



NDA Monthly Update

April 2019

Summary

- NDA Business Plan published
- £5 million pledged for harbour upgrade
- NDA research report published
- 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
- Scotland's oldest reactor set for demolition
- Sellafield's triple tonne triumph
- Apprenticeship boost for small businesses

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 annual conference

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 It also sets out our projected income and expenditure for the financial year ahead. Views on the draft content were sought from the public, nuclear regulators, employees at our 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

The 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](#)

NDA-commissioned research report 2017 to 2018

NDA has now published its Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) report for 2017 to 2018, together with a series of case studies. R&D investment, which totalled approximately £101 million over NDA maintains a separate budget for the direct commissioning of strategic projects, particularly in areas with potential to impact a number of sites or develop overall strategy. The Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) accounts for approximately £5 million on investment a year.

[Weblink: NDA publishes DRP report](#)

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 technology 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 begins to find site for Geological Disposal Facility

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](#)

Scotland's oldest reactor ready for demolition

The decommissioning of Dounreay's oldest nuclear reactor took a major step forward with the award of a multi-million pound contract. Dounreay Materials Test Reactor (DMTR) was the first operational nuclear reactor in Scotland and achieved criticality in 1958. It was built to test the effects of radiation on different materials and operated for 11 years. Demolition of the reactor building will be a major skyline change for Dounreay, signifying another major hazard reduction milestone at one of the NDA's sites.

[Weblink: Reactor ready for demolition](#)

Triple tonne triumph

Sellafield's Pile Fuel Storage Pond has passed an important point in its clean-up journey with the removal of 300 tonnes of solid waste from the legacy pond. When retrieval operations in the Pile Fuel Storage Pond began in 2012, there was an estimated 750 tonnes of bulky waste items to remove, including redundant equipment and discarded skips. The 300 tonne mark was achieved in November with the removal of the 89th skip. There are now 97 skips remaining, which along with the other bulky waste should be fully removed and in safe interim storage by 2024.

[Weblink: 300 tonnes removed from Pile Fuel Storage Pond](#)

Apprenticeship boost for small businesses

Sellafield Ltd is funding 50 new apprenticeships for small companies in Cumbria, with training scheduled to start by February and more apprenticeships set to be available throughout the year. The scheme will help boost employment opportunities for local people, address specific skills shortages and help drive growth in the region. Training will cover a range of professions from customer services, property maintenance and scaffolding, to logistics and horticulture. A range of small companies will be identified as host employers and will be matched to apprentices as they are recruited. The training is funded by Sellafield Ltd on behalf of NDA and includes the wage costs for the first year of each apprenticeship.

[Weblink: Scheme for community apprenticeships](#)