

AI Literacy Starts at 8 — Not 25

Early exposure to AI shapes future nuclear engineers

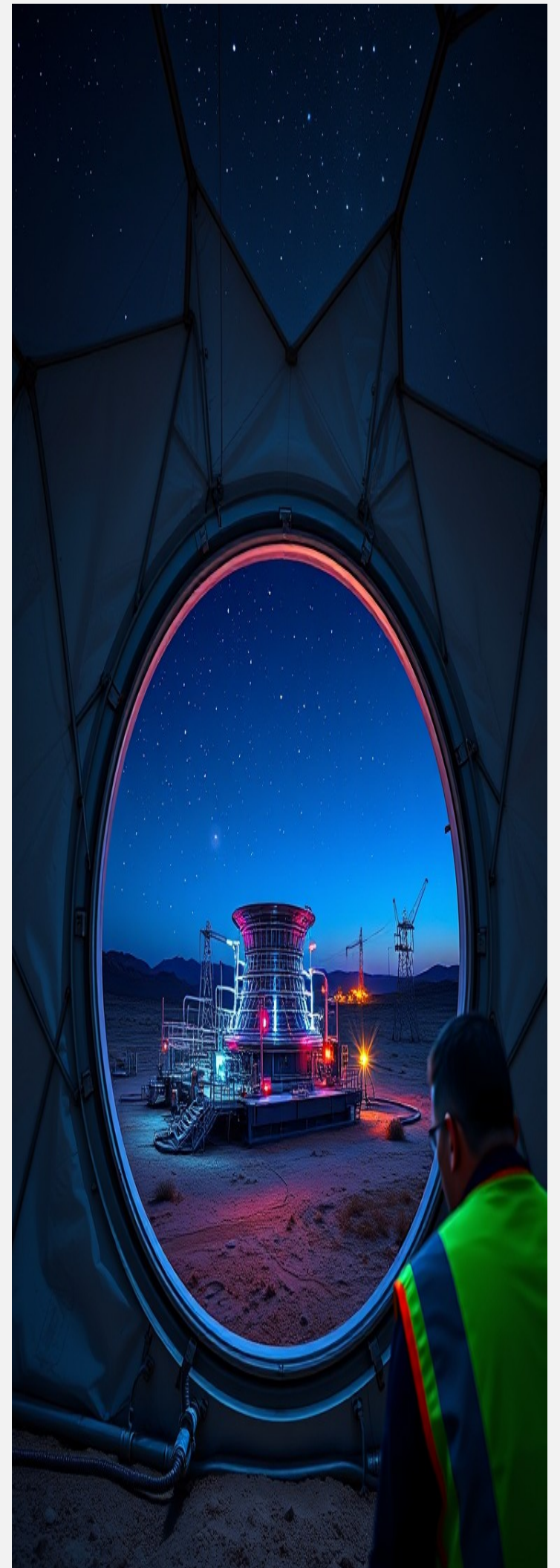
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8 to 12

Age Range of Target Readers

The IEEE TryEngineering STEM book series targets children aged 8 to 12 to build foundational AI and engineering literacy.

This age group represents a critical window for cognitive development in systems thinking and technological fluency. By introducing AI concepts early — not as code, but as logic, ethics, and design — the series plants seeds for future innovation in high-stakes fields like nuclear energy. Early engagement with AI is not just educational; it is strategic workforce development.



01

AI Education Is a Safety Imperative

The nuclear industry's safety culture depends on engineers who think critically about systems, bias, and unintended consequences — precisely the themes explored in the AI book. When children learn early that AI can hallucinate, perpetuate bias, or misinterpret signals, they internalize the need for verification, oversight, and ethical guardrails. This foundational awareness becomes the bedrock of a safety-first mindset in future reactor operators and regulators.



02

Digital Twins Begin in the Mind

The ability to model complex systems — a core function of digital twins in nuclear plants — begins with mental modeling skills developed in childhood. By engaging with design challenges and real-world analogs in the book series, young learners practice systems thinking, signal analysis, and iterative problem solving. These cognitive habits, nurtured early, directly translate to the ability to construct and trust digital twins in reactor monitoring and maintenance planning.

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