

Dounreay PBO Competition – are we nearly there year?

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The final stages of the Dounreay PBO competition start in late summer when the two bidding consortia - Caithness Solutions and Babcock Dounreay Partnership - will lodge their bids to become the Parent Body Organisation (PBO) for the Dounreay site

The bid teams formed in the early part of 2010 prior to the prequalification stage of the competition. Following the issue of the draft Invitation to Submit Final Tender on the 1st of June, both teams have been beavering away to produce their plans to take Dounreay to Interim End State. One team's bid is being produced in the United States, and the other in offices near Swindon. The bids must be lodged at the end of August

Following its assessment of the bids, the NDA will announce in November which consortium has been identified as the preferred bidder. PBO transition will run from mid-December to 31 March 2012 and, subject to that being successful, contract award and share transfer will take place at the end of the financial year

During Transition, representatives of the preferred bidder team will base themselves in Caithness and will carry out a "due diligence" process to verify their understandings and information given to them during their pre-discussions and visits to site. They will also start to speak to DSRL employees and managers to introduce themselves, and outline their plans for the site. However, it is very important to emphasise that the current DSRL management team remain in sole charge right up to the date of Share Transfer. During this period, it is essential that communication between the different parties is clear to ensure a smooth handover

Graeme Rankin, the NDA's Competition Programme Manager, said: "Following bid assessment and announcement of the preferred bidder, the transition period will run from December 2011 to the end of March 2012, during which the preferred bidder's leadership team will begin to receive handover from the incumbent team. We are pleased at the way DSRL staff have handled the competition process so far, and their co-operation and support in the process has been essential in helping us keep to the programme. I'm looking forward to the final stages of the Dounreay competition, and very much value DSRL's continued support in this. The competition has been a lengthy process. But this is one of the most significant public sector contracts to be let in 2012, and so the complexity and thoroughness of the competition must reflect this."