

NDA Monthly Update

April 2018

Summary

- NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021
- Princess unveils plaque at archive opening
- Government committee publishes Magnox contract report
- Latest NDA digital newsletter available
- NDA Commercial Director speaks at conference
- Report on support for communities
- Gender pay gap across the group
- Public Accounts Committee publishes Magnox report
- Robots compete in £8.5 million challenge
- DRS braves the Beast from the East
- Drone rises to the challenge
- New college for nuclear launched
- Divers take the plunge at Sizewell
- Government launches consultation on geological disposal

Diary Dates 2018

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| • Cross-industry TotalDECOM conference, Manchester | 23-25 April |
| • Nuclear Decommissioning Europe conference, Manchester | 24 May |
| • Nuclear Industry Association's Decom2018, London | 18-19 June |
| • NDA's Stakeholder Summit, Berkeley | 10-11 July |

NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021

The NDA's Business Plan has now been published following a 12-week consultation launched in December 2017 and approval by the government. The Plan outlines key activities and expected progress for all 17 NDA sites over the next 3 years, as well as forecast income and expenditure for the coming financial year.

[Weblink: NDA Business Plan](#)

Princess unveils plaque at official opening of archive

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the official opening of Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives) in Wick. After being welcomed by NDA Chief Executive David Peattie, The Princess Royal toured the NDA's £21 million facility before meeting a range of local community representatives and unveiling the plaque. Nucleus will house records from all NDA sites, as well as records for the future Geological Disposal Facility and a collection of local Caithness records that have outgrown their existing home.

[Weblink: Royal guest at archive](#)

Latest NDA digital newsletter now available

The NDA has published the second edition of its new digital newsletter #Decomm. The newsletter contains a selection of views and news from around the NDA's sites. Sign up for regulator updates.

[Weblink: #Decomm](#)

Commercial Director to speak at conference

NDA Commercial Director Kate Ellis will be one of the main speakers for this summer's Decom 2018 conference in London, organised by the Nuclear Industry Association. Kate joined the NDA in November 2017, taking responsibility for all of the organisation's procurement, contract management and commercial activities associated with cleaning up the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

[Weblink: Kate Ellis confirmed as speaker](#)

NDA's support for communities

The NDA has published a report outlining details of socio-economic spend by its businesses during the financial year 2016/17. Totalling more than £20 million, a number of projects have been supported ranging from Wick Harbour in the north of Scotland to economic opportunities near Romney Marshes in the south of England.

[Weblink: Socio-economic report published](#)

Gender pay gap

The NDA has published details of the gap in average earnings between men and women within its organisation and across the group. Across the whole group, the varying degrees of gender pay gaps range from 12 to 40%. The gaps are due to a number of factors, including the uneven distribution of men and women across the pay grades, with a far greater proportion of men in the higher grades.

[Weblink: Gender pay gap report](#)

Public Accounts Committee publishes Magnox report

The government's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has now published its report into the Magnox clean-up contract. The report was published after MPs on the PAC held a hearing into the NDA's 2014 award of the contract to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership, a decision that was the subject of a legal claim that resulted in a financial settlement for one of the losing bid consortia in the competition.

[Weblink: Magnox contract report published](#)

Robots compete in £8.5 million research challenge

Robots controlled by smart auto-navigation systems are doing battle in an £8.5 million competition to find new ways to tackle some of Sellafield's most radioactive hotspots. Last year, the NDA and government agency Innovate UK launched a search for innovative technologies that could be combined into a single seamless process for use in facilities that will soon embark on a major decommissioning journey. Working closely with Sellafield Ltd, five promising ideas have now made it through to the final stages, receiving up to £1.5 million to build prototype demonstrators for testing in a simulated radioactive environment.

[Weblink: NDA's integrated innovation competition](#)

DRS braves the Beast from the East

As the UK was fighting against extreme weather conditions, Direct Rail Services helped Network Rail keep the nation moving by clearing snow from train lines. The NDA's specialist rail freight subsidiary locos supported Network Rail with its effort to return the rail network to normal, patrolling important routes to keep them open and driving snow ploughs to battle through the many drifts that 'The Beast from the East' brought with it.

[Weblink: helping keep the nation on track](#)

Drone rises to the challenge

NDA R&D funds have helped two UK businesses develop a small drone that will measure radiation levels at Japan's damaged Fukushima power plant. The lightweight RISER drone, which uses lasers to navigate inside hazardous facilities where GPS signals cannot reach, has been used successfully at Sellafield. RISER carries a sophisticated radiation detection and mapping system which has collected information

about conditions in the Windscale Pile chimney. RISER combines two separate pieces of cutting-edge technology developed by Bedford's Blue Bear and Cockermouth-based Createc. Each received R&D funding through the NDA and Innovate UK.

[Weblink: Technologies support Fukushima clean-up](#)

New National College for the nuclear industry launches

A new college has opened to train thousands in support of Britain's future nuclear programmes, creating cleaner energy and developing a highly skilled workforce. The National College for Nuclear, with hubs in Cumbria (Lakes College) and Somerset (Bridgwater & Taunton College), is one of five National Colleges being established as a key part of the government's Industrial Strategy to develop a skilled industrial workforce and support long-term economic growth. Other colleges include the College of Creative and Cultural Industries; Digital Skills and High Speed Rail.

[Weblink: Government's strategy for national colleges](#)

Divers take the plunge at Sizewell

Specialist scuba divers are plumbing new depths to haul radioactive waste out of the nuclear fuel storage pond at Sizewell A. The team of American underwater experts tackled their first UK 'nuclear dive' at Dungeness A in 2016 where, wearing full protective suits and shielded from radiation by the water, they were able to cut up empty fuel storage skips and retrieve other pieces of submerged equipment.

[Weblink: Diving into innovation](#)

Government consults on geological disposal

The government has launched two new consultations which focus on finding a safe, long-term solution for the permanent disposal of radioactive waste. The first consultation, *Working with Communities*, sets out how the project developer will engage and seek the views of people in areas that may be interested in hosting a disposal facility; the second consultation, on the proposed *National Policy Statement*, will create a rigorous planning process. Geological disposal facilities are already being developed in Finland, Sweden, France, and Canada.

[Weblink: Local communities to give views on permanent disposal of radioactive waste](#)