopped HLW; exploration phase

Energy mix in Germany – status 2009



Disposal route in Germany

Spent Fuel Assemblies (SFA) from NPP

Reprocessing

- Sole disposal route up to the 1980/90s
- Since June 2005 any delivery of SFA to a reprocessing plant is prohibited.
- Completion of the reprocessed waste return is expected in 2024.

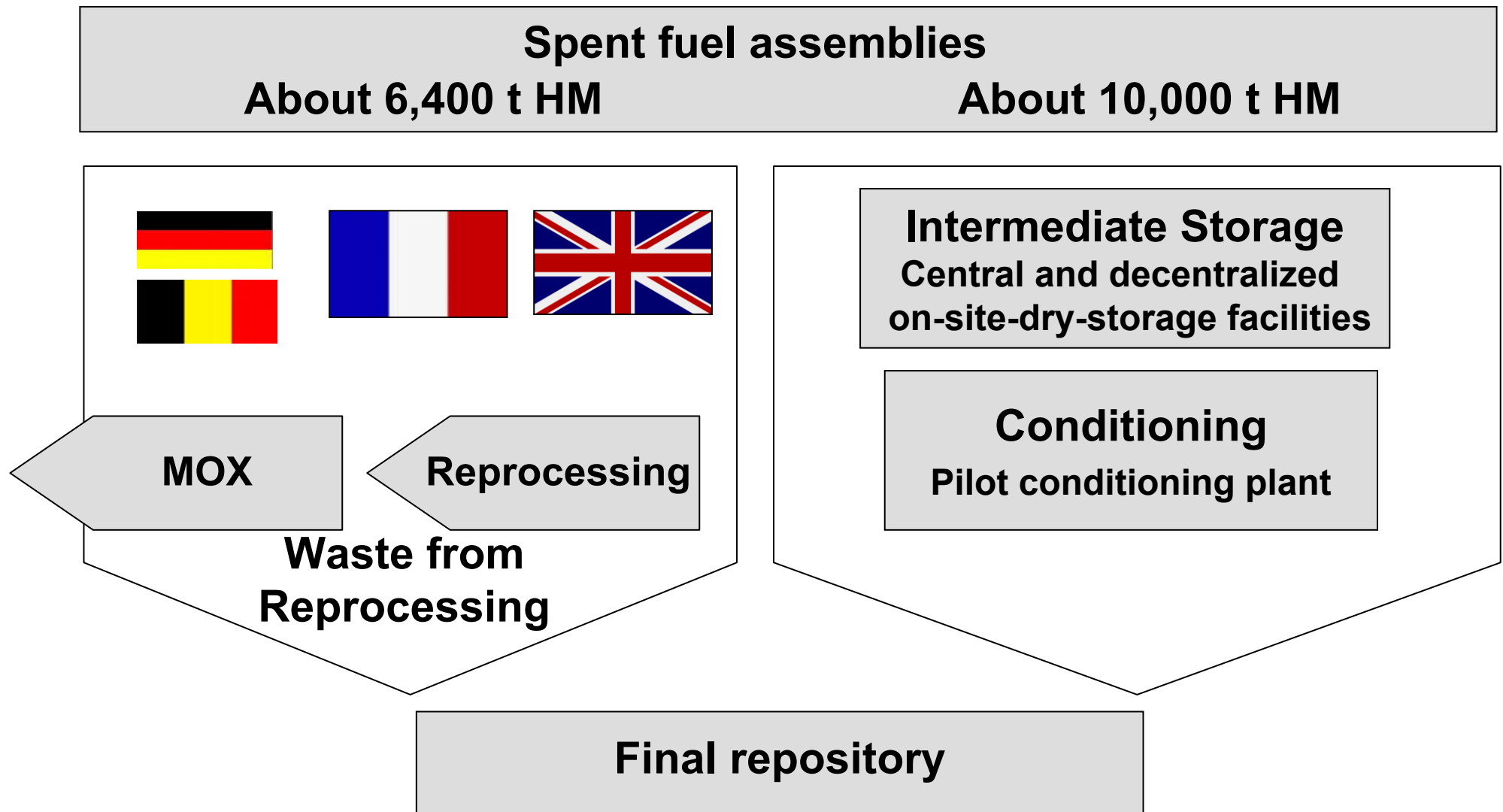
Direct Disposal

Sole potential disposal route since June 2005

- Development began in 1970s as so-called reference concept
- Completion of the pilot conditioning plant (*Pilotkonditionierungsanlage, PKA*) in 2000



Today's policy: Once through nuclear fuel cycle

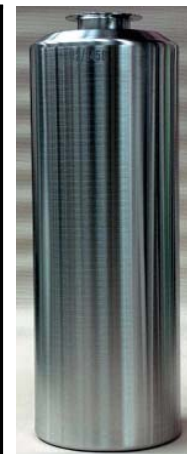
Disposal of spent fuel assemblies (SFA) in Germany



Return of waste from reprocessing plants

The reprocessed spent fuel (about 6,000 t HM) yields the following waste types and amounts:

Reprocessing plant Spent fuel reprocessed	Casks	Waste type	Number of casks	Return period
AREVA-NC 5,309 t 	TS 28V, CASTOR[®] HAW20/28CG, TN85, CASTOR[®] HAW28M	CSD-V ≙ HLW	108	until 2011
	TGC 36	CSD-C	≈ 150	from 2015
	CASTOR[®] HAW28M	CSD-B ≙ ILW	≈ 20	from 2014
NDA 768 t 	CASTOR[®] HAW28M	HLW	21	from 2014



CSD-V



CSD-B

LLW vitrified ILW vitrified



CSD-C

Compacted hulls, endpieces

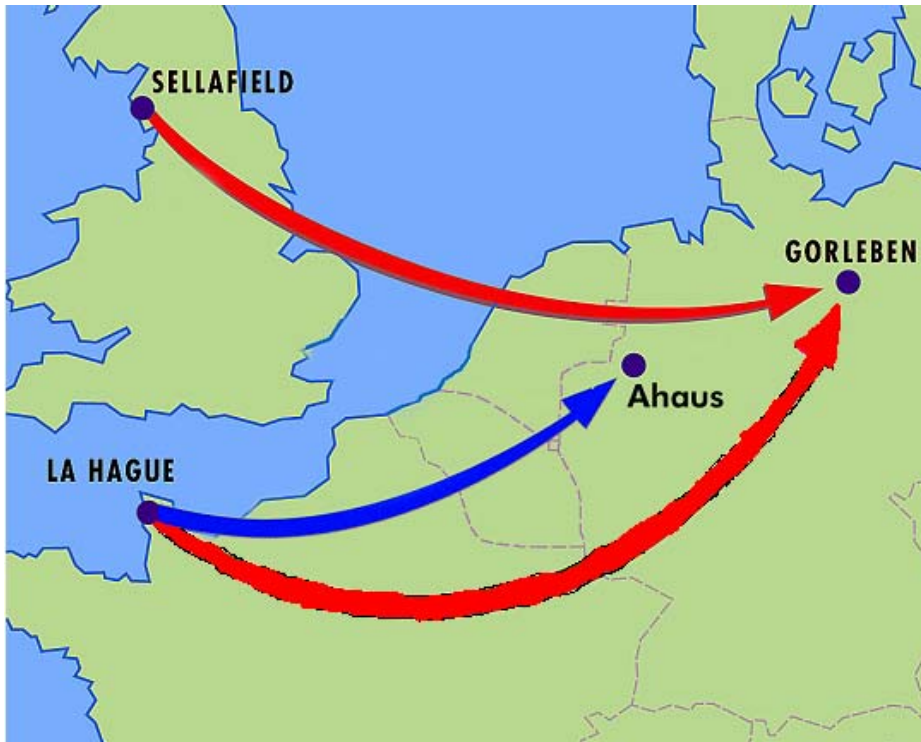
New development: CASTOR[®] HAW28M

2010 - 2011 Loading of 22 casks



Dimensions:	H = 6120 mm, Ø = 2430 mm
Cask Weight loaded:	114.3 t max.
Loading:	28 canisters with vitrified HLW
Inventory:	55 GWd/MGHM - equivalent
Max. Heat Load:	56 kW
Total Activity:	1270 PBq

Storage hall for the HLW-casks returned to Gorleben



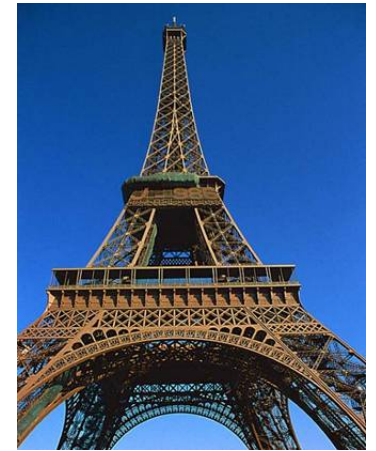
1st transport to Gorleben:
May 1996

Vitrified HLW-Waste currently from France, from 2014 from United Kingdom: centralized storage at Gorleben

Compacted hulls and endpieces: planned for centralized storage at Ahaus

75 CASTOR[®] HAW-casks
 \cong 7500 t
 \cong 1 Eiffel Tower

Since 2009 additional
11 TN85-casks



Accumulation of spent fuel

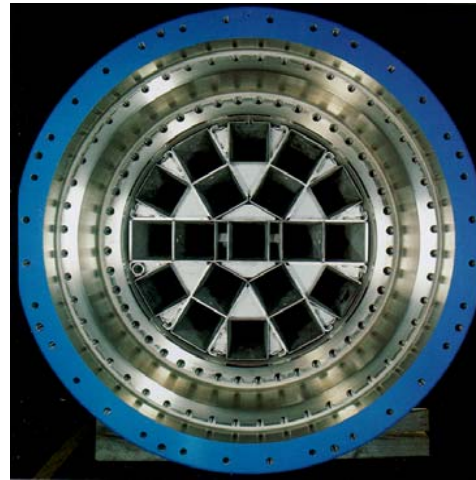
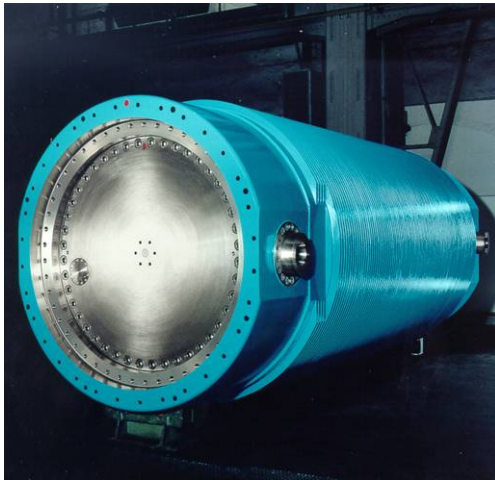
- **Total amount**

	SFA	t HM
- Accumulated by 31 Dec 2009 in reactor pools and dry storage	17,300	5,700

- **Intermediate storage in about 1,000 transport-/ storage casks**
without considering the extension of reactor life time

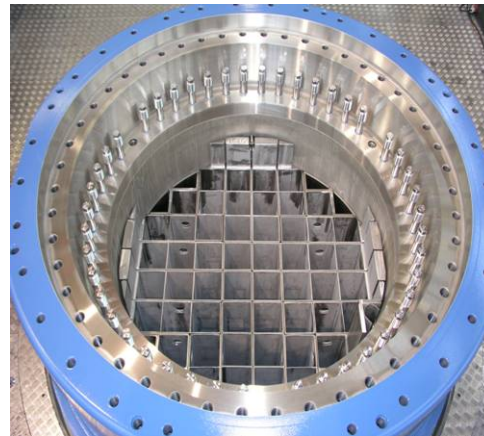
- **Final repository**
 - **Reference concept POLLUX** **about 2,000** **casks**
 - **Fuel rod container BSK3** **about 6,800** **containers**

CASTOR[®] Casks used for Spent Fuel Storage



CASTOR[®] V/19

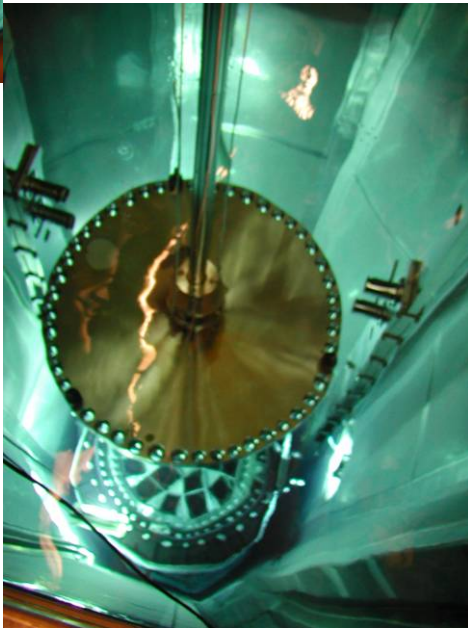
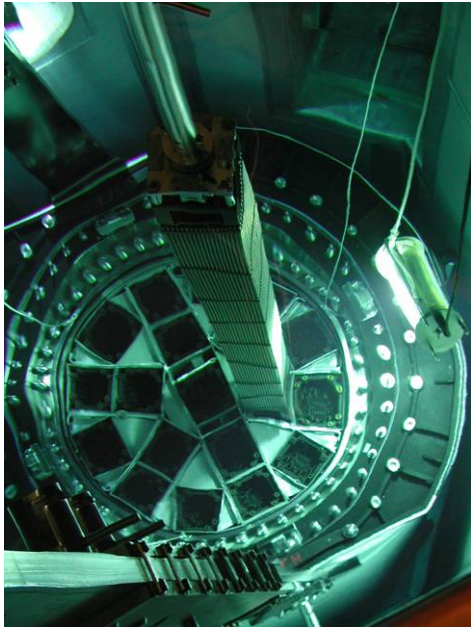
Dimensions:	H = 5860 mm, Ø = 2440 mm
Cask Weight Loaded:	125.6 t max.
Capacity:	19 PWR F.A.
Max. Initial Enrichment:	4.45 wt % U-235
Max. Average Burn-up:	65 GWd/MTHM
Max. Heat Load:	39 kW
Total Activity:	5.5·E+17 Bq



CASTOR[®] V/52

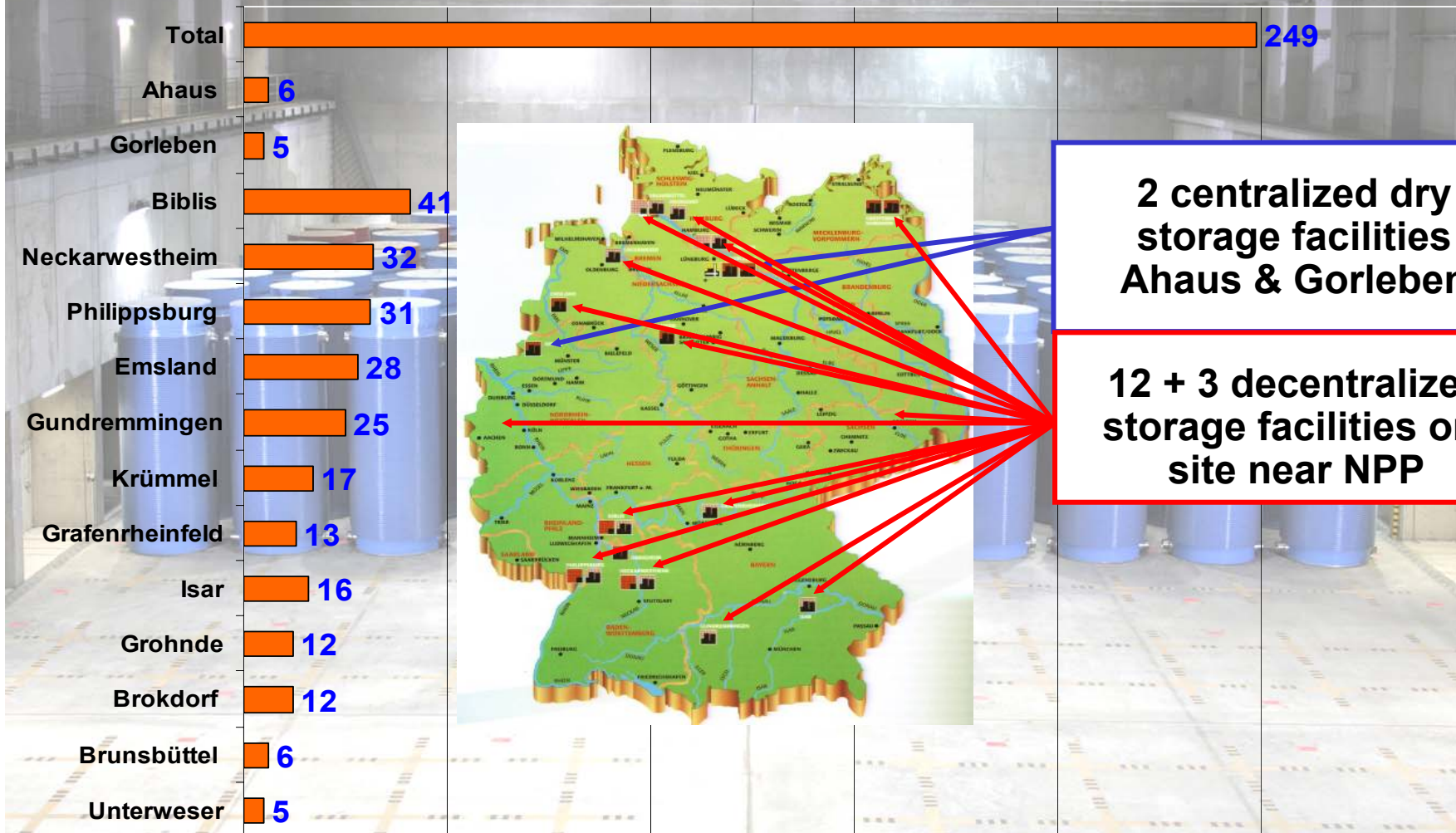
Dimensions:	H = 5450 mm, Ø = 2440 mm
Cask Weight Loaded:	123.4 t max.
Capacity:	52 BWR F.A.
Max. Initial Enrichment:	4.6 wt % U-235
Max. Average Burn-up:	65 GWd/MTHM
Max. Heat Load:	40 kW
Total Activity:	1.2 ·E+18 Bq

Loading of a CASTOR[®]V-casks



Intermediate storage of CASTOR[®]-casks filled with SFA

Status: 31th December 2009



2 centralized dry storage facilities
Ahaus & Gorleben

12 + 3 decentralized storage facilities on-site near NPP

12 on-site intermediate dry storage facilities with 1435 storing positions

Pilot Conditioning Plant (PKA) at Gorleben

TSC

TSC without secondary lid

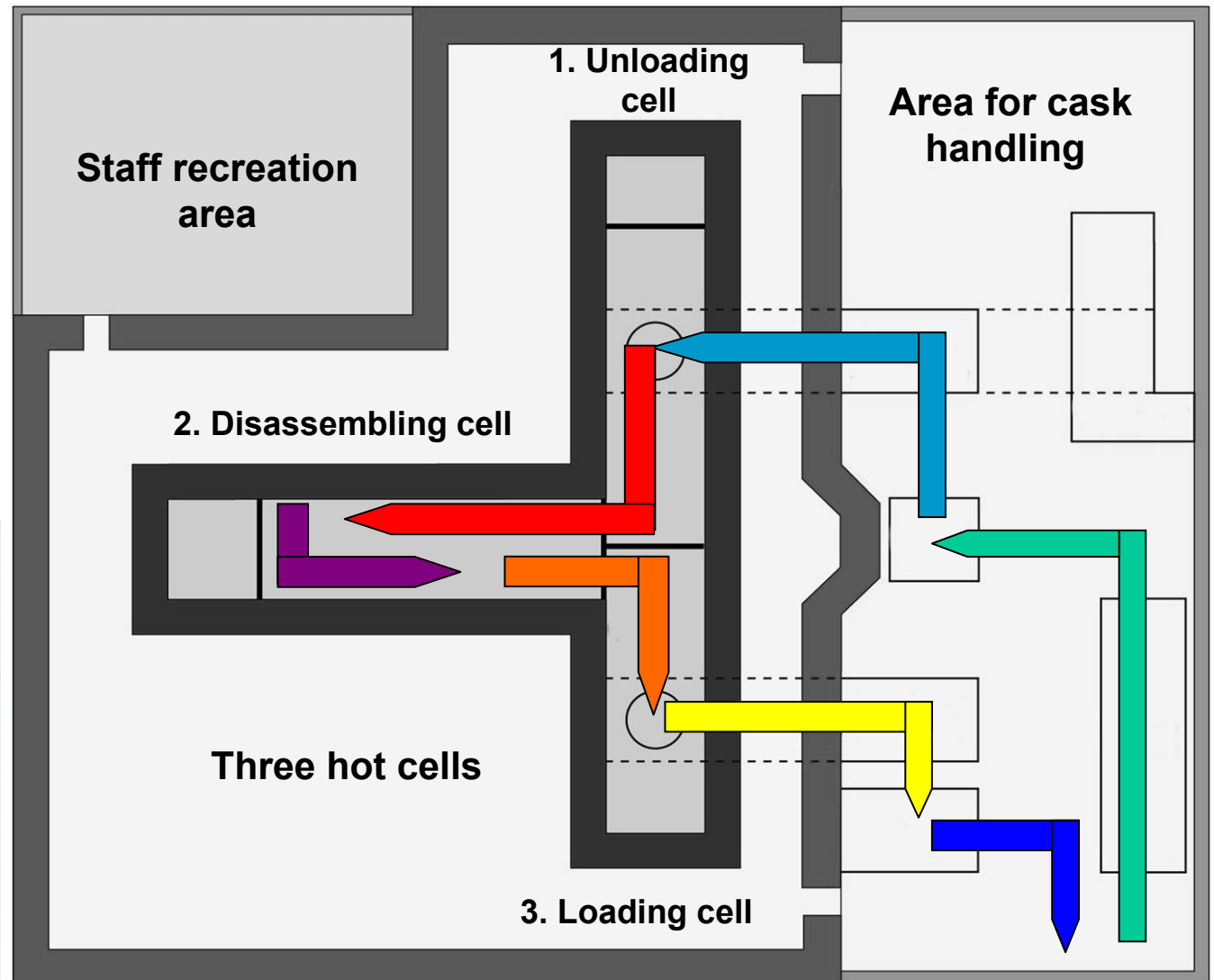
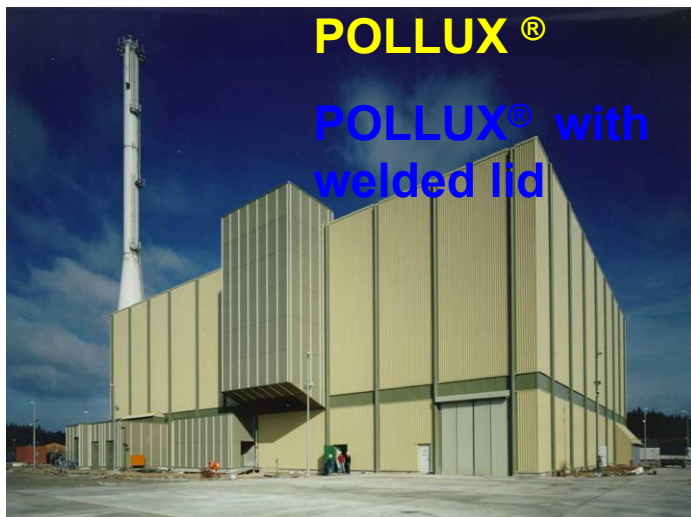
Fuel elements

Fuel rods

Cans with fuel rods

POLLUX®

POLLUX® with welded lid



PKA-building

Handling sequence at the PKA

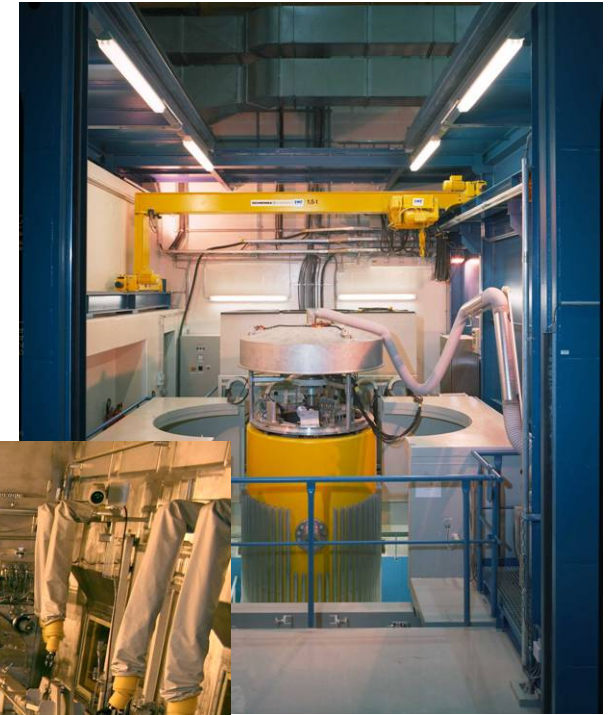


Hot cells of Pilot Conditioning Plant

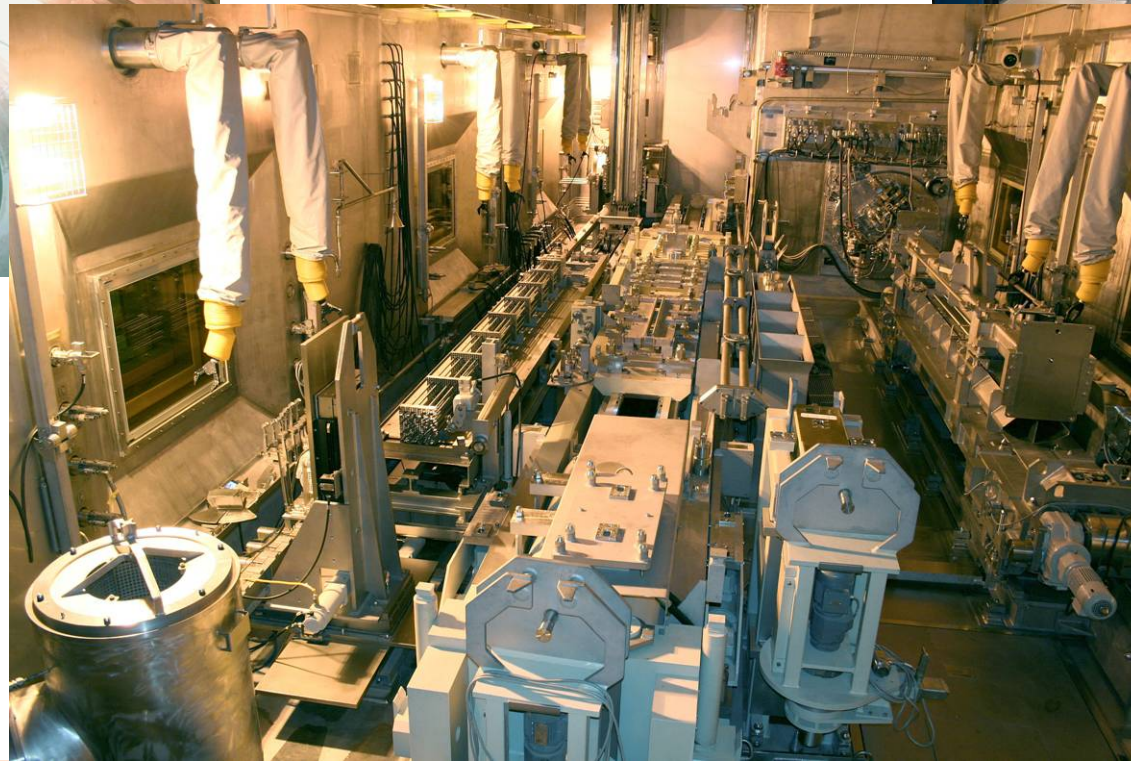


Unloading

Disassembling

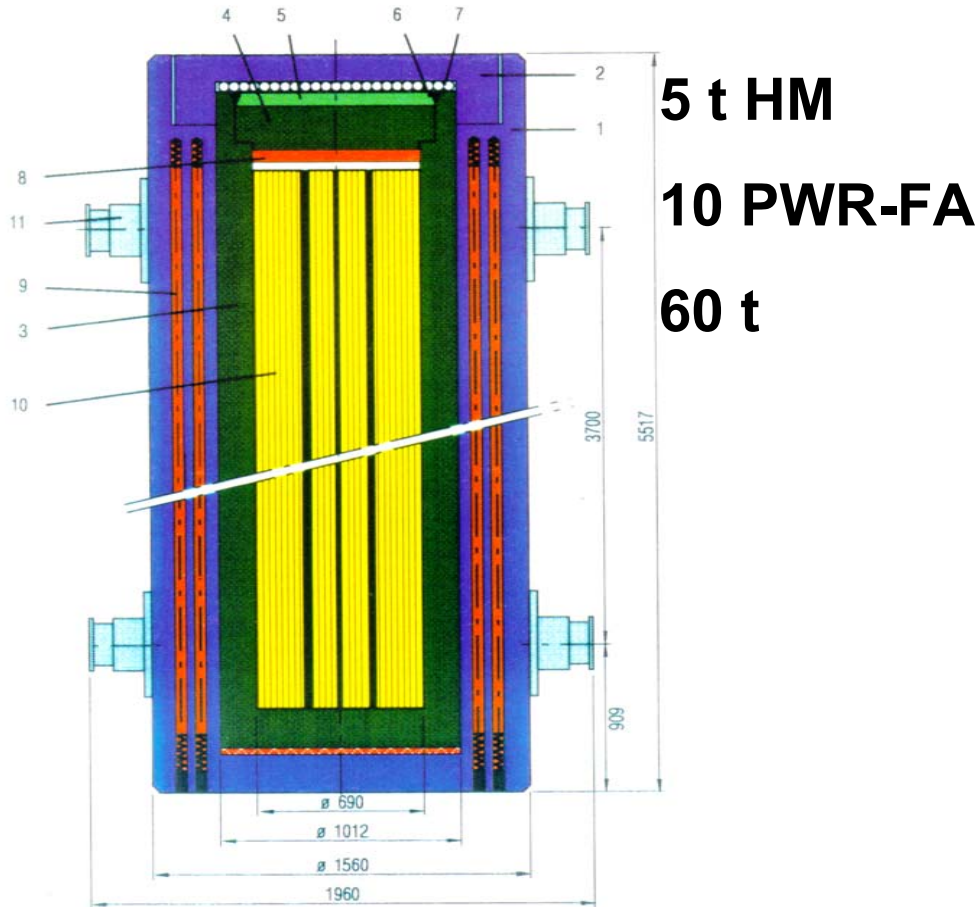


Loading



POLLUX[®]-Reference concept

POLLUX[®] - cask



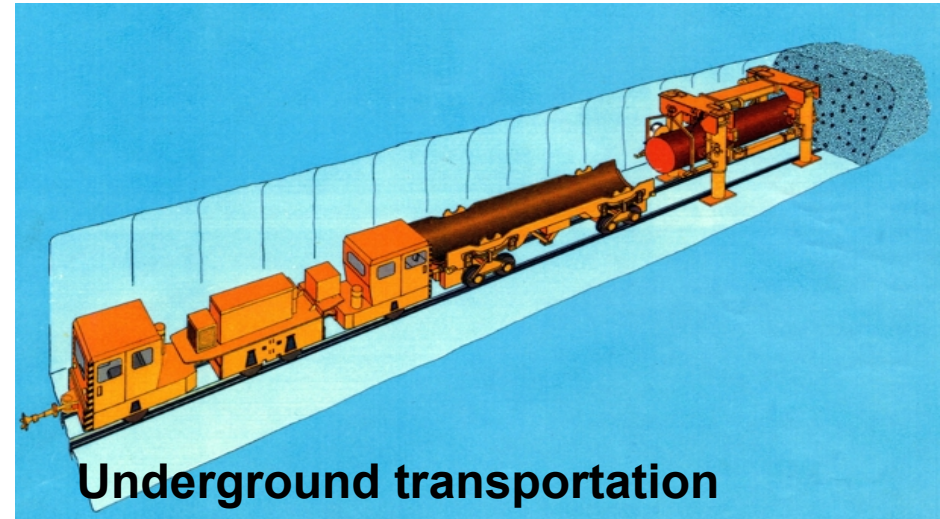
5 t HM

10 PWR-FA

60 t

**Concept status:
end of 1990s**

Disposal system

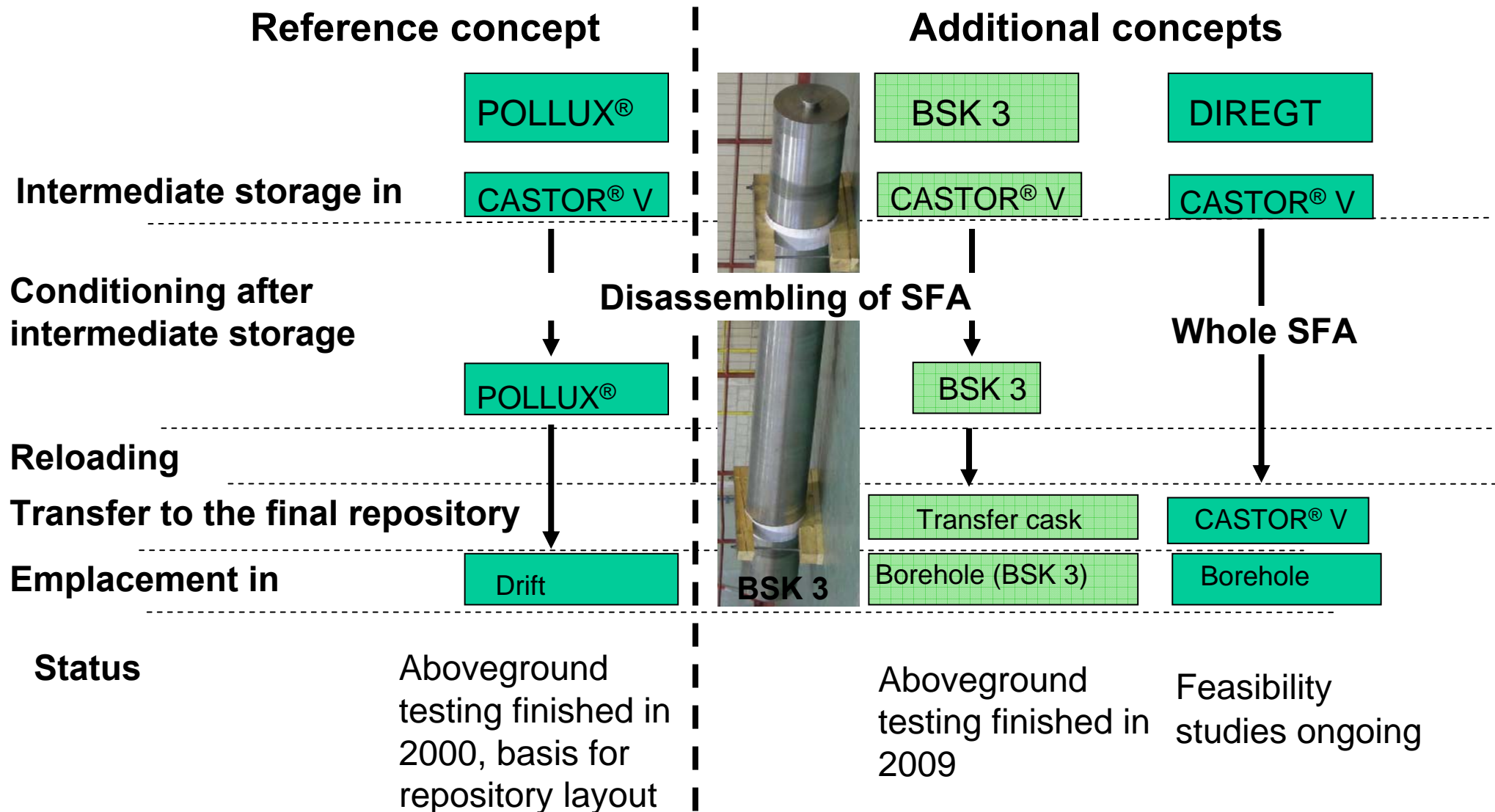


Underground transportation



Aboveground disposal tests

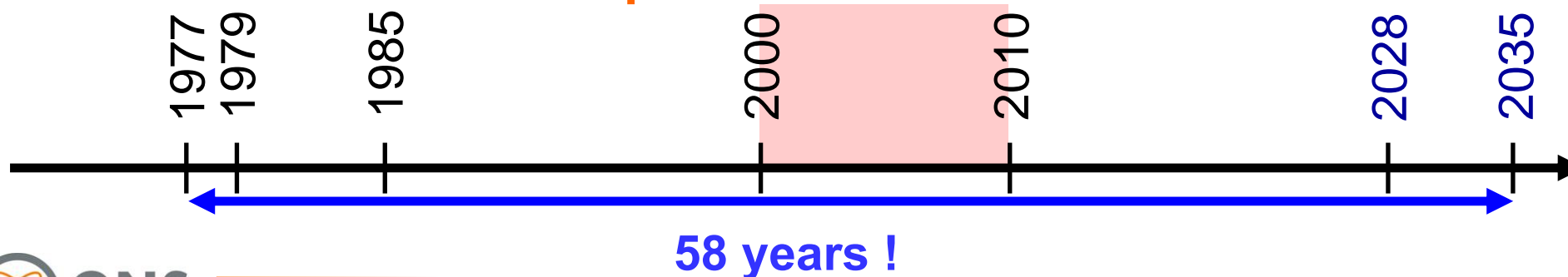
Additional Disposal Concepts for SFA



Way ahead

- Resumption of exploration work of the salt dome in Gorleben 2010 - 2015
- Development of a site related suitability statement 2015 - 2016
- Decision on site 2019
- Planning of the final repository layout and plan submission from 2020
- Finishing of the plan approval procedure 2028
- Construction until operational start 2035

Start of the final disposal at the earliest



Conclusion

- The reprocessing of spent fuel is technologically mature and well experienced but was prohibited by the German AtG.
- There are proved procedures for transport, intermediate storage and the conditioning of spent fuel.
- The disposal of spent fuel is technologically already solved to a large extent.
- The exploration results obtained so far strongly suggest that the salt dome of Gorleben is suitable to host a repository for heat-generating waste and spent fuel.
- The political decision on resuming the exploration of the salt dome in Gorleben and commissioning the first tentative safety analysis are important steps to move ahead on the way to a deep geological repository for heat-generating HLW. A concept for an appropriate participation of the public would be desirable.