



NDA Monthly Update

July 2019

Summary

- Date for next NDA supply chain event
- Latest from £8.5 million R&D competition
- Landmark achievement for LLWR
- Explaining Sellafield complexities
- Welsh event focuses on NDA progress
- Sellafield supports education programme
- Dounreay in metal recycling trials
- Queen's Award honour for suppliers
- Dounreay HEU transfer to US now complete
- Sellafield awards 20-year contracts
- NDA Business Plan published
- NDA future research plans published
- £5 million pledged for harbour upgrade
- Magnox Chief Executive named
- INS launches 10-year strategy

Diary Dates:

9-10 July: NDA Annual Stakeholder Summit, Coleg Menai, Anglesey

July: NDA Annual Report and Accounts publication

18 September: NDA Group Safety and Wellbeing Awards

8-9 October: Integrated Waste Management Forum, Penrith

10 October: World Mental Health Day

December: Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) annual conference

New date and venue for supply chain event

The NDA's hugely successful annual supply chain event is being moved to a new location in the Midlands, and will next take place during the summer of 2020. Now in its ninth year, the event has been an overwhelming success in engaging with the suppliers who are so essential to achieving our decommissioning mission. Since launching in the North West, the event has attracted a total of around 10,000 visitors from more than 20 countries, representing thousands of companies both large and small. The next event will be held on 18 June 2020 at the International Centre, Telford.

[Weblink: Hold the date for next NDA supplier event](#)



Fascinating to see research projects become reality

As the £8.5 million Integrated Innovation in Nuclear Decommissioning (IIND) competition heads into the final stages, NDA Head of Technology Melanie Brownridge invited the 5 collaborative projects to outline their work. The competition, organised jointly with Innovate UK, was launched in 2017 and aims to find a single, seamless solution to access some of the most radioactive hotspots at Sellafield, then retrieve and package the waste contents.

[Weblink: Projects move from drawing board to reality](#)

Landmark success in diverting waste from repository

A landmark achievement was reached when the 11,000th container of Low Level Waste (LLW) was diverted from disposal at the UK's Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). From 2010 onwards, large quantities of LLW have been sent for alternative treatments and disposal solutions, such as metal recycling, rather than disposal at the repository. Without the diversion policy, the newest vault, Vault 9 which opened in 2010, would already have reached capacity.

[Weblink: 11,000 containers diverted](#)

Explaining Sellafield complexities

The NDA's Mark Wareing explains why Sellafield's legacy ponds and silos are some of the most complex and difficult decommissioning challenges in the world, and the progress being made in emptying their contents. The four facilities date back to the 1950s, the start of the UK nuclear industry, and have accumulated large quantities of hazardous waste and other contents over the decades.

[Weblink: Turning the corner to exciting times](#)

Welsh event focuses on NDA mission progress

An event at the Welsh Assembly showcased the NDA's decommissioning mission for communities and businesses across Wales. Hosted by Trawsfynydd Assembly Member Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, the event welcomed over 50 stakeholders from supply chain companies, Welsh Assembly and Government, trade unions, local councils and community organisations, colleges and training providers.

[Weblink: Event hosted for Welsh stakeholders](#)

Sellafield launches transformative education programme

A transformative education programme has been launched in west Cumbria, aiming to raise standards in every classroom in the region. Sellafield Ltd and the NDA are funding the £1.7 million WELL programme, which stands for Western Excellence in Learning and Leadership. It has been developed by Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Alliance of System Leaders (CASL). WELL aims to raise pupil achievements, improve teaching quality and attendance levels, and enhance student health and well-being.



[Weblink: the WELL programme](#)

Dounreay recycling trial opens door for future

Dounreay has teamed up with waste and recycling specialists to trial an alternative treatment option for the site's waste metal. Four large objects weighing a total of 66 tonnes were sent to a specialist facility for recycling as part of a feasibility study considering a different low level waste metal treatment route for recycling bulk metal items, rather than disposing of them in the site's low level waste vaults.

[Weblink: Metal recycling trial](#)

Queen's Award honour for nuclear businesses

Two NDA-supported technology businesses have won royal approval after lifting the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise for the second time. Cockermouth-based [Createc](#) and [Oxford Technologies](#) were among more than 200 UK businesses receiving the UK's top business honour, awarded annually to mark The Queen's birthday. Both businesses, which have previously won funding from NDA's research portfolio and the government's Innovate UK, have also picked up several accolades at the NDA's annual Supply Chain Awards.

[Weblink: Awards for NDA-supported supply businesses](#)

Complete: highly enriched uranium removed from Dounreay

The transfer has now been completed of around 700kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from Dounreay to the US. Completion of the complex work, part of UK commitments made at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC, was announced by the UK Government and marks an important milestone in Dounreay's decommissioning programme. The HEU will be down-blended in the US to be used as fuel in civil nuclear reactors.

[Weblink: HEU transfer completed](#)

Sellafield Ltd awards 20-year contract

Sellafield Ltd has awarded a 20-year contract to four organisations which will help deliver the site's decommissioning programme. The Programme and Project Partners (PPP) model of long-term partnerships is set up to support faster, more effective project delivery, stability in design and construction supply chains, greater workforce flexibility and local economic benefit.

[Weblink: Four organisations awarded long-term contracts](#)

NDA future research plan published

NDA has published its latest five-year R&D plan, which outlines the UK's future strategic nuclear decommissioning R&D programme, addressing common needs and opportunities across multiple sites. The plan provides information about R&D topics that NDA plans to fund, describing how these will enable strategy development, encourage innovation and maintain technical skills. The NDA has also published its Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) report 2017-18, describing research



activities commissioned directly during the period, together with case studies The DRP accounts for approximately £5 million of investment a year out of the R&D total of approx £100 million.

[Weblink: Five-year plan](#) and [DRP Report](#)

NDA Business Plan published

NDA's Business Plan has now been published following a 12-week period of consultation that ended in February. The Plan sets out key activities and expected progress for NDA's 17 nuclear sites over the next 3 years, as well as projected income and expenditure for the year ahead.

[Weblink: Business Plan finalised](#)

£5 million pledged to harbour upgrade

NDA has pledged £5 million towards a project to upgrade Scrabster Harbour, near Dounreay in the north of Scotland, improving its capacity to receive cruise ships and vessels from the offshore oil and gas industry. The improvements, worth £17 million in total, are likely to generate up to 50 new jobs, increase traffic through the port and attract visitors, boosting tourism.

[Weblink: Boost for harbour and region's economy](#)

Magnox Chief Executive announced

NDA has announced the appointment of Gwen Parry-Jones OBE as Chief Executive Officer of Magnox Ltd. The appointment is a vital step towards Magnox Ltd becoming a subsidiary of NDA in September 2019, when Gwen will officially take up her post. She joins Magnox following her role as Executive Director of Operations Development at Horizon Nuclear Power. Gwen started her career as a reactor physicist at Wylfa power station, and is the former Heysham 1 Station Director.

[Weblink: Gwen Parry-Jones named as Magnox Ltd CEO](#)

NDA subsidiary launches 10-year strategy

Seth Kybird, Managing Director of International Nuclear Services (INS), outlines how the newly launch 10-year strategy will deliver the INS vision: to be the best global provider of nuclear transport solutions in the future. INS, a subsidiary of NDA, has world-leading expertise in irradiated fuel management and transporting nuclear materials.

[Weblink: INS strategy launched](#)