

NDA Update

DSG – September 2023

UK Government

- New Secretary of State appointed at Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.
- Claire Coutinho was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education and before that Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions.
- She is Conservative MP for East Surrey.
- Minister for Nuclear and Networks, Andrew Bowie, remains in post.

NDA/Scottish Government

- New NDA secondment into Radioactive Waste Substances Team agreed.
- Oli Smith, currently working with the Magnox Waste Team, will commence August 2023.
- Follows successful initial secondment during 2022.
- Secondment will provide technical input and expertise into policy development on radioactive waste and build wider strategic relationships between NDA and Scottish Government.
- NSD Scotland project continues to progress.

Regional Stakeholder events

- Regional Innovation Roadshows held during June 2023 in Glasgow and West Cumbria.
- Over 200 stakeholders attended both.
- Glasgow event hosted by University of Strathclyde and attended by stakeholders such as Scottish Government, Regulators (ONR and SEPA), Academia, SSG members, supply chain, and students from various Universities around the country.
- Chance to highlight how NDA is using Innovation and Technology to meet decommissioning challenges.
- CPX featured heavily with presentation by Richard Murray, Site Director, on 'Re-use, Re-purposing, Supporting Regeneration' and local MSP Oliver Mundell MSP featuring in panel session at close of day.
- Thanks to DSG Chair Struan Mackie for chairing discussion panel session at UoS event in Glasgow.
- Next Innovation Roadshow will be at Bangor University in January 2024, with expected date for Virtual Summit November 2023.
- After the event in Edinburgh last September, NDA has decided that the next in-person Stakeholder Summit will be held in Cumbria in 2024.
- There will be an online, virtual Summit on 21 November this year.
- More details in the coming weeks.

NIA Week in UK Parliament

- The Nuclear Industry Association Week in Parliament took place 11-14 September.
- Once again, NDA sponsored the Skills Fair and brought graduates and apprentices to London for them to meet their local MP – and for the MPs to understand the work of the NDA in their communities.

The Global Dimension

- Decommissioning of nuclear facilities is not just a UK challenge. Most industrialised countries have a nuclear legacy and working together is a vital part of tackling the issue.
- Leaders from the US, Canada and France – together with NDA – recently committed to continuing their long-standing collaboration of clean-up of nuclear legacy sites. The sharing of best practice and technical development has been taking place over three decades.
- The UK is currently hosting a tri-lateral between UK, US and Canada, working on further collaboration between the parties.

Funding the Future

- Construction has begun at Sutherland Spaceport in Scotland, making this the first vertical launch spaceport to be built on the UK mainland
- NDA is one of a number of bodies supporting the Spaceport, which is near Dounreay.
- The development will support around 250 new employment opportunities in the Highlands and Islands over the coming years, including 40 jobs in Sutherland and Caithness.

NDA Annual Report and Accounts

- To be published after UK Parliamentary recess (September 2023)

NDA Socio-Economic Refresh

- NDA Socio-Economic Team will be contacting SSGs imminently to consult on refresh of current NDA Socio-Economic Strategy.
- Contact for information is: andrew.harper@nda.gov.uk
- Every three years, NDA reviews its socio-economic strategy to check that it is fit for purpose in helping our communities and making changes where necessary.
- There will be a formal consultation on the revised strategy, due to start before Christmas.
- All members of the SSGs are invited to take part.

Seeing in the Dark

- An evaporator cell in the Fuel Cycle Area that has been shut off for 25 years has given up its secrets to 'Spot'.
- 'Spot' is a robotic quadruped from Boston Dynamics described as a 'mobile agile robot'. It negotiated pitch-black conditions and several flights of stairs to complete this latest challenge.
- At Dounreay its mission was two-fold; to map out the 4-storey cell, collecting important radiological data for the team to use when planning the decommissioning of the facility.

SCCORS – (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances)

- Gives factual advice to Scottish Local Authorities on radiation and radioactive waste matters.
- Inactive recently due to workloads relating to COVID.
- Meeting held last December confirmed Cllr Michelle Campbell as Chair for further year with Renfrewshire Council as secretariat.
- NDA met with Chair 24th August 2023 to discuss way forward after further meeting delays.
- Further meeting arranged end of September 2023.

NDA Chair

- NDA's new Interim Chair Chris Train OBE replaced Roz Rivaz whose term of office ended in August.
- Chris has over 38 years' experience in the Energy, Utilities, Regulation and Infrastructure sectors. He has held chief executive, and other senior roles at Cadent, National Grid, Transco and Lattice. He has also sat on various European and international committees.
- He will be meeting with SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs in October.

ENDS