



# NDA Monthly Update

August 2019

## Summary

- Suppliers invited to R&D contracts event
- Scottish event celebrates diversity
- NDA's £495,000 pledge to Anglesey plan
- NDA publishes annual report and accounts
- New approach to reporting on NDA mission
- RWM Managing Director to retire
- NDA Chairman to step down
- 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

## Diary Dates

**18 September:** NDA supplier day for R&D contracts, west Cumbria

**18 September:** NDA Group Safety and Wellbeing Awards

**19 September:** Sellafield Game Changer robotic day, Energen, Cumbria

**8-9 October:** Integrated Waste Management Forum, Penrith

**10 October:** World Mental Health Day

**December:** Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) annual conference

## Suppliers invited to R&D contracts event

A process is under way to award new NDA R&D framework contracts, with suppliers invited to find out more at an information day on 18 September in Cumbria. The contracts are part of the NDA's Direct Research Portfolio (DRP) work, which focuses on finding innovative solutions to technical challenges, developing high-level technical skills and influencing strategy.

[Weblink: Event for R&D suppliers](#)



### Scottish event celebrate equality and diversity

This year's Mey Highland Games, sponsored by the NDA, celebrated equality and diversity, and were the first of their kind to welcome adaptive athletes. NDA Chief Executive David Peattie presented three new trophies to the top female, male and adaptive athletes. STEM ambassadors from Dounreay were on hand to promote their work to inspire young people into science, technology, engineering and maths.

[Weblink: Equality takes centre stage at Scottish games](#)

### £495,000 pledge to North Anglesey economic plan

The NDA announced funding support of £495,000 to help support the County Council's North Anglesey Economic Regeneration Plan and create new economic opportunities on the island. Chief Executive David Peattie made the announcement at the third annual NDA Stakeholder Summit, which was held Coleg Menai in Llangefni. Around 200 visitors from across the UK and overseas attended the two-day event. The funding will contribute to measures aimed at boosting business activity, the supply chain and employment, increasing tourism, improving transport and infrastructure and reviving the High Street.

[Weblink: NDA's pledge to Anglesey plan](#)

### NDA publishes annual report and accounts

The NDA's annual report and accounts for 2018/19 reviews a year of progress towards the mission of cleaning up and decommissioning the UK's 17 oldest nuclear sites. The reports shows good progress continues to be made, while spending has remained below the annual budget set by government. The NDA exceeded revenue targets, generating income of £1 billion to supplement the £2.2 billion government allocation.

[Weblink: Annual accounts published](#)

### Mission progress reporting

The NDA has also launched a new approach to reporting on the progress of its mission, demonstrating how much has been achieved since 2005, and how much further remains to complete over the next 120-plus years.. The focus is on the four themes outlined in the 2016 Strategy that are common across all NDA sites and enable achievements to be measured.

[Weblink: Mission progress reporting](#)

### RWM Managing Director to retire

Bruce McKirdy, the Managing Director of NDA subsidiary Radioactive Waste Management, has announced that he will retire and leave the organisation in March 2020. Bruce has worked in the NDA since 2006, and became the first MD of RWM when it was established in 2014.

[Weblink: Retirement announced](#)



### NDA chairman to step down

NDA Chairman Tom Smith has decided not to seek a further term on the NDA Board when his term ends in February 2020. Tom will step down after seven years on the Board, with three of those as Chairman. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has started the recruitment process for his successor.

[Weblink: Chairman to step down](#)

### Extension for Sellafield clean-up contract

A framework contract which helps deliver Sellafield's decommissioning programme has been extended after three years of success. The Decommissioning Delivery Partnership (DDP) was established in 2016 and involves 17 supply chain companies working with Sellafield Ltd across 3 lots. Together they demolish redundant buildings, clean up land and remove waste from the site's legacy ponds and silos. The partnership, which has so far delivered £385 million of project work, has been extended until 2026.

[Weblink: Sellafield partnership extended to 2026](#)

### 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, such as metal recycling, rather than disposal at the repository. Without diversion, the newest vault, 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 including suppliers, Welsh Assembly and Government, trade unions, 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 the region's classrooms. Sellafield Ltd and the NDA are funding the £1.7 million WELL programme, which stands for Western Excellence in Learning and Leadership. Developed by Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Alliance of System Leaders (CASL), WELL aims to raise achievements, improve teaching and attendance, and enhance student 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](#)