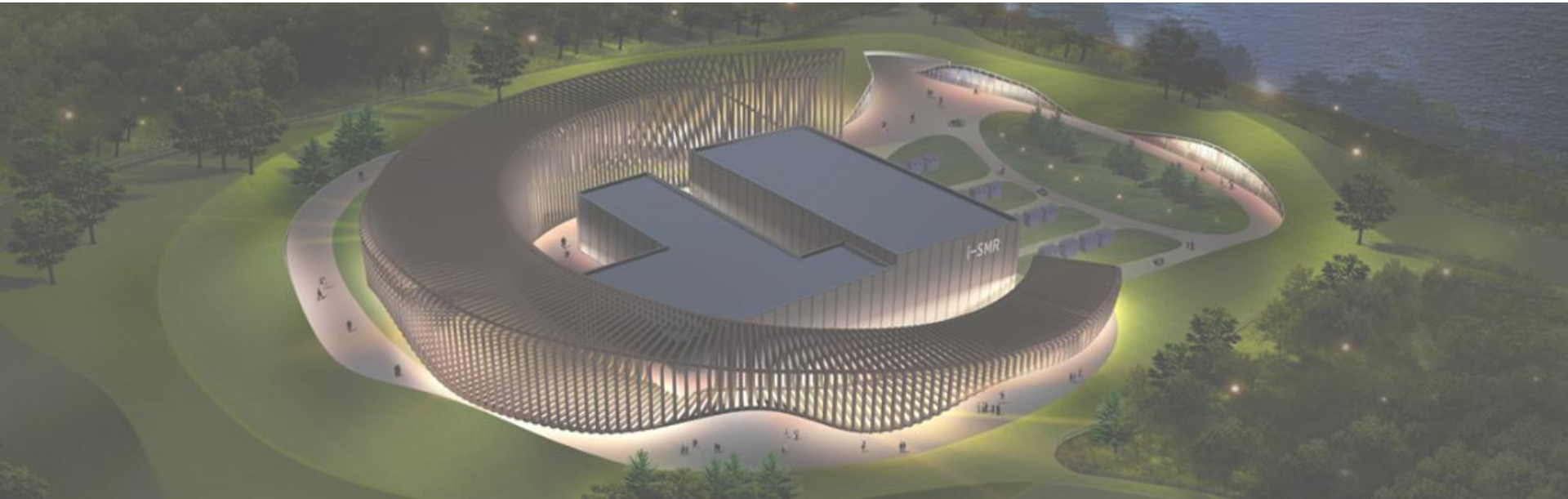


# Strategic Modularization for Efficient i-SMR Construction and Deployment



2026.05.07

Wonki Chai & Wooyong Jung

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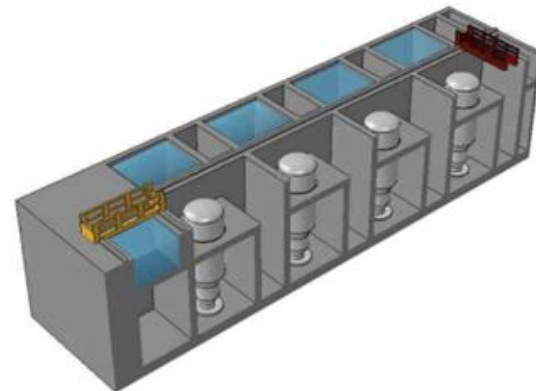
**I. Introduction**

**II. Background**

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### SMR Market Status

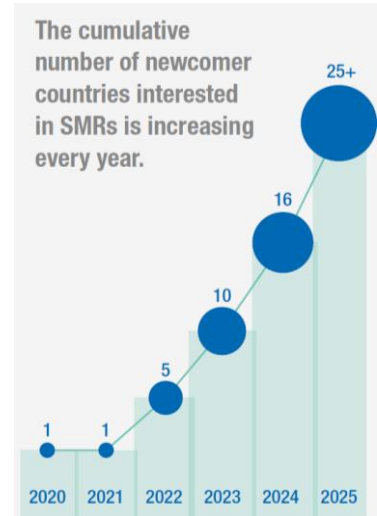
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) offer a flexible, scalable, and cost-effective clean energy solution (Gaster, 2025).
- **70 SMR** designs in active development worldwide (IAEA, 2024).

### Korean Initiative

- SMR technology selected as New Growth 4.0 Strategy (MOEF, 2025) and promoted.
- **The Core Economic Competitiveness of SMR is Modularisation**, which promotes off-site fabrication and enhances on-site installation efficiency (Oh et al., 2024).

### The Research Gap

- ☞ Research on **Construction Scheduling and Modularization Effects for the i-SMR remains limited.**



[Advances in SMR Developments (IAEA, 2024)]

### Lloyd's Research (2020)

- 🏗️ **Top-down Power Scaling** : Derived SMR estimates (cost, weight, schedule) by extrapolating from Large Reactor (LR) datasets.
- 🏗️ **Reference Data** : Based on Sizewell B NPP as-built data, encompassing ~3,600 activities categorized into Task Time and Wait Time
- 🏗️ **Degree of Modularization (DoM)** : Defined as the fraction of total work transferred from on-site to off-site factory facilities.



- 📈 **Low Modularization** : Scope limited to MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, Piping) systems. Yields marginal reductions of **7-12%** as structural work stays on critical
- ⚡ **Full Modularization** : Encompasses Structural + MEP systems. Achieves schedule reductions of **> 30%** compared to Large Reactors.

- ✔ **Strategic Benefit** : Removes structural work from the on-site critical path, enabling parallel factory production.
- ⚡ **Key Finding** : Schedule compression is highly dependent on the scope of work moved off-site; full structural modularization is required for radical gains.

### Objectives

👉 **By applying Lloyd's methodology**

#### **1. Develop i-SMR Schedule**

- Build i-SMR construction schedule, using the APR1400 as a reference large plant.

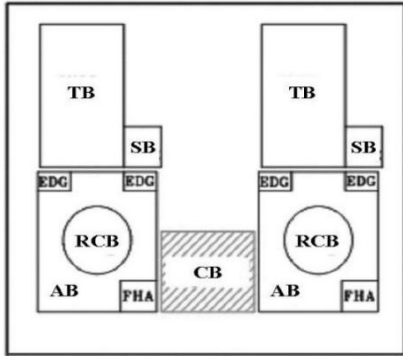
#### **2. Investigate Modularity Impact**

- Explore the impact of different modularization strategies.

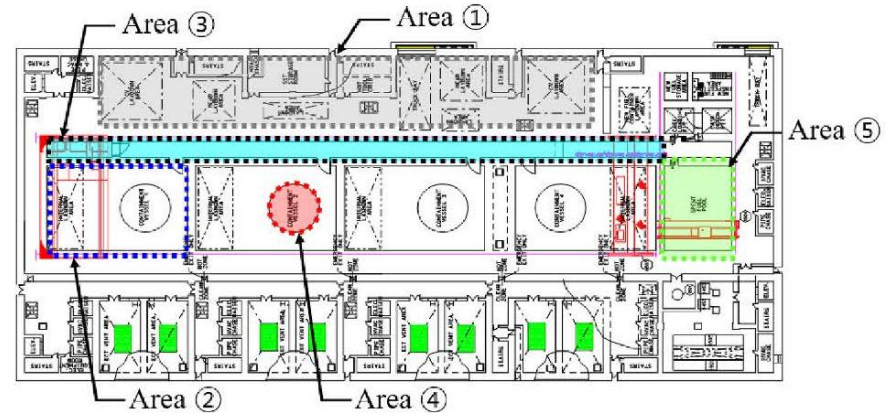
#### **3. Identify Key Factors**

- Verify which modularization factors exert the most significant influence for schedule reduction.

## APR1400 vs SMR



[General Arrangement of APR1400 (Lee et al., 2009)]



[General arrangement i-SMR (Lim et al., 2025)]

Factors	APR1400	i-SMR
Developer	KHNP	KHNP & KAERI
Type	PWR	PWR
Module Layout	One unit	Four units
Containment vessel	Reactor Containment Building	Reactor Vessel
Output capability	1,400 MWe	680 Mwe (170 Mwe*4 modules)
Core damage frequency	~ 1.0e-6 /R·Y	~ 1.0e-9 /R·Y
Safety system	Active	Completely Passive
construction unit price	\$3,000 /kWe	Under \$3,500 /kWe
Construction time	<b>58 months</b> (Oh & Park, 2004)	<b>48 months (four modules) for FOAK</b> (KISTEP, 2022)

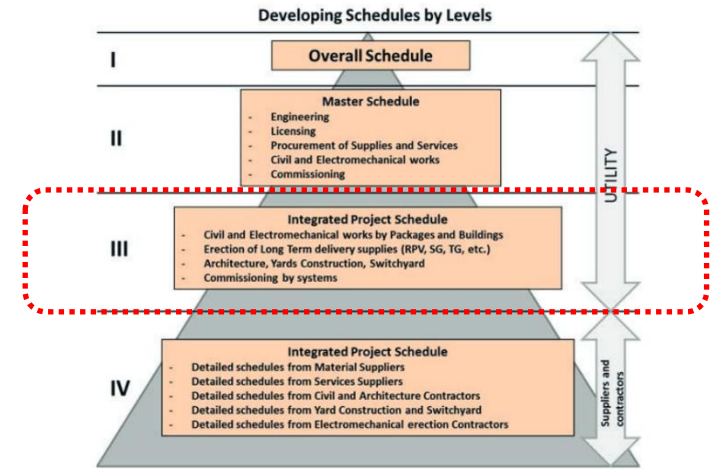
[Comparison of the characteristics of APR1400 and i-SMR]

## Construction Package

PKG No.	Package	Components
CP-C1	Foundation Excavation	Site Development Work Main building foundation
CP-C2	Concrete Production Work	Concrete production and transportation Batch Plant, Crusher Plant
CP-C3	Outdoor Underground Installation	Outdoor Underground Piping (Sewage and Rainwater) Outdoor Underground Structure
CP-C4	Cooling Water System	Water Intake structures and drainage channels
CP-Y1	Underwater Drainage Structure	Underwater Water Intake Structure
CP-A1	Construction of Main Building	Reactor Containment Building (RCB) Auxiliary Building (AB) Compound Building (CPB) Turbine Generator Building (TGB)
CP-A2	Architectural Finishing Work	Interior and Exterior Finishing Materials for Buildings
CP-A3	Painting Work	Structural Finish Painting
CP-M1	General Equipment Installation	General Auxiliary Equipment (Pressure Vessels, Pumps, etc.) Concrete Liner Plate, Steel Liner Plate, Equipment Hatch
CP-M2	Condenser Installation Work	Condensers and Low-Pressure Water Heaters and Equipment
CP-M3	Turbine Generator Installation	Turbine Generator Peripheral Devices and Piping such as Moisture Separator Reheater
CP-M4	HVAC Installation	Duct Manufacturing and Installation HVAC equipment
CP-M5	Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) Installation	Reactor Pressure System Lifting and Installation Nuclear Fuel Handling and Transport Facility NSSS Auxiliary System Equipment
CP-M6	On-Site Assembly Tank Installation	Tank Material Supply, Manufacturing, Assembly and Installation
CP-P1	Piping Installation	Embedded, Buried, Drainage Pipe Supply and Installation Supply and Installation of Pipes (Primary & Secondary System)
CP-P2	Insulation Work	Insulation Work for Pipes, Mechanical Equipment, Tanks, etc.
CP-E1	Electrical Equipment Installation	Power and Lighting for Construction Purposes Cable Tray, Conduit
CP-E2	Cable Laying and Wiring Work	Cable Laying and Terminal Connection Work
CP-E3	Outdoor Switchyard Installation	Electrical Devices and Cable Laying
CP-E4	Instrumentation and Control (I&C) Installation	I&C Equipment

[Construction Package of APR1400 (Moon et al., 2012)]

## Project Scheduling



[Scheduling levels (IAEA, 2012)]

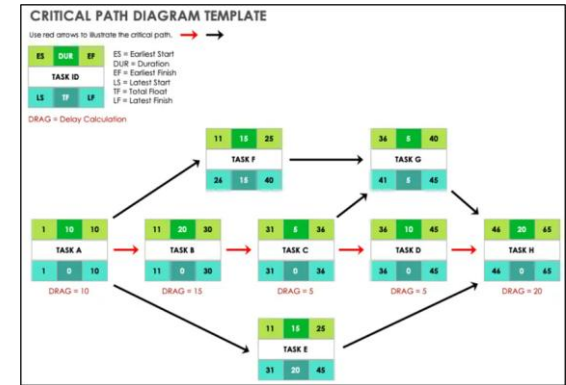
## Construction Activities

NPP	Unit	Activities
SHN 1&2	Common	789
	1	1,466
	2	1,457
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,712</b>
SKN 3&4	Common	750
	3	1,418
	4	1,420
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,588</b>

[Analysis of Construction Activity (Kim, 2017)]

## Critical Path

- This sequence **determines the shortest possible time** required to complete the entire project
- Any delay in these critical tasks will directly impact the overall project completion date



[Diagram illustrating the Critical Path (Smart sheet)]

No.	Package	Activities	Critical Path
CP-C1	Foundation Excavation	Power Block Excavation RCB Mudmat Concrete, FR&P Basemat	○
CP-A1	Construction of Main Building	FR&P Basemat, Wall, Dome, Strucural Steel	○
CP-M1	General Equipment Installation	Install Mech. Equipment Wall Liner, Sump Liner, Dome Liner	○
CP-M3	Turbine Generator Installation	Install Turbine Components	○
CP-P1	Piping Installation	Install Embedded Pipe Install L/B, S/B Pipe & Support	○

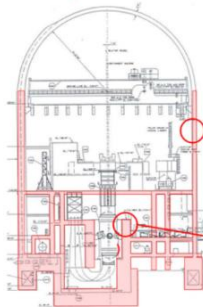
☞ In the APR1400, the critical path is observed in 5 key packages:

**C1 (Excavation), A1 (Building), M1 (Liner), M3 (Turbine), and P1 (Piping).**

## Review of Modularization Method (by CPs)

### • CP-A1

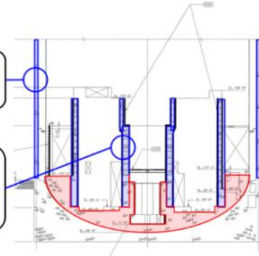
Form, Rebar & Pour



- ② Concrete Containment
- ② Steel Containment & SC Shield Bldg.
- ① RC Concrete (Reinforcement Concrete)
- ① SC Concrete (Steel Plate Concrete)

<APR1400>

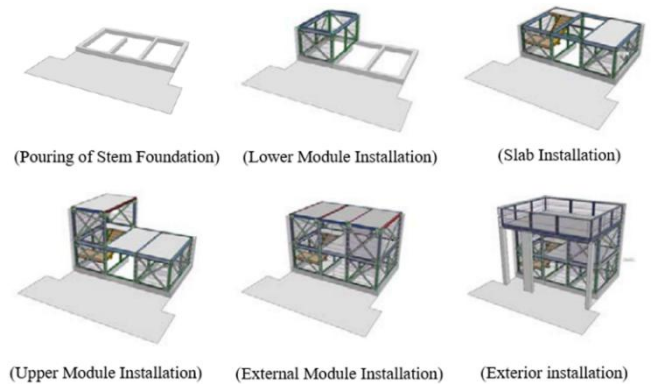
Modular Construction



<AP1000>

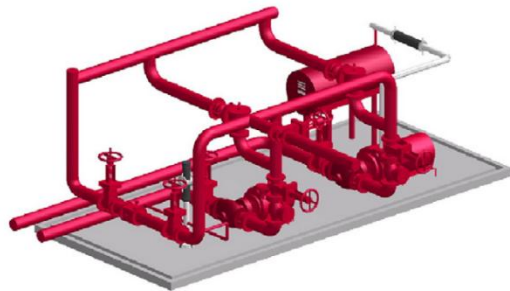
[RC and SC structures in APR1400 and AP1000 (Kwak & Lee, 2024)]

### • CP-A1/M1



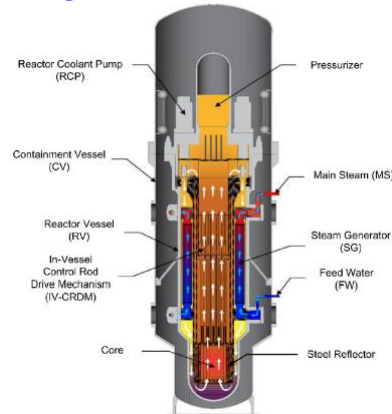
[Modular rooftop construction sequence (Hong et al., 2020)]

### • CP-M1/P1



[Fire suppression system Module (Tserng et al., 2011)]

### • CP-M5



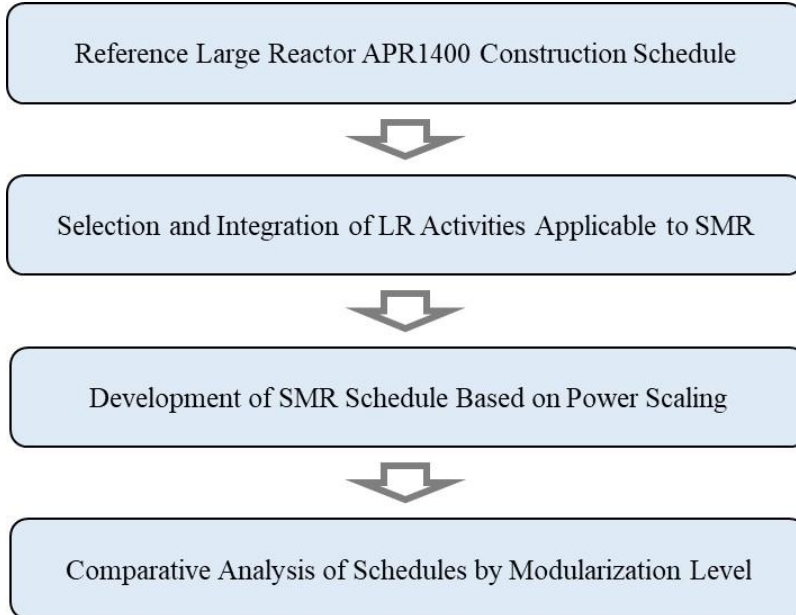
[Reactor vessel of i-SMR (Lim et al., 2025)]

### • CP-E



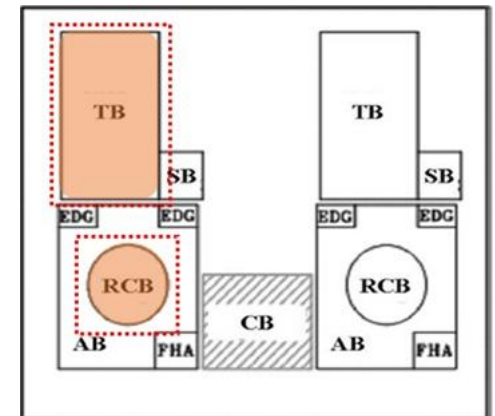
[Process Equipment Container (PEC) Module (DECHEMA, 2016)]

## Overall Methodology

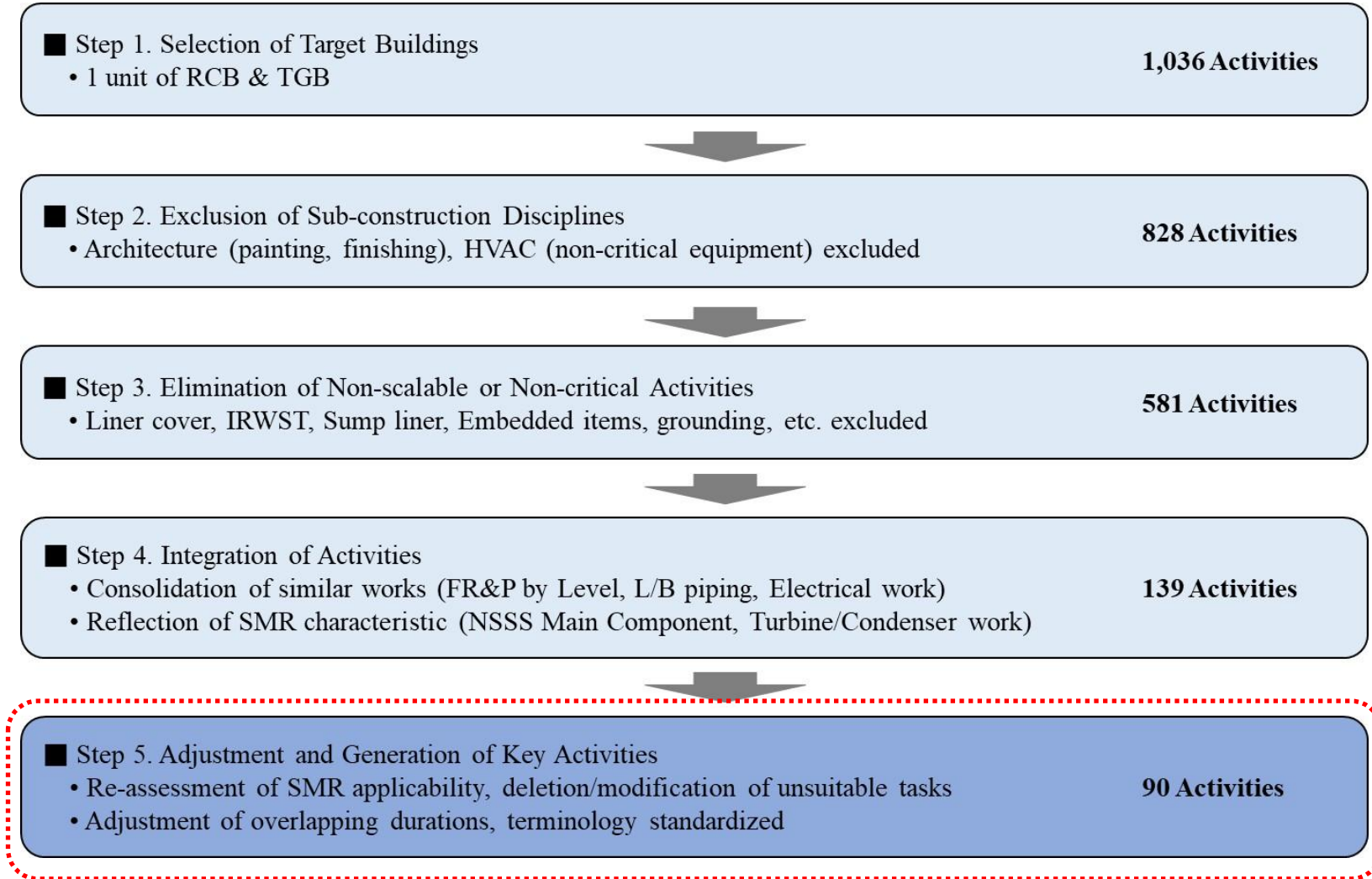


Organized into in 4 Phases

- **PHASE 1 : Selection of Building from APR1400**
- This study assumed that the **RCB and TGB would be part of the Critical Path Building for the i-SMR**, similar to the APR1400
- CPB, YARD and Facility are shared between two units, unsuitable for power scaling for one unit.



## ■ PHASE 2: Activity Selection and Integration



## ▪ PHASE 3: Development of i-SMR Schedule

### ① Top Down Modeling: Power Scaling

- Top-down Estimation: Uses scaling exponents (n) to derive parameters (duration) for a new plant (i) based on a reference plant.

$$Parameter_i = Parameter_{ref} \left( \frac{Power_i}{Power_{ref}} \right)^n$$

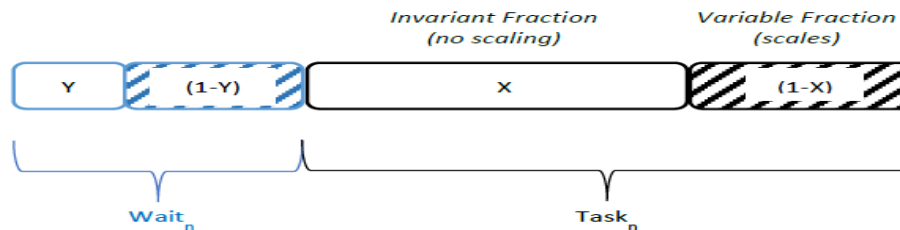
[Eq 1. Power scaling Equation (Lloyd, 2020)]

Account Name & Number	Scaling Exponent, n
Land & Land Rights	0.00
21 - Structures & Improvements	0.59
22 - Reactor/Boiler Plant Equipment	0.53
23 - Turbine Plant Equipment	0.83
24 - Electric Plant Equipment	0.49
25 - Miscellaneous Plant Equipment	0.59
26 - Main Condenser Heat Rejection System	1.06

[Power scaling Exponents (Lloyd, 2020)]

### ② Type of Construction Time

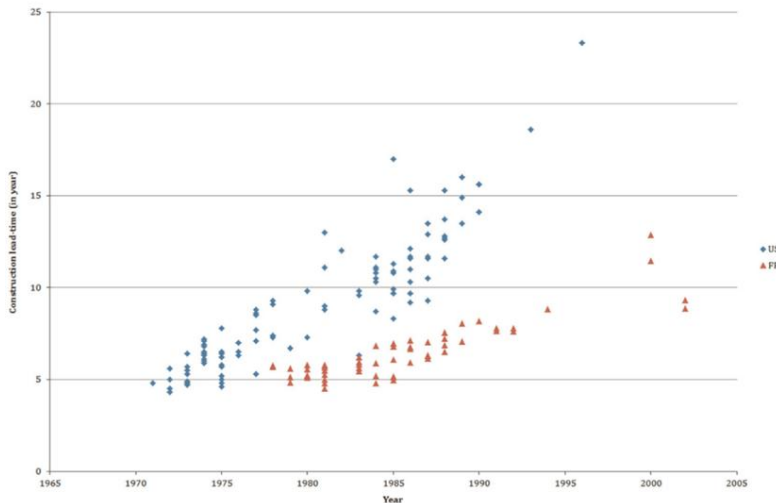
- Task Time (T): Active construction work (e.g., welding, concrete pouring).
- Wait Time (W): Sequencing delays, inspections, resource availability



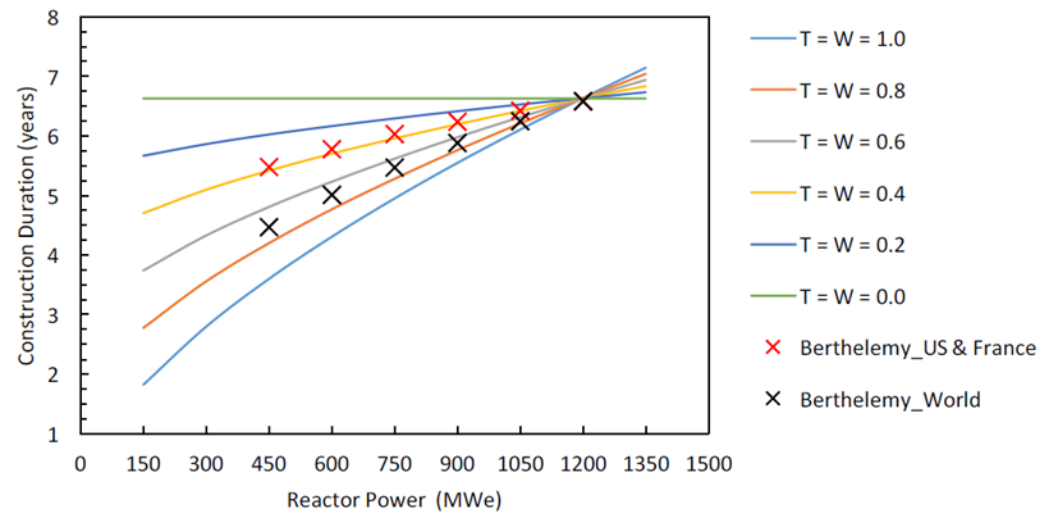
[Wait times (blue) and Task times (black) for activity n (Lloyd & Roulstone, 2018)]

## ③ Task time (T) and wait time (W) scale

- Model calibrated against historical U.S. & France construction data (Berthélemy & Escobar-Rangel, 2015)
- Adopted Framework: **Scaling Case (T = W = 0.4)**
- This model more closely reproduces the reference critical path.
- Considered more realistic for SMRs with high modularization potential.



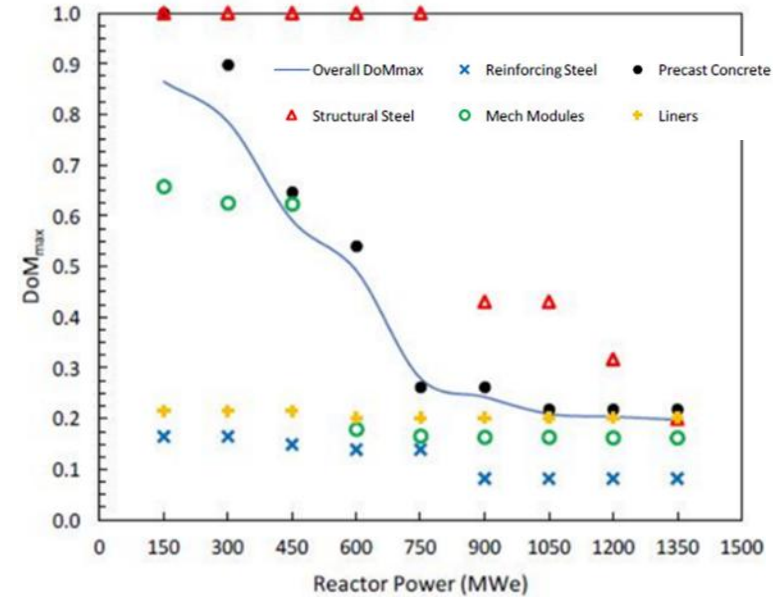
[Reactor Construction lead-time in the US and France (Berthélemy & Escobar-Rangel, 2015)]



[Scaling Case II model with T = W for all values (Lloyd, 2020)]

### ■ PHASE 4: Application of Modularisation

- Degree of Modularisation (DoM): Proportion of on-site work shifted to off-site factory fabrication
- DoM\_max: Limited by transportation. For 680 MWe, the interpolated **Overall DoM\_max is 0.4 (40%)**
- \*When Modular Division Factor (MDF) = 3



[DOM\_max by module type, MDF = 3 (Lloyd, 2020)]

- Adjusted on-site task duration for a given DoM (required 5% duration for on-site module assembly)

$$t_{modular\ task,i} = (1 - DoM)t_{baseline\ task,i} + 0.05(DoM)t_{baseline\ task,i}$$

[Eq 2. Residual on-site construction time after modularization (Lloyd, 2020)]

- On-site wait time for relation type (S-S and F-S)

$$t_{S-S\ modular\ wait,i} = (1 - DoM)t_{S-S\ baseline\ wait,i}$$

[Eq 3. Residual on-site wait time for S-S connection (Lloyd, 2020)]

$$t_{F-S\ modular\ wait,i} = t_{F-S\ baseline\ wait,i}$$

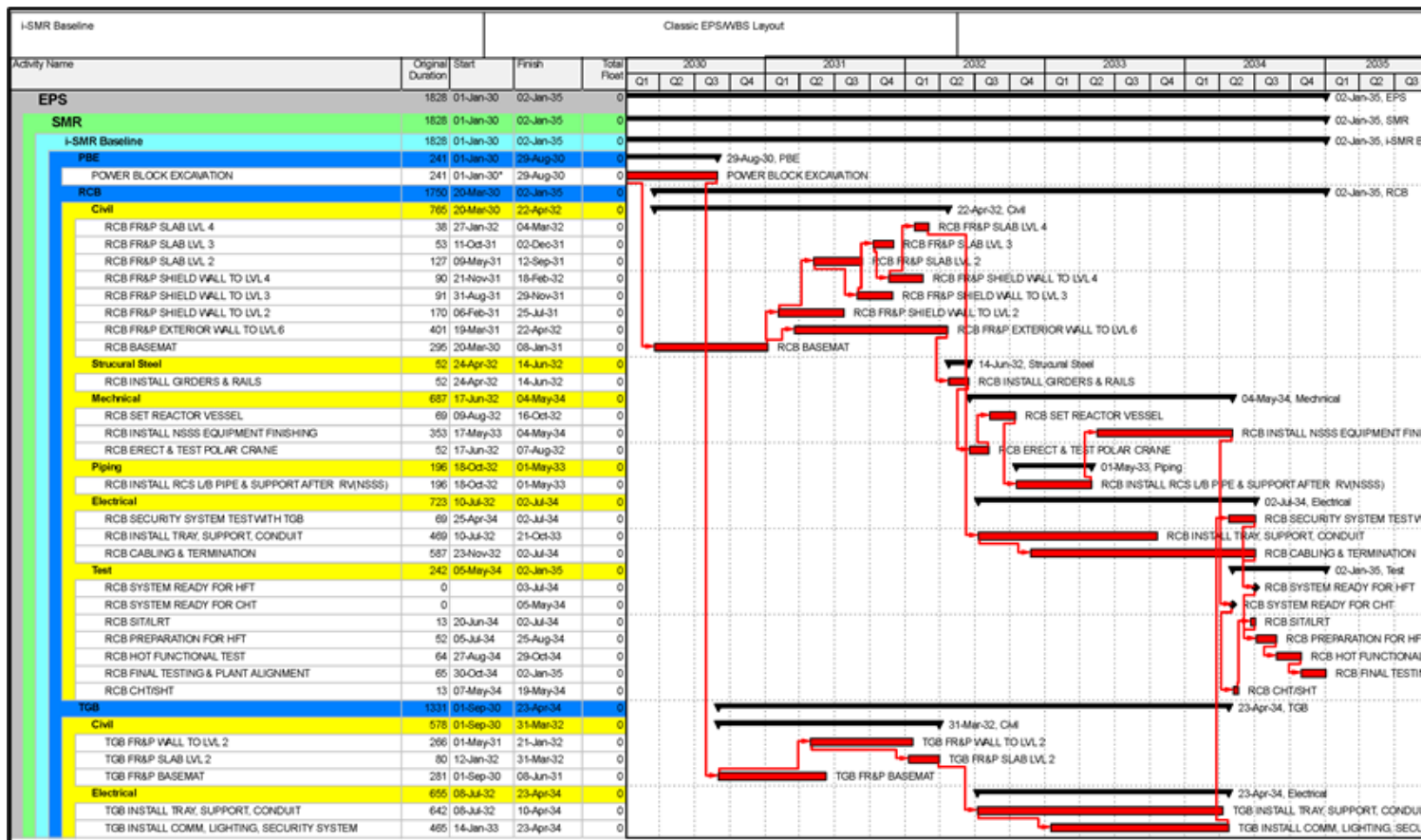
[Eq 4. Residual on-site wait time for F-S connection (Lloyd, 2020)]

### Schedule Scenario by Extent of Modularisation

- Extent of Modularisation: **None, Low, Medium, or Full**
- **Scenario 1. None Modularisation:** Baseline Construction Schedule
- **Scenario 2. Low Modularisation:** Only some **mechanical and steel structures.**
- **Scenario 3. Medium Modularisation:** Mechanical and steel structures plus **major civil works.**
- **Scenario 4. Full Modularisation:** Mechanical, steel, and civil works, as well as **electrical, instrumentation, and auxiliary systems, are fully modularised.**

**i-SMR Baseline Schedule**

- Scenario 1(Baseline): **None Modularization**, Scaling Model T = W = 0.4
- Construction Duration: **57.3 Months**



## Critical Path for CPs

PKG No	Package	Activities	APR1400	i-SMR Baseline
			Critical Path	Critical Path
CP-C1	Foundation Excavation	Power Block Excavation	○	○
		RCB Mudmat Concrete, FR&P Basemat		
CP-A1	Construction of Main Building	FR&P Basemat, Wall, Dome, Strucural Steel	○	○
CP-M1	General Equipment Installation	Install Mech. Equipment		
		Wall Liner, Sump Liner, Dome Liner	○	
CP-M3	Turbine Generator Installation	Install Turbine Components	○	
CP-M5	NSSS Installation	Install RC Pump Internals & Motor		
		Set Reactor Vessel		○
		RPV Internals Installation		
CP-P1	Piping Installation	Install Embedded Pipe		
		Install L/B, S/B Pipe & Support	○	○
CP-E1	Electrical Equipment Installation	Install Cable Tray & Support,		
CP-E2	Cable Laying and Wiring Work	Install Misc. Elect. Equipment,		○
CP-E3	Outdoor Switchyard Installation	Conduit, Cabling & Termination		

### A. Critical Path → Non-Critical

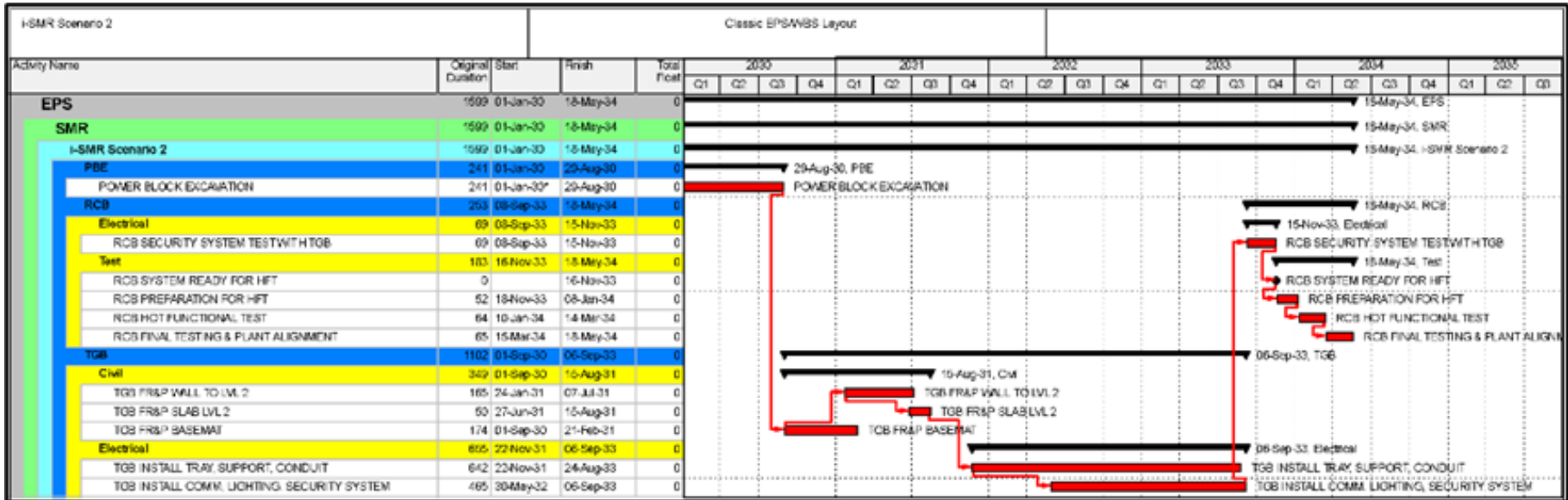
- M1
- M3

### B. Non-Critical → Critical Path

- M5
- E

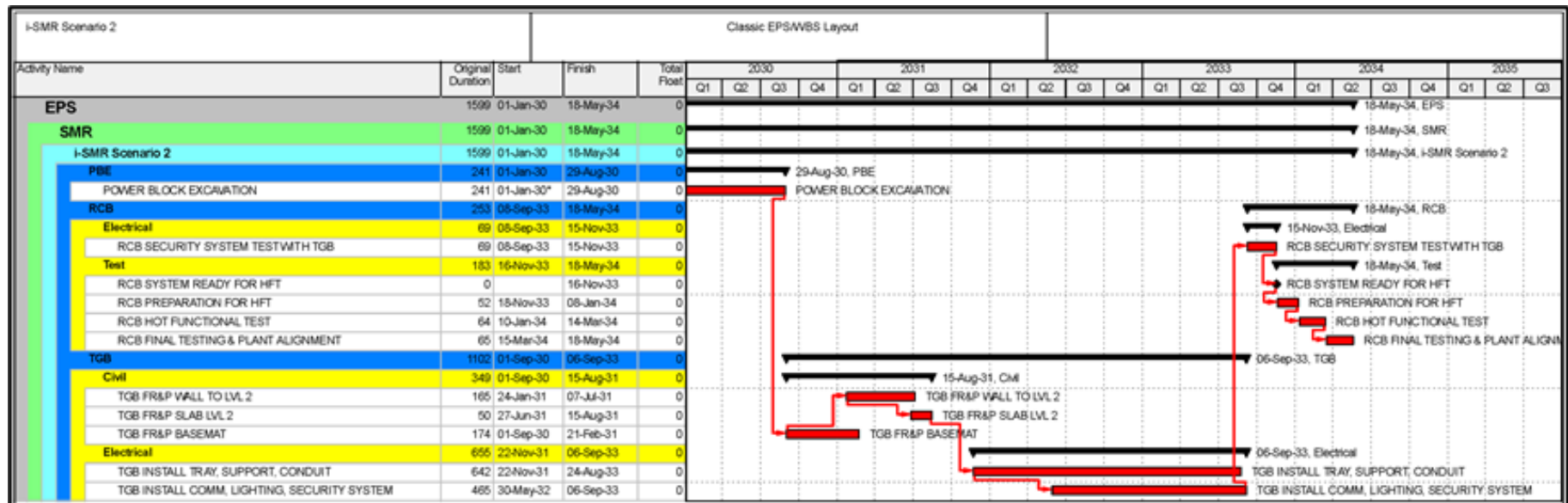
## Low Modularisation

- Scenario 2: **Low Modularization**, Scaling Model  $T = W = 0.4$
- Construction Duration: **57.3 Months (No change)**



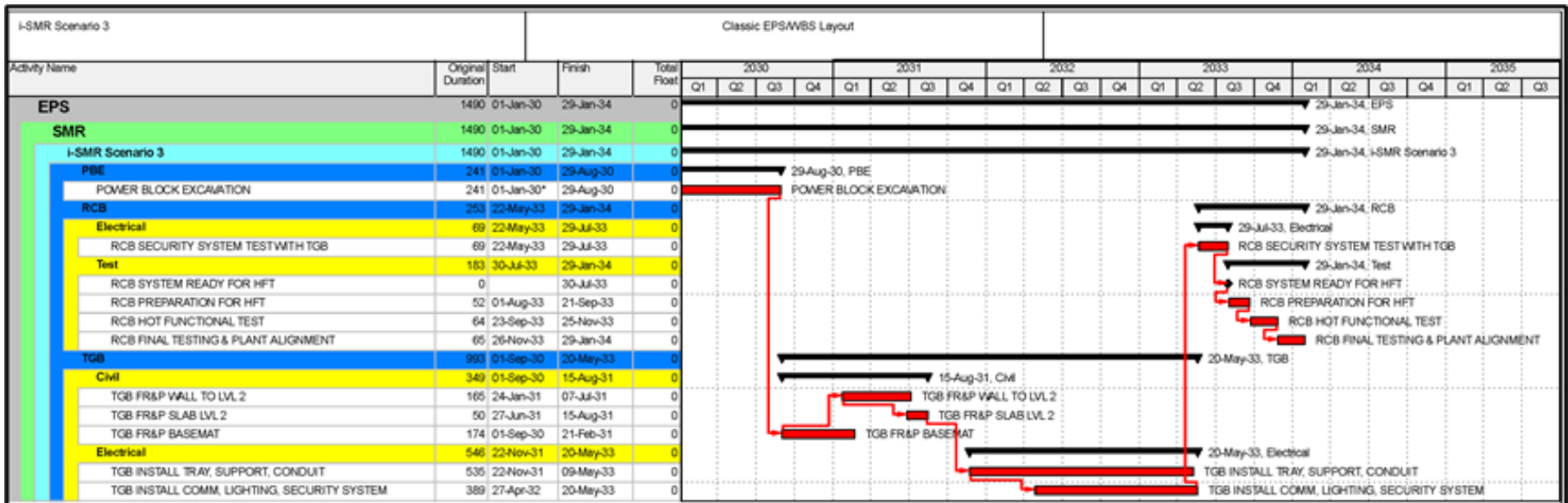
## Medium Modularisation

- Scenario 3: **Medium Modularization**, Scaling Model  $T = W = 0.4$
- Construction Duration: **49.7 Months, -7.5 Months (-13.1%)**
- Meaningful schedule reduction begins only **when Civil works are modularized.**



## Full Modularisation

- Scenario 4: **Full Modularization**, Scaling Model  $T = W = 0.4$
- Construction Duration: **46.2 Months, -11.0 Months (-19.2%)**
- Full modularization, **including Electrical**, yields the most significant reduction.



### Change in Construction Schedule

Scenario	Extent of Modularisation	Const. Duration	Schedule Reduction
Scenario 1	None	57.3 Month	Baseline
Scenario 2	Low	57.3 Month	No change
Scenario 3	Medium	49.7 Month	<b>- 7.5 M (-13.1%) compared to Baseline</b>
Scenario 4	Full	46.2 Month	<b>- 11 M (-19.2%) compared to Baseline</b>

#### ■ Key Finding

- ✓ To achieve the 48-month target, a **"Full Modularization" strategy (Scenario 4) is required.**
- ✓ Meaningful schedule reduction (Scenario 3) only begins **after Civil Works are modularized.**

### Critical Path for CPs

PKG No.	Package	Activities	Critical Path of i-SMR			
			Baseline	Low	Medium	Full
			(Scenario1)	(Scenario2)	(Scenario3)	(Scenario4)
CP-C1	Foundation Excavation	Power Block Excavation	○	○	○	○
		RCB Mudmat Concrete, FR&P Basemat				
CP-A1	Construction of Main Building	FR&P Basemat, Wall, Dome, Strucural Steel	○	○	○	○
CP-M5	NNSSS Installation	Install RC Pump Internals & Motor				
		Set Reactor Vessel	○			
		RPV Internals Installation				
CP-P1	Piping Installation	Install Embedded Pipe				
		Install L/B, S/B Pipe & Support	○			
CP-E1	Electrical Equipment Installation	Install Cable Tray & Support,				
CP-E2	Cable Laying and Wiring Work	Install Misc. Elect. Equipment,	○	○	○	○
CP-E3	Outdoor Switchyard Installation	Conduit, Cabling & Termination				

### ■ Key Finding

- ✓ M5 (NSSS) & P1 (Piping): They are **no longer critical in Scenarios 2 ~ 4**. Their schedule impact is absorbed by modularization.
- ✓ C1 (Excavation), A1 (Building), E (Electrical): These packages remain on the **critical path even under the 'Full' modularization scenario**.
- ✓ Under modularization Scenario, **TGB civil and electrical works emerge as the new project**

### Limitations

- **Design:** This study **does not fully reflect the design features of the i-SMR.** it is based on scaling from the APR1400.
- **Construction conditions:** The scaling methodology (Lloyd, 2020) is based on international data and **does not account for the Korean construction environment** (advanced technologies, labor practices).
- **Simplification:** The process was simplified during the selection and integration of activities.

### Recommendation for i-SMR Modularisation Strategy

- **Extensively apply the Steel Plate Concrete (SC) technology** to major reactor building structures. A1(Building) package remains critical in all scenarios and receives the highest priority.
- **Enhance Electrical & Instrument modularization (MEP, PEC)** as this is a new, persistent critical path.
- **Utilize this type of research and Ensure the On-site application of Modularization** from the Design Stage.

# THANK YOU

