

# NDA Monthly Update

June 2018

## Summary

- Snake-arm robot tackles the Dragon
- Japanese specialists study UK decommissioning
- NDA shares clean-up work with Scottish stakeholders
- New Chair announced for Sellafield Ltd
- NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021
- £2.6 million for new business hub in Cumbria
- Robots take heat out of nuclear challenges
- Scotland Minister visits Dounreay
- Princess unveils plaque at archive opening
- 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

## Diary Dates 2018

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| • Registration opens for NDA Estate supply chain event | 18 June    |
| • Nuclear Industry Association's Decom2018, London     | 18-19 June |
| • International Women in Engineering Day               | 23 June    |
| • UK Robotics Week                                     | 25-29 June |
| • NDA's Stakeholder Summit, Berkeley                   | 10-11 July |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester            | 1 November |

### Snake-arm robot tackles reactor work

A laser-cutting robotic snake has been put to work on the highly radioactive core of Winfrith's Dragon reactor in Dorset. Controlled from a distance by specialist operators, LaserSnake's long, flexible robotic arm can squeeze through a small access hole, manoeuvre easily inside a confined space and cut multiple layers with its high-powered laser. This allowed the work to be carried out inside the thick concrete radiation shielding of the reactor. The technology was developed by OC Robotics and TWI with R&D funding from the NDA.

[Weblink: Snake slithers through to tackle Dragon](#)

### Japanese specialists study UK decommissioning expertise

Representatives from the Japan Atomic Energy Authority (JAEA) visited Dounreay and Sellafield to learn more about the nuclear decommissioning and hazard reduction programmes, and understand whether innovative UK technologies could be used at Japanese sites.

[Weblink: Site visits for Japanese nuclear team](#)

### NDA shares clean-up work with Scottish stakeholders

Guests at an event in the Scottish Parliament heard how work to decommission Scotland's three oldest nuclear sites is taking huge strides forward and making a positive, lasting impact in communities. The NDA's decommissioning programme is worth £280 million a year in Scotland, with over £22 million going to 250 contracts with Small and Medium-sized (SMEs) companies all across Scotland.

[Weblink: Politicians and stakeholders hear of Scotland's nuclear clean-up](#)

### New Chair of Sellafield Ltd Board

NDA Chief Executive David Peattie named Lorraine Baldry OBE as the new Chair of the NDA subsidiary Sellafield Ltd. Lorraine has extensive experience in senior roles across a range of international companies and high-profile public sector organisations, including Thames Water, the Olympic Delivery Authority and London and Continental Railways Ltd. She has already gained valuable experience of working within the nuclear industry in her role as Chair of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Council.

[Weblink: New Sellafield Ltd Chair announced](#)

### NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021

The NDA's Business Plan is now published following a 12-week consultation. The Plan outlines key activities and expected progress for all 17 NDA sites over the next three years, as well as forecast income and expenditure for the coming financial year.

[Weblink: NDA Business Plan](#)

### £2.6 million invested in new business hub

Sellafield Ltd is investing £2.6 million to convert a derelict transport exchange in Whitehaven into a £4.1 million hothouse for tech, digital, media, and creative start-ups. Called the Buzz Station, the scheme is being funded by Sellafield Ltd's owner, the NDA, and is part of a wider £300 million town regeneration led by Britain's Energy Coast and partners including Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and Copeland Borough Council.

[Weblink: Bus station transformation project](#)

### Robots take heat out of world nuclear challenges

Two NDA representatives reflect on a technology-packed US conference on radioactive waste management in Phoenix. The robotics-themed event provided opportunities to share the innovative technologies that NDA and Innovate UK have helped to financially support in recent years and learn more about the international robotic technologies.

[Weblink: World of robots](#) and [learning opportunities](#)

### Lord Duncan learns of Dounreay challenges

The NDA welcomed Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Scotland Office, to Dounreay. The visit was, he said, was a fascinating opportunity to see decommissioning at first-hand and meet the men and women behind the work. "I was impressed with the commitment to safety, as well as the considerable investment the NDA and Dounreay are making in the community," he added.

[Weblink: Dounreay visit for Scotland Minister](#)

### 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 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 Innovate UK launched a search for technologies that could be combined into a single seamless process for use in facilities that will soon embark on a major decommissioning journey. Five ideas have made it through to the final stages.

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