



NDA Monthly Update

May 2019

Summary

- Queen's Award honour for suppliers
- Dounreay HEU transfer to US now complete
- Sellafield awards 20-year contracts
- NDA Business Plan published
- NDA future research plans published
- £5 million pledged for harbour upgrade
- Magnox Chief Executive named
- INS launches 10-year strategy
- UK nuclear skills celebration
- Windscale chimney demolition under way
- Robots tackle radioactive hotspots
- Supporting technology development for Fukushima clean-up
- Search begins to find GDF site
- Winfrith land transfer saves £1.7 million

Diary Dates:

23 June: International Women in Engineering Day

9-10 July: NDA Stakeholder Summit, Anglesey

Mid-July: NDA Annual Report and Accounts publication

8-9 October: Integrated Waste Management Forum, Penrith

10 October: World Mental Health Day

December: Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) annual conference

Queen's Award honour for nuclear businesses

Two NDA-supported technology businesses have won royal approval after lifting the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise for the second time. Cockermouth-based [Createc](#) and [Oxford Technologies](#) were among more than 200 UK businesses receiving the UK's top business honour, awarded annually to mark The Queen's birthday. Both businesses, which have previously won funding from NDA's research portfolio and the government's Innovate UK, have also picked up several accolades at the NDA's annual Supply Chain Awards.

[Weblink: Awards for NDA-supported supply businesses](#)



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Complete: highly enriched uranium removed from Dounreay

The transfer has now been completed of around 700kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from Dounreay to the US. Completion of the complex work, part of UK commitments made at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC, was announced by the UK Government and marks an important milestone in Dounreay's decommissioning programme. The HEU will be down-blended in the US to be used as fuel in civil nuclear reactors.

[Weblink: HEU transfer completed](#)

Sellafield Ltd awards 20-year contract

Sellafield Ltd has awarded a 20-year contract to four organisations which will help deliver the site's decommissioning programme. The Programme and Project Partners (PPP) model of long-term partnerships is set up to support faster, more effective project delivery, stability in design and construction supply chains, greater workforce flexibility and local economic benefit.

[Weblink: Four organisations awarded long-term contracts](#)

NDA future research plan published

NDA has published its latest five-year R&D plan, which outlines the UK's future strategic nuclear decommissioning R&D programme, addressing common needs and opportunities across multiple sites. The plan provides information about R&D topics that NDA plans to fund, describing how these will enable strategy development, encourage innovation and maintain technical skills. NDA has also published its Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) report 2017-18, which describes research activities commissioned directly during the period, together with a series of case studies. NDA maintains a separate budget to commission strategic projects directly, rather than through Site Licence Companies, particularly in areas with potential to impact a number of sites or develop strategy. The DRP accounts for approximately £5 million of investment a year out of the R&D annual total of approximately £100 million.

[Weblink: Five-year plan](#) and [DRP Report](#)

NDA Business Plan published

NDA's Business Plan has now been published following a 12-week period of consultation that ended in February. The Plan sets out key activities and expected progress for NDA's 17 nuclear sites over the next 3 years, as well as projected income and expenditure for the financial year ahead. Views on the draft content were sought from the public, nuclear regulators, employees at subsidiaries and Site Licence Companies, trade unions, local authorities, Site Stakeholder Groups, Non-Governmental Organisations, other organisations and public bodies.

[Weblink: Business Plan finalised](#)



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£5 million pledged to harbour upgrade

NDA has pledged £5 million towards a project to upgrade Scrabster Harbour, near Dounreay in the north of Scotland, improving its capacity to receive cruise ships and vessels from the offshore oil and gas industry. The improvements, worth £17 million in total, are likely to generate up to 50 new jobs, increase traffic through the port and attract visitors, boosting tourism.

[Weblink: Boost for harbour and region's economy](#)

Magnox Chief Executive announced

NDA has announced the appointment of Gwen Parry-Jones OBE as Chief Executive Officer of Magnox Ltd. The appointment is a vital step towards Magnox Ltd becoming a subsidiary of NDA in September 2019, when Gwen will officially take up her post. She joins Magnox following her role as Executive Director of Operations Development at Horizon Nuclear Power. Gwen started her career as a reactor physicist at Wylfa power station, and is the former Heysham 1 Station Director, the first woman in the UK to run a nuclear power station.

[Weblink: Gwen Parry-Jones named as Magnox Ltd CEO](#)

NDA subsidiary launches 10-year strategy

Seth Kybird, Managing Director of International Nuclear Services (INS), outlines how the newly launch 10-year strategy will deliver the INS vision: to be the best global provider of nuclear transport solutions in the future. INS, a subsidiary of NDA, has world-leading expertise in irradiated fuel management and transporting nuclear materials.

[Weblink: INS strategy launched](#)

Celebration of UK skills for nuclear

Nuclear skills took centre stage when hundreds of industry leaders and young people gathered to celebrate at the inaugural Nuclear Skills 2019 conference and the 11th Nuclear Skills Awards. NDA Chief Executive David Peattie addressed both events, held in Manchester, which were organised respectively by the Nuclear Skills Strategy Group, and NSAN and Cogent Skills.

[Weblink: Events mark nuclear skills](#)

Demolition starts on Windscale chimney

The first blocks of concrete have been removed from the top of one of the world's most recognisable chimneys. This marks the start of the demolition of Sellafield's Windscale Pile One stack. Workers are cutting out six-tonne 'chunks' of concrete using diamond-wire saws. The blocks are removed with the help of a 152-metre crane, the tallest structure ever built at Sellafield.

[Weblink: Windscale chimney demolition](#)



Robots tackle Sellafield's notorious radioactive hotspots

Robots have started to remove radioactive sludge from the most hazardous spot at Sellafield, a sub-section of the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond known to site staff as 'D-Bay'. The area was used to deposit sludge which started to accumulate during the 1970s and is now being 'hoovered up' using robotic arms, following 10 years of planning with supply chain partners ACKtiv joint venture and Jacobs. D-bay holds the equivalent of 35 concrete-mixer trucks of sludge, and has been a no-go area for around 40 years, due to the proximity of sludge to the surface and sheer volume of radioactive material.

[Weblink: Sludge removal under way](#)

Supporting tech development for Fukushima clean-up

NDA Head of Technology Melanie Brownridge is part of an international panel working with the Japanese to review their research for technologies needed to clean up Fukushima. On a recent visit, she was impressed by progress since 2016, with structures built over the reactor buildings so debris and fuel can be retrieved and an ice wall barrier in place to minimise the potential contamination of water that flows naturally across the site. Meanwhile, requirements to wear protective clothing are now minimal for visitors to the site, demonstrating the overall 95% reduction in dose. Japan set up its International Research Institute for Decommissioning (IRID) in 2013, two years after the tsunami, and seeks international advice on technology development through the International Advisory Panel (IAP).

[Weblink: Fukushima progress on the ground](#)

Search under way to find site for GDF

NDA subsidiary Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) has now started the search for a volunteer community to host a future Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). The start of the process follows the publication of the government's statement on how it plans to work with interested communities. Geological disposal is one of the UK's largest-ever environmental protection projects, which will provide a safe and secure long-term disposal solution for higher activity radioactive waste.

[Weblink: Site search begins for geological disposal facility and Welsh policy](#)

Winfrith land transfer secures £1.7 million savings

The NDA has secured savings of almost £1.7 million through the sale of land at Winfrith to a waste processing specialist. Tradebe Inutec, an existing tenant, has operated a facility at the Dorset site for more than 30 years and now has greater flexibility to expand or diversify its operations on land adjacent to the former civil nuclear research site - which is now being decommissioned by Magnox Ltd. The agreement will safeguard up to 70 skilled jobs.

[Weblink: Land transferred to waste specialist](#)