



## **Harper International Awarded Advanced Thermal Processing System Contract for Sintering Nuclear Fuel Pellets**

June 7, 2010

Buffalo, NY – Harper International has been awarded a contract to supply an advanced thermal processing system for the sintering of nuclear fuel pellets. Harper International has a global reputation for custom designed and highly engineered thermal processing systems for critical and precisely controlled applications in the advanced materials Industry.

Sintering is the crucial final step in the refinement of nuclear fuels before they can be used in nuclear power plants. Nuclear fuel sintering systems must meet several critical requirements such as Hydrogen gas atmosphere with controlled dew point in the 1700°C to 1800°C temperature range, as well as temperature uniformity, and safety control systems. Harper's systems meet or exceed these requirements and have proven highly reliable and durable, a very important aspect for this application. Harper's advanced furnace systems for the nuclear industry are currently in operation on four continents.

Concerns over Global Warming have sparked renewed interest in the nuclear industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Nuclear Industry has 437 power plants in operation today with 55 facilities under construction and an additional 134 facilities in the planning stage.

Harper International is also heavily involved with green energy projects involving silicon production, solar cells, wind energy, and thermal processing of advanced materials for energy storage systems. Many of these advanced materials have been commercialized with process development and process optimization assistance in our labs at the Harper Technology Center located at the Harper International Headquarters in Buffalo, NY.

### **About Harper International Corporation**

Harper International is a global provider of specialized continuous thermal processing systems and technical services essential for the production of carbon fiber, micron sized (oxide, carbide nitride and metallic) powders, silicon materials for solar applications, nano-materials, and high performance ceramics. Harper's principal thermal processing systems are rotary calciners, pusher tunnel kilns, dilute and packed bed vertical reactors, slot type carbonization and related equipment. Harper has operations in Lancaster, NY USA with sales and service in the USA, Asia and Europe. For additional information about Harper, please visit [www.harperintl.com](http://www.harperintl.com) or email us at [info@harperintl.com](mailto:info@harperintl.com).