

NDA Monthly Update

July 2018

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- Sellafield starts removing highly active liquor
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Diary Dates 2018

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| • Publication of NDA Annual Report and Accounts | July |
| • NDA's Stakeholder Summit, Berkeley | 10-11 July |
| • World Nuclear Association Symposium, London | 5-6 September |
| • NDA Estate Supply Chain Event, Manchester | 1 November |

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Magnox Ltd to become NDA subsidiary

The NDA has announced that Magnox Ltd will become one of its wholly subsidiary companies from 1 September 2019. The decision follows the announcement last year of the NDA's intention to terminate its contract with the Cavendish Fluor Partnership to decommission the Magnox sites. NDA Chief Executive David Peattie said: "This decision marks a new approach to managing the 12 Magnox sites but is consistent with a similar change we made at Sellafield in 2016, where the simplified approach is resulting in more efficient decommissioning progress."

[Weblink: Magnox Ltd becomes NDA subsidiary](#)

Sellafield starts removing highly radioactive liquor

Work has begun to remove, for the first time, the highly radioactive liquor at one of the oldest parts of the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo. The liquor is Sellafield's most hazardous material and has been inside the MSSS for many decades, created when water was used to cover the waste to prevent it igniting. Networks of heavily shielded pipes have been built to help remove the liquor. Clean-up of the MSSS is one of the NDA's highest priority programmes. The building contains 22 vertical compartments that store waste from the UK's first generation of nuclear power stations.

[Weblink: Sellafield tackles biggest risk yet](#)

Sign up for NDA Estate Supply Chain Event

Registration is now open for the 8th Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate Supply Chain Event, which will be held in Manchester on 1 November 2018. Launched in 2011, the event offers free entry for delegates and is now the largest of its kind in Europe. Last year saw more than 1,600 visitors and 300 exhibition stands. A highlight of the day is the announcement of this year's Supply Chain Awards, which acknowledge the vital role played by suppliers. Submissions in a range of categories are now being invited for the awards.

[Weblink: Registration opens](#) and [Find out more about NDA Estate Supply Chain Awards](#)

Archive wins top architectural awards

NDA archive Nucleus has been voted one of the most stylish buildings in the UK, collecting two top awards. Described by judges as "beautifully sculpted", the facility near Wick was one of a range of new designs that won praise from both the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS). Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives), designed by Edinburgh architects Reiach and Hall, was among 49 RIBA winners, selected from more than 600 UK entries, and one of 12 Scottish RIAS winners.

[Weblink: Archive wins top awards](#)

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Snake-arm robot tackles reactor work

A laser-cutting robotic snake has been put to work on the highly radioactive core of Winfrith's Dragon reactor in Dorset. Controlled from a distance by specialist operators, LaserSnake's long, flexible robotic arm can squeeze through a small access hole, manoeuvre easily inside a confined space and cut multiple layers with its high-powered laser. This allowed the work to be carried out inside the thick concrete radiation shielding of the reactor. The technology was developed by OC Robotics and TWI with R&D funding from the NDA.

[Weblink: Snake slithers through to tackle Dragon](#)

Japanese specialists study UK decommissioning expertise

Representatives from the Japan Atomic Energy Authority (JAEA) visited Dounreay and Sellafield to learn more about the nuclear decommissioning and hazard reduction programmes, and understand whether innovative UK technologies could be used at Japanese sites.

[Weblink: Site visits for Japanese nuclear team](#)

NDA shares clean-up work with Scottish stakeholders

Guests at an event in the Scottish Parliament heard how work to decommission Scotland's three oldest nuclear sites is taking huge strides forward and making a positive, lasting impact in communities. The NDA's decommissioning programme is worth £280 million a year in Scotland, with over £22 million going to 250 contracts with Small and Medium-sized (SMEs) companies all across Scotland.

[Weblink: Politicians and stakeholders hear of Scotland's nuclear clean-up](#)

New Chair of Sellafield Ltd Board

NDA Chief Executive David Peattie named Lorraine Baldry OBE as the new Chair of the NDA subsidiary Sellafield Ltd. Lorraine has extensive experience in senior roles across a range of international companies and high-profile public sector organisations, including Thames Water, the Olympic Delivery Authority and London and Continental Railways Ltd. She has already gained valuable experience of working within the nuclear industry in her role as Chair of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Council.

[Weblink: New Sellafield Ltd Chair announced](#)

NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021

The NDA's Business Plan is now published following a 12-week consultation. The Plan outlines key activities and expected progress for all 17 NDA sites over the next three years, as well as forecast income and expenditure for the coming financial year.

[Weblink: NDA Business Plan](#)

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£2.6 million invested in new business hub

Sellafield Ltd is investing £2.6 million to convert a derelict transport exchange in Whitehaven into a £4.1 million hothouse for tech, digital, media, and creative start-ups. Called the Buzz Station, the scheme is being funded by Sellafield Ltd's owner, the NDA, and is part of a wider £300 million town regeneration led by Britain's Energy Coast and partners including Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and Copeland Borough Council.

[Weblink: Bus station transformation project](#)

Robots take heat out of world nuclear challenges

Two NDA representatives reflect on a technology-packed US conference on radioactive waste management in Phoenix. The robotics-themed event provided opportunities to share the innovative technologies that NDA and Innovate UK have helped to financially support in recent years and learn more about the international robotic technologies.

[Weblink: World of robots](#) and [learning opportunities](#)

Lord Duncan learns of Dounreay challenges

The NDA welcomed Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Scotland Office, to Dounreay. The visit was, he said, was a fascinating opportunity to see decommissioning at first-hand and meet the men and women behind the work. "I was impressed with the commitment to safety, as well as the considerable investment the NDA and Dounreay are making in the community," he added.

[Weblink: Dounreay visit for Scotland Minister](#)

Princess unveils plaque at official opening of archive

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the official opening of Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives) in Wick. After being welcomed by NDA Chief Executive David Peattie, The Princess Royal toured the NDA's £21 million facility before meeting a range of local community representatives and unveiling the plaque. Nucleus will house records from all NDA sites, as well as records for the future Geological Disposal Facility and a collection of local Caithness records that have outgrown their existing home.

[Weblink: Royal guest at archive](#)

Latest NDA digital newsletter now available

The NDA has published the second edition of its new digital newsletter #Decomm. The newsletter contains a selection of views and news from around the NDA's sites. Sign up for regulator updates.

[Weblink: #Decomm](#)