NDA Monthly Update

September 2017

Summary

- Update on competition inquiry and Magnox contract termination
- Supply chain awards deadline looms
- £3 million competition shortlist announced
- PhD bursaries available
- Bradwell completes waste programme
- Safety awards for Sellafield
- TV cameras visit Sellafield
- Charity recycling company wins Sellafield contract
- Dounreay's oldest reactor to be demolished
- Chapelcross boilers on the way down
- David Peattie appointed Chairman of nuclear shipping business
- NDA annual report now published
- Young nuclear professionals share experience

Diary Dates 2017

- NDA Stakeholder Summit, Cumbria   17-18 September
- LLWR Annual Customer Forum, Penrith   4-5 October
- NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester   2 November
- World Nuclear Symposium 2017, London   13-15 December

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NDA Monthly Update – September 2017

Update on inquiry into Magnox competition

The NDA is co-operating fully with the Holliday Inquiry into the 2014 Magnox contract, and an interim report is expected towards the end of the year. The inquiry was announced by Energy Secretary Greg Clark in March, following the NDA's decision to settle the claims with EnergySolutions and Bechtel. This ended the court proceedings and limits further risk to the taxpayer. The NDA also announced its decision to terminate, by mutual agreement with the Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP), the Magnox PBO contract in September 2019.

Weblink: Announcement on Magnox contact

Deadline approaches for supply chain awards

The 7 September deadline is approaching to submit final entries for the NDA estate's annual awards, which will be presented during the supply chain event next month. The categories include skills, innovation, collaboration and exports. Meanwhile, registration remains opens for the 2017 NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, which takes place at EventCity in Manchester on 2 November. Last year's event attracted 1,500 visitors from the UK and overseas, and featured 260 exhibition stands. Businesses of all sizes are welcome, especially those from the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise community.

Weblink: Register now for supply event

£3 million competition shortlists innovative ideas

Fifteen ideas have been shortlisted in a £3 million competition to find new technologies for cleaning up Sellafield hazards. The shortlisted entries, many from companies new to nuclear, now have three months to develop ideas for a chance to move on to the next stage. The competition, run by the NDA and the UK government's Innovate UK, is awarding an initial £750,000 to 15 newly formed consortia to help them develop ideas on dismantling a large number of highly radioactive 'cells' at Sellafield's two reprocessing plants which are set to close by 2020. More will be revealed when the winners are picked in December and begin building prototypes, supported by the remaining funds.

Weblink: Innovation ideas shortlisted

PhD bursaries

The NDA is seeking applications for PhD research proposals related to nuclear decommissioning. The deadline is 9 October 2017. Up to £500,000 is annually available, via the bursary scheme, for proposals based on the following themes: characterisation, waste packaging and storage, land quality, decommissioning, spent fuel and nuclear material, plus open criteria including robotics and aqueous effluents. Project proposals with a total cost to NDA of less than £100,000 will be considered.

Weblink: Apply for bursaries

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NDA Monthly Update – September 2017

Bradwell completes waste programme

All Fuel Element Debris (FED) waste at Bradwell has now successfully dealt with. The FED, consisting largely of the metallic outer casing of uranium fuel elements, is a major source of Intermediate Level Waste, however more than half was re-classified as Low Level Waste (LLW) following a collaborative project to extract and segregate material. This enabled more cost-effective treatment and disposal, while also saving two years off a project to dissolve the FED in an acid solution, reducing volumes by 90%.

Weblink: Waste programme complete

Gold safety awards for Sellafield

Sellafield Ltd has been awarded nine gold awards by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards are among the world's most prestigious safety accolades. They recognise safety performance in 2016/17, a year in which Sellafield made significant progress in the clean-up of four of Europe's most hazardous buildings, the Legacy Ponds and Silos.

Weblink: Sellafield's nine gold awards

TV cameras visit legacy Sellafield store

Cameras from ITV Border have been looking at work on Sellafield's Pile Fuel Storage Silo (PFCS), where the first hole was cut earlier this year to retrieve waste that has been in storage for many decades. Six holes will be cut in total, covered by six doors which will seal the waste inside until it can be moved. The PFCS was built in the 1950s and getting the waste out of the building is one of Sellafield's highest priorities. Waste retrievals are due to begin in 2019.

Weblink: Holes cut in Sellafield waste store

Charity recycling company wins Sellafield contract

A waste recycling company will open a new facility and create local jobs in West Cumbria, having won a contract with Sellafield Ltd. 'Recycling Lives' will recycle metal from the nuclear site, offering jobs and training opportunities at a new depot in Workington. The company will also set up a food distribution charity with centres throughout Cumbria, which will also need staff and volunteers.

Weblink: Charitable recycling company wins Sellafield contract

Dounreay's oldest reactor to be demolished

It is 60 years since the first criticality was achieved in Scotland using a test rig at Dounreay. Now the site's decommissioning team is marking that milestone by taking a major step towards demolishing the oldest reactor that remains at the former fast reactor research centre. Companies are being invited to bid for a contract to demolish the

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Dounreay Materials Test Reactor (DMTR) which became Scotland's first operational reactor in 1958.

Weblink: Farewell to Dounreay's oldest reactor

The final four at Chapelcross

A three year-long Chapelcross project, which is set to dramatically change the skyline, has reached a major milestone. A decade after the iconic cooling towers at Scotland's first nuclear power station were spectacularly demolished, work to remove the top sections of the last four heat exchangers has been completed. Chapelcross operated safely for 35 years and the 16 boilers, or 'heat exchangers,' played a vital role, producing steam to drive turbines.

Weblink: Chapelcross boiler project

David Peattie appointed as Chairman of shipping company

NDA Chief Executive, David Peattie has been appointed as the new Chairman of specialist nuclear shipping company Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd (PNTL). PNTL is owned by NDA subsidiary International Nuclear Services (INS), French nuclear company AREVA and a consortium of Japanese nuclear companies. David takes up the role following the departure of outgoing PNTL Chairman John Clarke.

Weblink: PNTL new chairman announced

Annual report now published

The NDA has published its annual report and accounts, showing a year of strong progress. The report reviews a strong year of progress for the NDA as it advances its mission to clean up and decommission 17 of the UK's oldest nuclear sites.

Weblink: NDA Annual Report and Accounts 2016

Young nuclear professionals share world-wide expertise

Two NDA staff joined young people from 25 different countries to take part in a week of site visits, discussions and presentations at the European Nuclear Young Generation Forum (ENYGF) in Manchester. Diversity was the key in terms of technology, people and cultures; many of the presentations spoke of new, novel reactor types, challenges faced across the industry and how a new mind-set is required to solve them.

Weblink: Delegates share nuclear learning