

NDA Monthly Update

May 2016

Summary

- National college for nuclear announced
- NDA's £12 million for research consortia
- Major milestone at historic Sellafield storage silos
- Start of new era at Sellafield
- Major milestone at historic Sellafield fuel pond
- Performance overview published
- NDA Strategy and Business Plan now published
- Research projects on show
- 2016 Supply Chain Event date confirmed
- NDA's Insight magazine available
- Website now at new gov.uk home
- UK support for Japan clean-up

Diary Dates

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| • Nuclear cyber security conference, Warrington | 23-25 May |
| • IAEA conference on decommissioning, Madrid | 23-27 May |
| • Scottish supply chain event, Dunblane | 22 June |
| • LLWR Annual Customer Forum, Workington | 29 June |
| • Publication of NDA Annual Report & Accounts | June/July |
| • NDA Archive Open Day, Wick | July 2016 |

National college for nuclear announced

Cumbria and Somerset are set to play a leading role in the government's £15 million investment to create a world-class nuclear training college for the UK. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) confirmed that the National College for Nuclear (NCfN) will be based on two sites at Lakes College, Lilyhall, and Bridgwater College. The college, set to open in September 2017, aims to train 7,000 people by 2020 and is one of five national colleges aimed at creating the 'workforce of tomorrow'. Sellafield Ltd and EDF will lead industry input into the nuclear college, working alongside the Universities of Cumbria and Bristol. Current forecasts predict demand for skilled staff at all levels in nuclear will increase by 40 per cent to 98,000 workers. The other national colleges will focus on advanced manufacturing, digital skills, wind energy, high-speed rail, creative and cultural industries and onshore oil and gas.

[Weblink: National College for Nuclear](#)

£12 million for research

R&D framework contracts worth up to £12 million were awarded to a series of consortia, as NDA seeks innovative solutions to technical challenges. Among the organisations involved are UK universities, global corporations and around 20 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The NDA's Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) forms a key part of the NDA's strategic research programme and focuses on direct funding for research that delivers innovation across multiple sites, develops technical expertise and informs NDA's strategy. The three new framework contracts were awarded to 10 consortia, involving more than 70 organisations and including three consortia led by SMEs. The contracts, last awarded in 2012, will cover the next four years.

Meanwhile, almost 50 research students and Post-Doctoral Research Assistants, who are working on a unique programme, gathered in Bristol to share their progress with representatives from industry, regulators and international organisations. The students were part of the four-year DISTINCTIVE programme (Decommissioning, Immobilisation and Storage Solutions for Nuclear Waste Inventories), launched in 2014. DISTINCTIVE is supported by 11 universities, led by Leeds, and funded jointly by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, NDA, the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL), NDA and Sellafield Ltd.

[Weblink: Research contracts](#)

[Find out more about the DISTINCTIVE consortium](#)

Opening doors to Sellafield hazard removal

One of Sellafield's most hazardous buildings is a step closer to being cleaned up after a major engineering task was completed. The historic Pile Fuel Cladding Silo contains waste from the site's earliest days, when the site was focused on weapons-related

activities, and is one of the most challenging tasks in the NDA estate. Installation of a huge 40-tonne, 9-metre wide steel door frame on the side of the building marks a crucial step. This will allow doors to be hung, behind which holes will be cut so the waste can be removed by retrieval machines. Years of planning, testing and specialist engineering design preceded the milestone achievement.

[Weblink: Sellafield engineering feat](#)

Major milestone at historic Sellafield pond

The most significant stride ever was achieved in the Sellafield clean-up mission when the entire bulk stocks of historic nuclear fuel were removed from one of the site's oldest ponds. The milestone came after decommissioning teams lifted the final skip of 'metal fuel' from the Pile Fuel Storage Pond via a remote-controlled process. Retrieval of the pond's 'canned fuel' inventory was successfully completed in October 2015. The work means radioactivity levels at the 68-year-old spent fuel pond have now been cut by 70 per cent, vastly reducing the risk it poses to people and environment. The achievement is the most visible sign yet of progress in the NDA's programme to clean-up the legacy of Britain's early nuclear industry, which is set to continue for at least another 100 years. The fuel has been transferred to a modern on-site storage building.

[Weblink: Sellafield pond achievement](#)

Sellafield becomes NDA subsidiary

A new era in the history of Sellafield is under way after the SLC became a subsidiary of the NDA in April. Direct ownership by the NDA will help Sellafield Ltd to accelerate progress and improve efficiency. The Parent Body Organisation model, where Sellafield Ltd was owned by private sector consortium Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) from 2008 until March, has now been replaced by a simpler structure that is more suited to the complexities of the NDA's largest, most hazardous site. NDA Chief Executive John Clarke said: "The new arrangements will accommodate the challenges at the site more easily and allow for longer-term planning. The private sector will still be heavily involved in delivering work at Sellafield but no longer as an owner."

[Weblink: New era for Sellafield](#)

Performance overview published

The NDA has published the latest quarterly overview of performance across its sites, focusing on the priority programmes and major projects. Progress is measured against specific targets set out in the annual Business Plan.

[Weblink: Performance review](#)

NDA publishes latest long-term Strategy

The NDA has now published two of the key documents that outline its forward plans for the years ahead. The Strategy, effective from 2016 onwards, is updated every five years and focuses on a long-term overview based on a series of themes; the Business Plan for 2016-2016, takes a more detailed look at site activities in the shorter term. Both documents take account of the funding settlement allocated to the NDA in the government's Spending Review last autumn. A period of public consultation took place during January and February, enabling the NDA to take account of feedback before the documents were finalised.

[Weblink: Strategy and Business Plan](#)

Research projects on show

More than 40 nuclear research projects were on show at a recent event in Manchester, demonstrating the progress achieved in the years since funding totalling £50 million was awarded to them. Since 2012, the joint initiative by the NDA, Innovate UK, Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has invested in a range of innovative projects aiming to encourage all sectors of the UK's nuclear supply chain. The Collaboration Nation event, which brought together research organisations with potential customers, featured a series of presentations, awards and networking.

[Weblink: Collaboration Nation](#)

Date confirmed for 2016 Supply Chain Event

The date of the next annual networking event for NDA suppliers has now been confirmed as **Thursday, 3rd November**. For 2016, the NDA Estate Supply Chain Event again returns to EventCity in Manchester, providing opportunities for businesses of all sizes to exhibit in the main hall and to meet leading figures in nuclear decommissioning. The one-day event is free of charge for visitors and exhibitors (optional extras are subject to a small fee). Launched in 2011, its aim is to continue improving the visibility of opportunities for suppliers, particularly those in the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) community. Further details will be published shortly.

New home for NDA website

The NDA's website content has now been moved to the central government website and the old website has been switched off. Web users should be automatically redirected to the new content. Meanwhile, the new website also includes a recently launched NDA blog post, with contributions from guest authors on a range of topics.

[Weblink: NDA website](#) and [NDA blog home page](#)