

NDA Monthly Update

April 2016

Summary

- Start of new era at Sellafield
- NDA Strategy and Business Plan now published
- Major milestone at historic Sellafield fuel pond
- Mentoring scheme for small businesses
- Research projects on show
- Funding support for innovators
- 2016 Supply Chain Event date confirmed
- NDA's Insight magazine published
- Website now at new gov.uk home
- Last fuel leaves Oldbury

Diary Dates

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| • Annual conference of DISTINCTIVE PhD projects | 19 April |
| • NDA Archive Open Day, Wick | July 2016 |
| • More 4 TV programme featuring Drigg rail station | May |
| • Nuclear cyber security conference, Warrington | 23-25 May |
| • IAEA conference on decommissioning, Madrid | 23-27 May |

Sellafield becomes NDA subsidiary

A new era in the history of Sellafield is under way after the SLC became a subsidiary of the NDA on 1 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Ltd was owned by private sector consortium Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) from 2008 until last month, has now been replaced by a simpler structure that is more suited to the complexities of the NDA's largest, most hazardous site.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](#)

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 2016-2019, 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](#)

Major milestone at historic fuel 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](#)

Mentoring scheme welcomes applications

A mentoring scheme for smaller businesses closes to applications this month. The voluntary scheme operates for two years, pairing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

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(SMEs) with larger organisations to share skills, experience and contacts with the aim of helping SMEs navigate through the maze of nuclear decommissioning opportunities. All UK-based SMEs are eligible to apply to become a mentee, regardless of industrial background, but must aspire to work in nuclear decommissioning or have an existing involvement. The scheme closes to applications on 15 April.

[Weblink: SME mentoring scheme](#)

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](#)

£500,000 for innovative smaller businesses

The NDA is contributing £500,000 to a £1.5 million initiative to encourage smaller businesses to find new ways of solving some of the energy industry's technical challenges. The contribution takes Innovate UK's Energy Game Changer fund, announced last year, to £2 million. The funding support aims to attract innovative Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) into all energy sectors, including oil, gas and nuclear. The NDA is particularly interested in technologies that could be applied to decommissioning challenges. Allocation of funding will take place through a competitive process that opened on 28 March.

[Weblink: Game Changer initiative](#)

New chair for Sellafield Ltd board

The NDA has announced that Tony Fountain will become the new chair for Sellafield Ltd, taking up the role on 1 April 2016 as part of new management arrangements which will see Sellafield Ltd become a wholly owned NDA subsidiary. He will replace current chair Tony Price. Tony Fountain brings valuable knowledge of the nuclear industry having been Chief Executive of the NDA from 2009 to 2011.

[Weblink: NDA announces new chair for Sellafield Ltd](#)

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.

Insight magazine published

The Spring edition of the NDA's news magazine Insight has been published and is available on the website.

[Weblink: Insight published](#)

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](#)

How the UK is providing support in Japan

When the fifth anniversary of the Japanese tsunami was marked last month, the NDA's Head of International Relations, John Mathieson, looked at international support for clean-up work at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant and the contribution made by a range of UK businesses.

[Weblink: Helping businesses access the Japanese market](#)

Last fuel leaves Oldbury

The last flask of fuel has been dispatched from Oldbury for reprocessing at Sellafield, completing a defuelling programme that began when the power station closed in 2012. Transfer of the last fuel also removes 99 per cent of the radioactive hazard from the site and enables Oldbury to move into its decommissioning phase. The aim is to reach the passive Care and Maintenance by 2027.

[Weblink: Oldbury dispatches last flask](#)