



NDA Monthly Update

January 2020

Summary

- Views sought on NDA Draft Business Plan
- R&D Direct Research Portfolio report published
- CBE for Sellafield Chief Executive
- Complete: Plutonium transfer from Dounreay
- £8.5 million R&D competition latest
- NDA Chief Executive named as WiN patron
- Satellite data to help nuclear clean-up
- Success for DRS managing director
- Radioactive waste in the spotlight
- Royal visit marks dialogue with Japan
- NDA honours safety excellence
- NDA names new Non-Executive Director
- History made as plants complete defueling
- Daily grind foiled at Chapelcross

Diary Dates

Early 2020: Update of UK Radioactive Waste & Materials Inventory

14 January: Space Data Challenge judging at QE2 Centre, London

29 January: PhD seminar 2020, Manchester Conference Centre.

29 January: WiN UK Annual Conference 2020, London

NDA seeks views on Business Plan 2020 to 2023

Views are now sought on the NDA's latest Draft Business Plan, which describes the main activities across our estate over the next 3 years and the available funding for them. It also provides a 20-year picture across future years, and significant milestones. The consultation started on 23 December 2019 and closes on 14 February 2020.

[Weblink: Views sought on NDA's latest Business Plan](#)



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NDA publishes research report 2018 to 2019

The NDA invested approximately £90 million in R&D during 2018 to 2019, which included a separate budget of almost £4 million for the direct commissioning of strategic projects. Details of the directly invested funds are outlined in the newly published Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) 2018 to 2019. The DRP report includes a series of case studies and a list of projects funded.

[Weblink: R&D report details](#)

CBE for Sellafield Chief Executive

Sellafield Chief Executive Paul Foster was awarded a CBE for services to business in the 2020 New Years Honours list. During his tenure, Paul oversaw unprecedented progress in the mission to make Sellafield safer, sooner and established Sellafield Ltd as a business that delivers more value for money for the taxpayer than ever before. He also oversaw the successful completion of nuclear fuel reprocessing at Thorp. He will leave Sellafield Ltd at the end of January 2020.

[Weblink: New Year honours for Sellafield boss](#)

Completed: Transfer of Dounreay plutonium to Sellafield

The Dounreay stock of civil separated plutonium is now safely stored at Sellafield following completion of a phased transfer programme involving a range of organisations over a number of years. This means that all significant UK stocks of the material are now at Sellafield, the centre of excellence for plutonium management. The safe, secure management of civil separated plutonium is a priority for the UK government and an important part of NDA strategy. This is a major step forward in decommissioning Dounreay.

[Weblink: Transfer completed](#)

Consortia in next stage of £8.5 million R&D competition

Two consortia, led by Barron and Wood, have reached the next round of an £8.5 million innovation competition that could help decommission highly radioactive facilities at Sellafield. Launched in 2017, the £8.5 million Integrated Innovation in Nuclear Decommissioning competition was funded by the NDA, Innovate UK and BEIS. The successful projects were among five consortia, involving almost 30 organisations, and will now demonstrate their work at Sellafield.

[Weblink: Projects move to next stage](#)

NDA Chief Executive to be WiN patron

NDA Chief Executive David Peattie is set to become the new patron of Women in Nuclear (WiN), whose mission is to address the industry's gender balance, improving the representation of women in leadership and engaging with the public on nuclear issues. The role of Patron involves



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helping to gain government and industry support, and raising the profile of WiN UK and its objectives.

[Weblink: David Peattie becomes WiN patron](#)

Satellites set to help clean up nuclear sites

The NDA is collaborating with the UK Space Agency (UKSA) to explore whether data collected by satellites orbiting the earth could be turned into useful insights for the nuclear clean-up mission. The Nuclear Decommissioning Space Data Challenge was launched by the UK Space Agency in November, and is aimed at smaller businesses and academic start-ups. On offer is a prize worth £10,000, sponsored by the NDA, to help the winning concept or prototype product on the journey to market reality. Short-listed applicants will be invited to a judging event in January.

[Weblink: Space data challenge](#)

DRS Managing Director wins at Women of the Year Awards

Debbie Francis, the Managing Director of NDA rail subsidiary Direct Rail Services, has won the award for 'demonstrating the courage to challenge and make a real difference in a male-dominated industry'. The Women of the Year event, attended by more than 500 people, aims to promote positive female role models who provide inspiration across all areas of society and the business community. Debbie's 'Woman with Edge' award recognises business women who challenge the status quo and understand the road to success is not always straight.

[Weblink: Debbie, a woman with edge](#)

Radioactive waste in the spotlight

The NDA joined forces with the Nuclear Institute for the Integrated Waste Management Conference 2019, held in Penrith. More than 250 delegates attended the two-day for a packed programme that included panel sessions, exhibitions and a range of speakers including government officials, regulators, supply chain companies, consultants and waste management experts. Earlier this year, the NDA launched its Radioactive Waste Strategy.

[Weblink: Hundreds gather for waste discussions](#)

Royal visit marks long-standing dialogue with Japan

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal heard first-hand how the UK and Japan are collaborating on nuclear decommissioning when she attended a reception at the British Embassy in Tokyo. NDA Strategy and Technology Director Dr Adrian Simper was among the presenters discussing the knowledge exchange between the two countries. He also outlined the NDA's commitment to working in partnership with local communities, and the sharing of decommissioning knowledge as Japan continues the clean-up at Fukushima Dai-ichi.

[Weblink: Collaborating on nuclear decommissioning](#)



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NDA honours safety excellence at top awards

Shining examples of safety and wellbeing in the nuclear industry were honoured at the NDA's awards ceremony. The first Safety and Wellbeing Awards, held in Manchester, recognised the exceptional work being done across the group. Eleven winners picked up awards in front of around 250 people at the ceremony. All were chosen for their achievements and successes in keeping the workforce safe and well.

[Weblink: Safety achievements recognised](#)

New Non-Executive Director joins NDA Board

The NDA has announced the appointment of Michelle Heath to its Board as an additional Non-Executive Director for a three-year term. Michelle has a 20-year track record in the nuclear industry, focused on waste management, having previously worked for BNFL, Springfields Fuels and Westinghouse Toshiba. She holds an MBA and BSc from Lancaster University.

[Weblink: Welcome to new Non-Executive Board member](#)

History made as plants complete defuelling

The last nuclear fuel has been safely shipped from Wylfa on Anglesey, and Calder Hall in Cumbria, for reprocessing at Sellafield, marking a major decommissioning milestone for the UK. The completion of defuelling at both former nuclear power stations removes 99% of radioactivity from the sites. Wylfa, the last and largest of the UK's Magnox power station fleet, opened in 1971 and closed in 2015. Calder Hall, by contrast, was the world's first nuclear power station to generate electricity on a commercial scale. Opened by the Queen in 1956 amid a national fanfare, it was hailed as the dawn of the atomic age and led the way for 10 further power stations based on the Magnox design. Electricity generation stopped in 2003.

[Weblink: Wylfa completes defuelling](#)

[Calder Hall completes defueling](#)

Daily grind foiled at Chapelcross

The daily grind is looking up after foil coffee bags perked up a project to prevent radioactive gases from escaping during work to decommission the nuclear site. The packets – which use technology designed to keep coffee aromas locked in - mean workers can safely seal radioactively contaminated waste into bags so it can be more easily and safely handled. The idea was brewed by experts at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy in Oxfordshire, and is now being trialled during work to dismantle Chapelcross' former processing plant that had become contaminated with radioactive tritium as a historical legacy of its operations.

[Weblink: Clean-up inspired by coffee bags](#)