

## INTERVIEW

SETH GRAE

## Grae Matters

POWER TODAY talks to Seth Grae, President and Chief Executive Officer, Thorium Power, on the company's foray into India and how the country would be far more nuclear energy-sufficient if it fast tracks its thorium-based nuclear power program.



SETH GRAE,

President and Chief Executive Officer, Thorium Power

Could you tell me a bit about the business model of Thorium Power?

Thorium Power has two main business lines - we are engaged in technology development using thorium fuels for reactors. Thorium-based technology stops the reactor from producing weapons grade plutonium. This technology makes reactors safer, and not suitable for nuclear weapons program and results in better operating economics

Our second business line is of strategic advisory services, where we provide consulting services to governments and companies to establish nuclear power programs that meet highest international standards safety and transparency, operational excellence in non-proliferation targets.

I read somewhere that the world basically ran off to develop uranium-based technologies, but forgot about developing thorium as well. Did the world, in developing nuclear weapons,

forget about thorium?

Right. There are several reasons. One is that the development of nuclear technology did not happen in countries that had a great deal of thorium. If nuclear technology was first developed in countries like India or Australia, which have extensive thorium deposits, the story could have been somewhat different.

Another is that United States and certain other countries engaged in the development of nuclear power

were also enriching uranium for their nuclear weapons program, and the same technologies and facilities were used for the reactor programs. For example, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the uranium for reactor fuel and the uranium for the bomb was enriched in the same building, in the same facility. I agree with what you said - that there was certainly a link to weapons program and there was not enough focus on non-proliferation for researching other fuel cycles.

Seth Grae has played an active role in all business activities of Thorium Power since the company's founding. He led the efforts that resulted in Thorium Power becoming one of the first Western companies to contract with Russian nuclear institutes and become one of the first grant recipients from the United States Department of Energy for nuclear non-proliferation related work in Russia.

As a member of the board of directors of the Lawyers Alliance for World Security, Mr. Grae helped advise on the drafting of nuclear export control regulations in China and Belarus, and he participated in consultations with the government of India on nuclear power and weapons.

POWER TODAY OCTOBER 2008 | 47

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