

NDA Monthly Update

April 2013

Summary

- Business Plan published
- Latest Insight magazine available
- LLWR contract extended
- £31 million for nuclear technologies
- More Berkeley boilers on the move
- Action plan for smaller businesses
- New Non-Executive Director for NDA
- Chapelcross completes defuelling
- Dounreay 'exotics' set for Sellafield
- Nuclear industry learns from Olympics
- Cumbrian councils vote on GDF site selection process
- Magnox and RSRL competition dialogue under way

Diary Dates

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| • Direct Research Portfolio forward plan | End of April |
| • Competition bidders start stakeholder meetings | 16 April |
| • Official opening of Dalton Cumbrian Facility | 17 May |
| • Plutonium strategic direction published | Spring/summer 2013 |

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Business Plan published

The NDA has published its 2013-16 Business Plan outlining delivery priorities for the period. A total of £3.2 billion will be spent on cleaning up the nuclear legacy during the next financial year with 55% allocated to hazard reduction at Sellafield, the top priority.

[Weblink: Business Plan 2013-2016](#)

News magazine published

The latest edition of the NDA's news magazine Insight has now been published and is available both electronically and in hard copy.

[Weblink: Insight published](#)

Repository contract extended for five years

The international consortium UK Nuclear Waste Management (UKNWM) has been awarded another five-year term to manage LLW Repository Ltd (LLWR). This follows the successful implementation and delivery of key commitments since the NDA awarded the contract in 2008. The contract covers the management and operations of the national Low Level Waste Repository near Drigg in West Cumbria and the development and implementation of the National Low Level Waste Strategy. The contract has realised around £30 million in savings, extended the life of the LLWR facility, reduced volumes of waste bound for the repository and seen the opening a new vault.

[Weblink: Contract extended](#)

Multi-million pound injection for new technologies

Decommissioning research projects were among the beneficiaries when Business Secretary Vince Cable announced major collaborative funding awards that will enhance the nuclear supply chain and increase opportunities to commercialise new technologies. The funding, provided by a range of public bodies, will support 35 projects in developing new technologies for the construction, operation and decommissioning of UK nuclear power plants. This will bring together more than 60 organisations including multinational corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and universities. The £18 million joint funding between the Technology Strategy Board, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the NDA and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is expected to leverage in an additional £13 million.

[Weblink: Funding award](#)

Berkeley waves off last boilers

Berkeley town in Gloucestershire came to a standstill when the last two boilers were removed from the nearby nuclear site to be shipped off for recycling. The first five boilers, each weighing more than 25 London buses, were removed in 2012 and have

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now been smelted, recycling up to 95% of the metal. A further eight boilers were transported earlier this year. The original plan was to leave the boilers in situ until final clearance of the site in 2074, when they would have been consigned to the LLWR in Cumbria for disposal.

[Weblink: Boilers on the move](#)

New action plan to support smaller businesses

The NDA has published a three-year plan to support greater opportunities for smaller businesses seeking to work in the UK's decommissioning market. The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Action Plan builds on initiatives already under way across the NDA estate and meets a Government requirement for all departments to develop proposals that will help to increase the proportion of public contracts awarded to the SME community. The NDA's plan sets a challenging target of 20% of annual sub-contract spend (both direct and indirect) – at least £300 million - to SMEs by 2015, almost doubling the currently reported level. Half the NDA's current £3 billion annual budget is spent with the supply chain, via the SLCs.

[Weblink: SME Action Plan](#)

New Non-Executive Director appointed

A new Non-Executive Director has been appointed to the NDA's Board following Alistair Wivell's completion of his four-year term in office. Tom Smith, an Oxford chemistry graduate, is a former diplomat and senior executive with many years experience of working on major infrastructure projects. He is currently Chair of the Association of Train Operating Companies and a former Managing Director of Midland Expressway Ltd, where he oversaw development of the UK's first, and only, private toll motorway. Janette Brown and Patrick Dixon, appointed in 2009, will serve further three-year terms.

[Weblink: New Board member](#)

Chapelcross completes defuelling

The last consignment of spent fuel has left Chapelcross site for reprocessing at Sellafield, marking the completion of a four-year programme to deal with more than 38,000 individual fuel elements. The milestone achievement, reached four months ahead of schedule, means that 99% of radioactivity has been removed from Scotland's oldest nuclear power plant following its closure in 2004. Formal permission to start defueling was granted by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in July 2008, and the first of 257 flasks of fuel left the site in 2009.

[Weblink: Defuelling inspired by British Cycling Team](#)

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Learning from the Olympics

More than 300 delegates from the NDA, Sellafield Ltd and the supply chain attended a 'lessons learned' event presented in Cumbria by a high-level team from the Olympic Delivery Authority, who were responsible for the unprecedented levels of co-ordination and planning underpinning the London Games. Delivery of the Olympics involved a complex, multi-billion pound programme which included 19 major projects, almost 1,000 planning applications, 27,000 activities and milestones, plus a 15,000-strong workforce.

[Weblink: Olympic lessons](#)

Douerey 'exotics' set for Sellafield

The NDA has stated that its preferred option for Douerey's 'exotic' material is for long-term management at Sellafield. Publication of the Preferred Option paper follows consideration of stakeholder views on the credible options which were published 12 months ago, and included continued management of the material at Douerey or transport to Sellafield, where it would be managed alongside the Cumbrian site's fuels inventory. The SLCs at Douerey and Sellafield will now submit a final business case around the end of March 2013, with transports likely to start towards the end of 2014.

[Weblink: Preferred options on Douerey materials](#)

Cumbrian councils vote on process for selecting GDF location

Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils voted in favour of remaining in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme to find a long-term solution for the UK's higher activity radioactive wastes, but Cumbria County Council voted to withdraw.

[Weblink: Cumbrian vote](#)

Formal dialogue under way for £7 billion contract

Four global organisations are now embarked on the eight-month formal dialogue phase of the £7 billion competition to run the 12 Magnox and RSRL sites. In addition to the face-to-face dialogue sessions with the NDA's competition team, the bidders have begun to visit individual sites to gather information that will assist with compiling final tenders. Meanwhile, the NDA has also organised a series of events for local stakeholder representatives to meet bidders:

- Tuesday 16th April – Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow
- Thursday 18th April - Venue Cymru, Llandudno
- Tuesday 23rd April - Tortworth Court Hotel, Wootton-Under-Edge
- Thursday 25th April - Ashford International Hotel, Ashford

[Weblink: Magnox and RSRL competition](#)