

NDA Monthly Update

May 2018

Summary

- New Chair for Sellafield Ltd announced
- NDA publishes Business Plan 2018-2021
- £2.6 million for new business hub in Cumbria
- Robots take heat out of nuclear challenges
- Scotland Minister visits Dounreay
- Princess unveils plaque at archive opening
- Latest NDA digital newsletter available
- NDA Commercial Director speaks at conference
- Report on support for communities
- Gender pay gap across the group
- Public Accounts Committee publishes Magnox report
- Robots compete in £8.5 million challenge
- DRS braves the Beast from the East
- Drone rises to the challenge
- New college for nuclear launched

Diary Dates 2018

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| • Nuclear Decommissioning Europe conference, Manchester | 24 May |
| • Nuclear Industry Association's Decom2018, London | 18-19 June |
| • NDA's Stakeholder Summit, Berkeley | 10-11 July |
| • World Nuclear Association Symposium, London | 5-7 September |

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 has now been published following a 12-week consultation launched in December 2017 and approval by the government. The Plan outlines key activities and expected progress for all 17 NDA sites over the next 3 years, as well as forecast income and expenditure for the coming financial year.

[Weblink: NDA Business Plan](#)

£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 regeneration of the town led by BEC 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](#)

Commercial Director to speak at conference

NDA Commercial Director Kate Ellis will be one of the main speakers for this summer's Decom 2018 conference in London, organised by the Nuclear Industry Association. Kate joined the NDA in November 2017, taking responsibility for all of the organisation's procurement, contract management and commercial activities associated with cleaning up the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

[Weblink: Kate Ellis confirmed as speaker](#)

NDA's support for communities

The NDA has published a report outlining details of socio-economic spend by its businesses during the financial year 2016/17. Totalling more than £20 million, a number of projects have been supported ranging from Wick Harbour in the north of Scotland to economic opportunities near Romney Marshes in the south of England.

[Weblink: Socio-economic report published](#)

Gender pay gap

The NDA has published details of the gap in average earnings between men and women within its organisation and across the group. Across the whole group, the varying degrees of gender pay gaps range from 12 to 40%. The gaps are due to a number of factors, including the uneven distribution of men and women across the pay grades, with a far greater proportion of men in the higher grades.

[Weblink: Gender pay gap report](#)

Public Accounts Committee publishes Magnox report

The government's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has published its report into the Magnox clean-up contract. The report was published after MPs on the PAC held a hearing into the NDA's 2014 award of the contract to the Cavendish Fluor Partnership, a decision that was the subject of a legal claim that resulted in a financial settlement for one of the losing bid consortia in the competition.

[Weblink: Magnox contract report published](#)

Robots compete in £8.5 million research challenge

Robots controlled by smart auto-navigation systems are doing battle in an £8.5 million competition to find new ways to tackle some of Sellafield's most radioactive hotspots. Last year, the NDA and Innovate UK launched a search for technologies that could be combined into a single seamless process for use in facilities that will soon embark on a major decommissioning journey. Five ideas have made it through to the final stages.

[Weblink: NDA's integrated innovation competition](#)

DRS braves the Beast from the East

As the UK was fighting against recent extreme weather conditions, Direct Rail Services helped Network Rail keep the nation moving by clearing snow from train lines. The NDA's specialist rail freight subsidiary locos supported Network Rail with its effort to return the rail network to normal, patrolling important routes to keep them open and driving snow ploughs through the many drifts.

[Weblink: helping keep the nation on track](#)

Drone rises to the challenge

NDA R&D funds helped two UK businesses develop a small drone that will measure radiation levels at Japan's damaged Fukushima power plant. The lightweight RISER drone, which uses lasers to navigate inside hazardous facilities where GPS signals cannot reach, has been used successfully at Sellafield. RISER combines two separate pieces of cutting-edge technology developed by Bedford's Blue Bear and Cockermouth-based Createc. Each received R&D funding through the NDA and Innovate UK.

[Weblink: Technologies support Fukushima clean-up](#)

New National College for the nuclear industry launches

A new college has opened to train thousands in support of Britain's future nuclear programmes. The National College for Nuclear, with hubs in Cumbria (Lakes College) and Somerset (Bridgwater & Taunton College), is one of five National Colleges being established as part of the government's Industrial Strategy to develop a skilled industrial workforce and support long-term economic growth.

[Weblink: Government's strategy for national colleges](#)