

NDA Monthly Update

April 2017

Summary

- Magnox contract announcement
- NDA new Chief Executive appointed
- Latest NDA Business Plan published
- NDA new Chairman named
- Updated inventory of radioactive waste published
- UK and US continue collaborative agreement
- Nuclear archive opens its doors
- Machine will clean up Sellafield's most hazardous building
- Robot demolishes final cell
- Insight magazine published
- Innovation competition seek ideas
- Sellafield's top apprentice
- Doors open on new era at Sellafield

Diary Dates

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| • 8th Annual Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management Conference, Manchester | 25 May |
| • Robotics Week | 26 June |
| • NDA Annual Report and Accounts published | Early July |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester | 2 November |

Magnox contract announcement

The NDA has decided to terminate the Magnox contract by mutual agreement with the Cavendish Fluor Partnership (CFP). The contract will terminate in September 2019 and CFP will remain the parent body organisation until then. The NDA has also settled the claims with EnergySolutions and Bechtel. This ends the lengthy and costly court proceedings and limits further risk to the taxpayer. Below is a link to the Written Ministerial Statement made by our Secretary of State, Greg Clark:

[Weblink: Ministerial Announcement](#)

David Peattie appointed as new NDA Chief Executive

David Peattie has been named as the NDA's new Chief Executive Officer following the John Clarke's decision to take retirement after five years in the role. David, who has an extensive background in the oil and gas sector, assumed office last month. He will be responsible for leading the NDA in the decommissioning and clean-up of 17 legacy nuclear sites across the UK, including Sellafield. The appointment was made by the non-executive members of the NDA Board, with the approval of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Secretary of State Greg Clark.

[Weblink: CEO appointment](#)

NDA publishes latest Business Plan

The NDA's annual Business Plan has now been published, setting out objectives and expected progress for all 17 NDA sites over the next three years. The plan is based on the NDA's 2016 Strategy and is in line with the funding agreed with HM Treasury and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Also included is a 20-year overview of forthcoming activities across the estate.

[Weblink: Business Plan](#)

Tom Smith appointed as NDA Chairman

The NDA's new chairman was named as Tom Smith, who took over from Stephen Henwood in March. Tom, an Oxford chemistry graduate, former diplomat and Member of the Institute of Directors, has been an NDA Non-Executive Director since 2013.

[Weblink: New Chairman named](#)

Updated inventory of radioactive waste available

An updated inventory of the UK's radioactive waste has been published. The inventory comprises a series of reports that provide the information on levels of radioactive waste across the country and forecasts of the amounts that are expected to arise in the future. The UK Radioactive Waste Inventory (UKRWI) is part of an ongoing programme of research jointly conducted by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial

Strategy (BEIS) and the NDA. The inventory is updated every three years to provide the latest national record on radioactive wastes and materials in the UK.

[Weblink: UK Radioactive Waste Inventory](#)

UK and US continue collaborative agreement

A 10-year-old agreement between US and UK government organisations responsible for nuclear clean-up was recently extended for a further five years. Since the Statement of Intent was signed in 2007, numerous information and ‘lessons learned’ exchanges have taken place on a wide variety of topics ranging from contracting strategies to plutonium management. Current activities are focused on start-up and commissioning, ageing infrastructure management, robotics/remote technology development and implementation.

[Weblink: US-UK agreement continues](#)

Nuclear archive opens its doors

A unique archive has now opened in the far north of Scotland, bringing together a vast collection of records, plans, photographs and drawings from the earliest days of the UK’s nuclear industry. Located near Dounreay, the £21 million investment by the NDA, *Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives)*, also houses a local collection of historic Scottish material that had outgrown its existing home. Dounreay records were the first nuclear collection to be transferred; material from the other 16 sites will be moved in gradually over the coming years.

[Weblink: Archive opens](#)

Machine will clean up Sellafield’s most hazardous building

A 350-tonne machine has been installed at Sellafield to tackle one of the world’s most challenging nuclear clean-up jobs. The £100 million Silo Emptying Plant is one of three machines that will scoop radioactive waste out of the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo. The 1960s storage facility has been described as one of the most hazardous buildings in western Europe and contains 10,000 cubic metres of intermediate level waste from the earliest days of the UK’s civil nuclear industry. Material was tipped into the six silos from the top, and Magnox cladding was later added to the mix.

[Weblink: Silo Emptying Plant unveiled](#)

Robot demolishes final cell

The final internal structure has been dismantled at the Dounreay Materials Test Reactor (DMTR) support building complex, which will allow the building to be demolished later this year. The complex contained a fuel pond, waste drum store and a post-irradiated examination cave – all of which have previously been decommissioned. The final structure, a holding area for the site’s solid remote handled waste, was pulled apart

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remotely using a robotic demolition machine (Brokk 180). The DMTR was the first of Dounreay's three reactors to reach criticality, and was closed in 1969.

[Weblink: Robot demolishes final cell](#)

Insight magazine published

The latest edition of the NDA's news magazine Insight is now available as hard copy and via the website.

[Weblink: Edition 22 of Insight](#)

Integrated innovation competition seeks ideas

Funding totalling £3 million is being offered to develop and demonstrate technologies that could help resolve some of the challenges associated with dismantling facilities at Sellafield. Funded jointly by the NDA and the government's Innovate UK, the competition *Integrated Innovation in Nuclear Decommissioning* is particularly interested in collaborative proposals from the areas of robotics, autonomous systems, sensors and detectors, virtual reality simulation, etc. Applications from businesses of all sizes and academic institutions are welcome. The closing date for submissions is 26 April 2017.

[Weblink: Competition details and documentation](#)

Adam is top apprentice

Sellafield mechanical design apprentice Adam Sharp won the National Apprenticeship Service's Advanced Apprentice Award. Adam, 22, beat strong competition from the best apprentices in the country and was presented with his award in London. The awards, run by the National Apprenticeship Service, are now in their 13th year. They recognise both employers and apprentices across England who can demonstrate how apprenticeships have made a real difference to their organisation and careers.

[Weblink: Sellafield's winning trainee](#)

Doors set to open on new era

The last of six huge stainless steel doors is now in place at Sellafield's Pile Fuel Cladding Silo, which will be key to gaining access to the building and lifting out the contents. Each highly engineered door is equivalent in weight to around 150 adult men. Holes will be cut behind the doors, enabling remote grabs to reach in, drop down and pull out the waste. The PFCS is the oldest of the four legacy facilities on site and stores cladding removed from the Windscale Piles.

[Weblink: PFCS doors now in place](#)