

# NDA Monthly Update

January 2017

## Summary

- New NDA Chairman
- OBE for Strategy & Technology Director
- Harwell platinum jubilee
- Sellafeld pond sludge removal
- Decommissioning innovation: funding available
- Draft Business Plan consultation
- Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan launched
- Lifetime honour for NDA CEO
- 1,500-plus visitors at supply chain event
- Dungeness deploys divers
- Steaming ahead at Winfrith
- Bradwell waste planning decision

## Diary Dates

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|--|---------------------|
| • Draft Business Plan consultation         | 12 Dec– 03 Feb 2017 |
| • Women in Nuclear conference              | 1 February 2017     |
| • UK Radioactive Waste Inventory published | March 2017          |

### New NDA Chairman

Former Energy Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe announced in December the appointment of Tom Smith as Chairman of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). He will assume the role from 1 March 2017 from Stephen Henwood, who will step down as Chair after 9 years in the role.

[Weblink: NDA Chair announcement](#)

### OBE for Dr Adrian Simper

2017 got off to an excellent start, with our Strategy & Technology Director, Adrian Simper, being awarded an OBE for “services to the UK nuclear industry in Japan.”

### Harwell reaches platinum jubilee

Celebrations have been taking place at our Harwell site as the former research centre, birthplace of the UK nuclear industry, reaches the grand old age of 70. In 1946, just as Britain was recovering from the end of the World War 2, pioneering scientists at Harwell introduced the UK to civil nuclear power – including development of western Europe’s first nuclear reactor. In total, 14 experimental reactors were built on the site, including the UK’s first fast reactor.

[Weblink: Harwell platinum jubilee](#)

### Radioactive sludge removed from Sellafield pond

Radioactive sludge has been transferred out of the world’s oldest nuclear fuel pond for the very first time, marking a historic achievement in the decades-long programme to clean up Sellafield. The project is being delivered 10 years ahead of schedule and for half the expected cost. Sludge, formed from decaying nuclear fuel, natural growing algae and other debris, has accumulated in the murky water of the Pile Fuel Storage Pond at Sellafield during its 65-year lifespan. It must be removed so the facility can be safely decommissioned.

[Weblink: Sludge removed from Sellafield pond](#)

### Funding available for decommissioning innovation

Organisations can apply for funding to develop innovative technologies for nuclear decommissioning. The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and Innovate UK are to invest up to £3 million in projects that will integrate and demonstrate flexible innovative technologies. Projects should integrate technologies into a single platform, or a small number of platforms, and aim to, minimise human intervention, increase productivity and optimise waste treatment, packing and routing.

[Weblink: Funding available for decommissioning innovation](#)

### Draft Business Plan consultation

We have launched a consultation on our Draft Business Plan 2017 to 2020. This plan covers some major milestones on the near term horizon, demonstrating major inroads into our decommissioning mission. The consultation is open until 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 and we welcome your views.

[Weblink: Business Plan](#)

### Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan launched

NDA welcomes the launch of the Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan to ensure UK nuclear employers, including the supply chain, can recruit skilled people at the required rate to meet the sector's ambitious forward programme. The Strategic Plan has been launched by Nuclear Skills Strategy Group (NSSG) and sets out 19 strategic actions, which will subsequently be turned into a detailed action plan. These range from group training arrangements for apprentices and new bursary schemes through to a clear national curriculum and regional skills initiatives.

[Weblink: Nuclear Skills Strategic Plan](#)

### Lifetime achievement award for John Clarke

NDA Chief Executive John Clarke has been given a lifetime achievement award for services to the nuclear industry. John was presented with the award by former Energy Minister, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, in front of 1,600 people from across the UK and global energy sector at the annual Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) Dinner. Also in attendance was Lord Hutton, Chair of the NIA.

[Weblink: Lifetime achievement award](#)

### Supply Chain Event success

More than 1,500 visitors attended the sixth annual NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, held at EventCity in Manchester, making it the busiest and most successful so far. Following morning presentations and the prestigious annual awards ceremony for suppliers, delegates were able to take advantage of informal networking opportunities and a range of sessions on specific topics. Alongside the popular Innovation Zone in the main exhibition hall, 2016 also saw the inaugural Skills Zone, staffed by representatives from training and development organisations.

[Weblink: Supply chain event success](#) and [award winners](#)

### Plumbing the depths

Divers have been working under water to cut up and retrieve items from the spent fuel ponds at Dungeness. Wearing protective suits, with additional shielding from the water,

the specialised teams are able to work close to skips and other equipment as well as gain access to awkward areas. Divers, more widely used in the US nuclear industry, can be faster and more effective than the conventional approach where remote equipment is deployed to hoist items from the water, with the potential for airborne contamination.

[Weblink: Divers clean up ponds](#)

### Steaming ahead at Winfrith reactor

The final piece of a complex engineering jigsaw is now being put in place, finally allowing the core of an iconic experimental reactor to be removed. By early next year work will be complete on isolating Winfrith's Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor from all the plant and equipment that allowed it to operate. This involves removing 1.5km of highly irradiated stainless steel pipework which fed water through the reactor, producing steam to drive the turbine and then re-circulating the condensed water. The complexity of the project meant months of preparation, including the creation of full-scale mock-ups of the plant. Once the pipework – known as steam risers and feeders – is removed, access to the reactor core for decommissioning will be possible.

[Weblink: Reactor decommissioning moves closer](#)

### Essex County Council planning decision

Essex County Council has agreed to remove a planning condition barring Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) from other power plants being stored at Bradwell. Plans to store packaged ILW from Dungeness A and Sizewell A at Bradwell are part of a wider strategy that could save the taxpayer £200 million across the Magnox fleet. The NDA and Magnox will continue to work closely with stakeholders as plans are progressed.