



Ministry
of Defence



VULCAN Presentation to DSG

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VULCAN Background

VULCAN Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is the MOD establishment for testing and proving new designs of Nuclear Submarine pressurised water reactors (PWR).

A prototype PWR 1 reactor was operated between 1965 and 1987, but is now shut down, defuelled and subject to a care and maintenance regime.

A prototype PWR 2 reactor is still operational and is scheduled to be shut down in approximately 2015.

It was announced by Written Ministerial Statement in November 2011 that a PWR 3 prototype reactor core at VULCAN NTRE is not required.

VULCAN Background

The site is leased by the MOD from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and managed by the Naval Superintendent VULCAN (NSV).

The site is operated by Rolls-Royce under the Vulcan Trials Operation and Maintenance (VTOM) contract. This is due to expire in 2015 on completion of the core burn up.

The workforce at the site consists of 5 Royal Navy (RN) personnel working alongside approximately 260 Rolls-Royce staff and sub-contractors.

VDAD Scope

The VULCAN Defuel and Decommissioning (VDAD) Programme has been established to consider the future options for the site taking into account the risks and opportunities afforded by the decommissioning of the Dounreay site.

The VDAD programme consists of:

- VULCAN Fuel Movement Capability (VFMC) project.
- VULCAN Post Operation Phase (VPOP) project.
- VULCAN Decommissioning project.
- VULCAN Future Options study (VFO).

The VDAD programme has been given MOD approval to commence the Assessment Phase. It is estimated that this will take 3/4 years to complete. The output will be a single recommended solution for the future of the VULCAN NRTE site and management of nuclear liabilities.

VDAD Schedule

The prototype PWR2 is scheduled to be operational until approximately 2015 and following this the site will continue to be used to support the Royal Naval Submarine Programme until at least 2020.

The future of the site beyond this date is being assessed and a decision is expected at Main Gate in around 2016.

The options available range from placing the prototype facilities into care and maintenance through to decommissioning of the site and termination of the lease with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

