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Utilities in major joint-ventures to build new UK nuclear capacity

THE PROSPECT of new build in the UK took a giant step forward with a series of major joint-venture announcements by global utilities keen to be involved in the next generation of British nuclear power stations.



Story: John McNamara
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NIA member company E.ON nailed their colours to the mast by announcing a joint-venture with RWE Npower to progress new nuclear build in the UK.

The two-German-based companies see the UK as a major opportunity for development and aim to build at least six gigawatts of new nuclear generating capacity.

The 50-50 joint venture between the two, both subsidiaries of Germany's RWE and E.ON respectively, is a major boost for the UK government's plans for a new nuclear generating fleet.

The companies have stakes in 20 nuclear power plants around the world. In addition, RWE and E.ON jointly own three nuclear reactors in Germany.

And just five days later came news that Spain's Iberdrola has teamed up with Scottish and Southern Energy in another major joint-venture aimed at building nuclear stations in Britain.

The companies said their first priority was in securing suitable sites for development – and they also didn't rule out the possibility of working with other partners.

E.ON, RWE and Iberdrola are all part of the NIA's Justification application which is now out for public consultation.

The fast-developing picture of what new build consortia will look like was enhanced by a further announcement of a

major new build partnership just as Industry Link went to press.

GDF Suez and Iberdrola entered into a partnership to jointly develop UK nuclear capacity. The partnership will form one half of the joint-venture with Scottish & Southern Energy.

In a joint announcement by GDF and Iberdrola, the companies said: "We intend to participate in the sale of nuclear sites by the NDA and EDF."



Energy Minister Mike O'Brien makes his point in a powerful speech backing the UK nuclear industry at the NIA's flagship Energy Choices conference. O'Brien said government would work closely with industry to develop a new generation of nuclear plants in the UK. His speech was received warmly by more than 300 delegates. For more pictures of Energy Choices see centre pages

Exclusive interview with Energy Minister Mike O'Brien – see page 6

Editor's Eye



By: John McNamara
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Welcome to the first 2009 issue of Industry Link, the magazine of the UK's Nuclear Industry Association.

We've got a bumper 16-page issue for you to enjoy as so much has happened in the civil nuclear arena since our last issue in November that it's pretty difficult to know where to start!

December is traditionally a busy month for us and you will find coverage of our Energy Choices '08 conference in a special pictorial centre-page spread. This year the feedback from the conference has been stellar. Main sponsors, exhibitors and delegates have all shared their views of the NIA's flagship event which took place at Church House, Westminster on 4 December. We were lucky to attract very high-calibre speakers and the conference, by common consent "really worked". I hope those of you who attended enjoy the reminder – and that it also whets the appetite of those unable to attend for next year's event (yes, we're already working on it! Energy Choices '09, Thursday 3 December, Church House – more details to follow).

The NIA's Justification Application was put out for public consultation before Christmas – an important legal milestone on the path to new nuclear build – and during January and February there has been a whole host of major nuclear announcements. The completion of the British Energy sale, the announcement of joint-ventures between E.ON and RWE, and then Scottish & Southern and Iberdrola, were big news. So was the NDA's announcement regarding putting sites forward for new build, and the government's updates on Strategic Siting and recommendations on the future of the NII.

There's been plenty happening to our member companies too and we've tried to include the most interesting and relevant updates from around the nuclear patch.

I do hope you enjoy Industry Link – and if you would like to put articles forward for our next issue in May please forward to me at john.mcnamara@niauk.org.

Here's to an exciting, and prosperous 2009!

CBI boss urges action to secure UK supply

John Cridland, the deputy Director-General of employers organisation CBI has called for urgent action to improve the UK's energy security.

Mr. Cridland said recent disruptions to the European gas supply, caused by continued international wrangling between the Kremlin and Ukraine underlined the huge importance of taking "urgent action to increase our energy security."

"As well as boosting our gas storage capacity, we need to bring online a new generation of nuclear power plants, and embrace more wind and tidal power," he said.

His comments came in the wake of the most recent spat between Moscow and Kiev which resulted in gas flow being shut-off and causing power rationing further down the line in several European countries, most notably Bulgaria.

Mr. Cridland added: "It is unfortunate that in recent years planning delays have held back several large gas storage projects which could have delivered a substantial increase in our gas storage capacity."

"Ministers now need to agree an early deadline for publishing national planning statements for nuclear power, gas storage and offshore wind and tidal power as a matter of urgency so the UK can move towards achieving much greater energy security and reducing our dependence on imported gas."



The CBI's John Cridland

Prince Andrew to head UK nuclear export drive

PRINCE ANDREW hosted a lunch meeting for leading lights in the nuclear industry in a bid to help promote UK nuclear skills abroad.

The Prince, who is already a UK special representative for international trade and investment brought industry leaders together to talk on opportunities for UK nuclear companies abroad.



Prince Andrew during a recent visit to NIA member Costain

Lord O'Neill, the NIA's chairman was invited to the get-together.

He said: "a key part of the government's focus is opportunities abroad for UK nuclear companies in what is a global nuclear renaissance. Having Prince Andrew help promote UK nuclear expertise abroad is a real boost for the industry."

Sellafield in the running as Brown backs “crucial” new nuclear

PRIME MINISTER Gordon Brown welcomed an NDA announcement that it expects to nominate land near four existing nuclear sites for possible new-build.



Story: John McNamara
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During a visit to Sellafield with local MP Jamie Reed Mr. Brown once again gave a ringing endorsement to new nuclear development.

Four sites at Sellafield, Wylfa in north Wales, Oldbury in Gloucestershire and Bradwell in Essex are expected to be put forward by the NDA for consideration under the government's Strategic Siting Assessment (SSA) process, set up to identify sites suitable for nuclear new build.

The key purpose of the SSA is to shorten the planning process for new units by addressing strategic siting issues at the beginning of the process. This would avoid unnecessary discussion during each local planning application.

When the SSA process is complete a 'national policy statement' on nuclear will be set out by the government in late 2009 or early 2010 and include a list of sites considered suitable.



Gordon Brown at the Sellafield press conference

Mr Brown said: “Nuclear is crucial to our low carbon future; it is crucial to our energy security and at the same time it represents a massive opportunity for the UK economy and jobs. Industry is investing billions into the UK economy, jobs are being created and supply chain opportunities are developing.”

“The NDA's announcement today on potential new build sites is good news and I am pleased to be here in Sellafield, to welcome this. During construction, each new station would bring as many as 9,000 jobs, create up to 1,000 skilled long-term jobs when operational, and be worth about £2 billion to the surrounding region and wider economy. With such deep-rooted ties to the nuclear industry Sellafield is in a strong position to benefit.”

Unite's Derek Simpson backed the PM and said new nuclear build addressed the concerns of “real-life people” who want cheaper household bills.

He said: “Building a new generation of nuclear-powered stations will create thousands of jobs in manufacturing in the UK. Nuclear energy can reduce our reliance on foreign gas and oil and start to reduce household bills by 2015.”

Minister of State for Energy Mike O'Brien also gave Sellafield a vote of confidence.

He said: “It is well placed to benefit from the UK's nuclear renaissance; it is home to our nuclear skills, home to our nuclear expertise and home to many of our key facilities. Like all sites, the suitability of Sellafield will be assessed against the government's rigorous siting criteria.”

The visit angered Greenpeace who claimed nuclear was too expensive. Nathan Argent criticised the PM. He said: “Instead, Brown should be making a clever investment in energy efficiency.”

The government's consultation on the SSA process ended in November 2008.



VT Nuclear Services Secures Two New Build Contracts

NIA MEMBER VT Nuclear Services has secured two five-year framework contracts to support the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) in the licensing of new reactors in the UK.

VT Nuclear Services will provide support in the areas of Safety and Quality Assurance Management and Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning. This important work will help enable the NII's Generic Design Assessment (GDA) process and the subsequent site specific licensing process for nuclear new build. Technical assessment support may also be required for

the delivery of the NII's programme of work with existing licensees.

“These high-quality contracts demonstrate that we have the exceptional intellectual, technical and engineering expertise needed to help deliver the next generation of nuclear reactors,” said John Chubb, managing director of VT Nuclear Services.

“The long-term nature will enable us to build a strong partnership with the NII that we know is the best approach to ensuring our customers are delighted with the work we do.”

NIA welcomes French reactor – and urges focus on UK delivery

The Nuclear Industry Association welcomed President Sarkozy's announcement that a second European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR) is to be built in France – and urged greater focus on delivery of new generating capacity for the UK.

The NIA, the UK nuclear trade association which represents more than 160 UK-based nuclear companies and some 80,000 British nuclear workers welcomed the new development, and said the challenge of delivering new nuclear for Britain must remain a "top priority for industry and government."

Construction of Areva's 1,600-megawatt third generation reactor unit is expected to start in 2012 at the existing Penly nuclear power plant site in northern France, which houses two pressurised water reactor units.

The new unit is expected to start operation by 2017. NIA member company Areva said the EPR reactor design had been selected for its economic and environmental performance and for a level of safety "unmatched in the market today".

NIA Chief Executive Keith Parker welcomed the news – and urged greater focus on delivering energy security for the UK.

"This is good news and underlines nuclear's benefits of delivering energy security and stably-priced, low carbon generation. There is a worldwide nuclear renaissance and it is essential the UK is well-placed to benefit," he said.

"New nuclear for the UK is now firm government policy and the industry must work ever more closely with government to maintain the momentum and ensure we deliver these benefits to Britain."

A project management company will be established by Electricite de France (EDF) as a majority shareholder with GDF Suez and will be open to other investment partners. EDF will present details of the project for public debate in the coming weeks.

In December 2007, EDF announced the start of construction of the first EPR in France, Flamanville-3 in Normandy.

The EPR is also one of the reactor designs submitted to UK regulators for generic design assessment as part of that country's plans for nuclear new build.

The move was also welcomed by Santiago San Antonio, Director-General of the European nuclear association, FORATOM.

He said: "There is now a total of nine new nuclear units being built across Europe. This emphasises that the nuclear revival is not only sustainable but also gaining momentum."



Keith Parker speaking at Energy Choices

Major investment in Dounreay disposal vaults

Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) has received local authority planning permission for new facilities for managing low-level radioactive waste.

The project, which will entail a £110m investment, will see DSRL build a series of disposal vaults adjacent to the site.

This new development will provide safe, long-term management facilities for up to 175,000 cubic metres of low-level waste that will result from progress in decommissioning at Dounreay.

DSRL managing director Simon Middlemas commented, "Waste is the product of decommissioning and its management to the highest standards of safety and environmental protection is an essential part of closing down this site."

The application will now go to Scottish Ministers for consideration.

Meanwhile, the detailed emergency planning zone around the site of the former Dounreay prototype fast reactor in Scotland has been reduced from 5 to 1.15 kilometers.

DSRL has said that the change is based on a new assessment and reflects progressive decommissioning of the Dounreay site. This change has seen the number of houses within the exclusion zone fall from 200 to just 5.

Dounreay was the UK's centre of fast reactor research and development from 1954 to 1994. Decommissioning of the site is scheduled to be completed by 2033.

Westinghouse move forward

The end of 2008 saw notable developments for NIA member company Westinghouse. The reactor vendor – one of only two currently fully involved in GDA – announced the appointment of former BNFL Director David Bonser as Chairman of Westinghouse UK. Bonser was immediately thrust to the forefront of Westinghouse's activities, giving a key speech to the NIA's Energy Choices '08 conference.

In further developments for the company, Westinghouse announced in January that along with The Shaw Group Inc.'s Power Group it has signed an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract with Progress Energy of Florida to provide two Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear power units at Levy County in Florida.

Aris Candris, Westinghouse president and CEO, commented that "Westinghouse and our partner Shaw will work diligently with Progress Energy to build and then operate and maintain these plants in a manner that is in the best interests of all parties."

British Energy deal goes through

AFTER MONTHS of speculation the acquisition of NIA member company British Energy by EDF was completed in January in what many observers claimed is the biggest single investment in the UK by a single company.



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The completion of the £12.5 billion purchase, which followed conditional regulatory clearance by the European Commission during December, was warmly welcomed by the UK government.

Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business said the massive deal opened the way for new nuclear build in Britain which "should provide many billions of pounds more opportunity for the UK supply chain".

The purchase is seen by many as a crucial step in the journey towards new nuclear build.

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband was also quick to welcome the move.

He said: "Given the challenge of climate change and energy security, it is right to embrace nuclear power as one of the technologies that can serve us in the future. Today's announcement marks an important step on the path to new nuclear power becoming a reality, just a year after we published the Nuclear Energy White Paper."

The sale, which includes the 36 percent stake in BE held by the UK government's Nuclear Liabilities Fund, raises about £4.4 billion towards the cost of decommissioning BE's existing nuclear power plants.

As part of the deal, EDF has pledged to:

- * Divest British Energy's coal fired power plant at Eggborough and divest EDF Energy plc's gas fired power plant at Sutton Bridge
- * Sell 5 to 10 terawatt hours of electricity per year in the UK during the period 2012 to 2015;
- * Give up one of the combined group's three grid connection agreements at Hinkley Point.



EDF has also committed to divest, without conditions, one site potentially suitable for the construction and operation of new electricity production facilities adjacent to existing British Energy nuclear plants at either Heysham in Lancashire or Dungeness in Kent, at the option of the purchaser. This commitment is in addition to the existing conditional commitments to sell land at Wylfa in Wales and Bradwell in eastern England.

Vincent de Rivaz, CEO of the new combined company, announced his executive team shortly after the news broke, with Bill Coley continuing to head British Energy

An integration is now underway to combine the two outfits.

Vincent de Rivaz said: "This deal is also a key step in EDF's strategy to play a leading role in the global nuclear revival, in securing a bright future for British Energy and its employees and in bringing forward the new nuclear build in the UK ."

"We can now move forward with our plans to build four new EPRs by 2025. Together we have the expertise, financial capacity, suitable sites and determination to deliver these, with the first operational by the end of 2017."



Lord Mandelson welcomes the British Energy deal

International nuclear communications conference visits Edinburgh

Global nuclear communications will be debated at a major nuclear PR conference heading to the UK.

More than 200 nuclear PR specialists will meet in Edinburgh as part of the global PIME (Public Information and Materials Exchange) conference.

The annual event, organised by the European Nuclear Society and the NIA will look closely at crisis communications, public attitudes towards the worldwide renaissance in nuclear power, and media and community engagement issues.

The conference, in its 21st year, comes to the UK for the first-time in recognition of the step-change in public and political opinion towards nuclear in Britain.

The event will include workshops and keynote speeches from prominent politicians and industry insiders. The conference is



endorsed by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which hosted the event two years ago in Vienna.

The event is being coordinated in the UK by the NIA's John McNamara who said securing the conference was a reflection of the recent success of the UK nuclear industry's communications and messaging.

"This is a major boost for everyone working in nuclear PR in the UK. The very top global communicators from around the world will gather to compare notes on a whole range of issues – with the backdrop being the huge shift in opinion here and the UK government's decision to say yes to new nuclear."

In My View...

Editor John McNamara talks to Energy Minister Mike O'Brien about the UK's nuclear future



Energy Minister Mike O'Brien addresses the NIA's Energy Choices conference

How do you see the journey to new nuclear build developing in the UK – are we on course?

This Government decided to go nuclear as part of our energy mix after decades of reluctance following Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. Advances in reactor design and operation, the threat of climate change and the peaking of North Sea oil and gas have changed the equation.

The year has started with huge investment by industry, operators forming joint ventures and supply chain companies hungry to have their slice of the action. All these developments show new nuclear power is becoming a reality, just a year after the White Paper.

In the Climate Change Act, the Energy Act and the Planning Act we passed in

October, we have created an unprecedented platform of laws to support the energy revolution we need.

But we should be under no illusion. The years ahead are going to be tough. There is simply a huge amount of work that both industry and Government need to undertake to enable new nuclear power stations to be generating electricity by 2018. And we know that some operators want to beat that date. There will be challenges; the licensing timetable, dealing with supply chain pinch-points and grid connections, to name but a few. And we need to be mindful that the general public, whilst increasingly understanding of why we think we need new nuclear, heavily qualify any support with concerns around safety, waste and so-on. We must remain sensitive to these.

But I think we can deal with these challenges, you tell me we can do it and the updated roadmap that we published in late January shows how if we work together we can keep on track.

The announcement by the French President last week of a second new nuclear reactor in France brings the number of new units under construction in Europe to nine – are you confident the UK will be able to deliver in time?

The news from the Elysee recently that a second EPR would be built at Penly, ready for 2017, reminds us of the global competition for people and for parts.

I am confident that if we continue to work together as we have been, constructively and without taking our eye off the ball, we will have new nuclear electricity by the end of the next decade. We will be ramping up our work to galvanise the supply chain this year and the Skills Academy and Cogent are driving forward the thinking needed on this.

The Nuclear Development Forum lets us work through issues together, before they become problems. The Forum is working well, the mood in the room at the meeting in January was positive and both Ed Miliband and I are looking forward to the next one.

Where do you see the blockers/areas of difficulty in developing new nuclear in the UK?

No blockers, only challenges. The main challenge I think both Government and industry agree on is Generic Design Assessment and to some extent, licensing in general. The timetable on this remains challenging and we know the regulators face resource issues. We are acting on this. We've published a summary of Tim Stone's Regulatory Review report and have responded explaining how we are working to improve recruitment and retention.

We also face the challenge of a brand new planning system. Whilst nuclear probably won't be the very first National Policy Statement, it will be an early one.

What areas particularly do you see the Office for Nuclear Development (OND) concentrating on over the next 12 months

One of the big challenges this year will be managing the processes around siting. The OND has already issued a call for site nominations which will be

closing on 31 March. We will be publishing the nominations we get, giving the public the opportunity to comment on them and then, with expert advice, assessing the applications. We'll then need to produce a draft National Nuclear Policy Statement and we'll be consulting on this. Throughout the process we want to be giving people the opportunity to input their views.

We'll also be continuing to work with the regulators, keeping GDA to timetable and, as I have said we'll be ramping up our work on the supply chain.

What more can the nuclear industry do to work alongside the UK government in helping to enable nuclear?

What we need from the industry and of course other stakeholders, is their continued commitment to working with us. We need to address issues together before they become problems.

In addition, as I said at the NIA conference late last year, industry needs to be transparent and open, willing to engage with critics and to learn the lessons from the past. From the meetings I have had with many of you so far, I know these are things that you are committed to.

Next month's manufacturing/supply chain event will be the start of a new collaboration between industry and government – how do you see this developing?

Galvanising the supply chain is firmly on my agenda. Primarily of course this is to ensure nuclear new build can happen, but these massive opportunities, both here and overseas, are even more welcomed now we are in a credit crunch world.

I know my officials in the OND have been working closely with the NIA on this event and I am looking forward to speaking at it.

The event will be a huge opportunity to understand the opportunities more and I encourage NIA members to attend. It will bring together utilities, vendors, and tier one contractors with the UK manufacturing supply chain. In terms of what happens next, I know the NIA are looking at a full programme of activity, including conferences, workshops and other events, for the coming two years. This programme will be key as we work with you to raise awareness of the multi-billion pound opportunity on offer to the UK supply chain.

Is the UK nuclear industry doing enough on the skills issue to attract the right workers for the next generation of nuclear in the UK?

There is no doubt that the nuclear industry, like in fact much of the energy sector, faces a skills problem. But my view and the view I think of the skills bodies is that we have time to sort it out if we work together. Fundamental to this will be understanding the scale of the problem. That's why Cogent's work to map what nuclear skills the UK needs over the next twenty years is so important. This will be published in the summer of this year and we can then consider whether we need further action.

Addressing the "nuclear talent crunch"

NIA MEMBER Korn-Ferry International has published a major "white paper" aimed at addressing the potential "talent crunch" a worldwide nuclear renaissance might bring.

The global management solutions company, which has 90 offices in 39 countries says that at a time of huge growth for the nuclear sector a key challenge will be the constraint of talent supply, especially in leadership and supply chain areas.

Its report, "Leading Talent Management in the Nuclear Industry" says industry requires a mix of long and short-term initiatives, including partnerships that help and sustain future skills supply, leadership development programmes and new external strategies aimed at attracting and retaining the best recruits.

The report, by authors Gordon Orlikow, Yannick Binvel, Iain Manson and Richard Preng, takes industry case-studies and urges action to "develop comprehensive leadership development programmes to identify the next generation of executives and innovative external sourcing practices."

The report says to avoid a talent crunch, the nuclear industry should "forge partnerships with industry groups, academic institutions and governmental agencies to develop and sustain the nuclear talent pool."

The full report is available at www.kornferry.com

Recession-beating training fund available to Nuclear Industry

THE GOVERNMENT and Cogent Sector Skills Council is making £50m available for employers in the national skills council's vital science-using sector (chemicals, pharmaceuticals, nuclear, oil and gas, petroleum and polymers).



Story: John McNamara
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Through this £50m Training Fund, Cogent is focussing the support and funding available through *Train to Gain* to take action in tough economic times.

The ring-fenced fund is aimed at both the training of new entrants and apprentices and qualifying existing workers in the nuclear industry. It is part of an offer which includes free advice, as well as fully-funded or low-cost training.

The offer is directed at the specific skills needs of the sector and a range of technical qualifications which embed skills for competitiveness within companies. Training in business improvement as well as management and leadership is also covered.

Cogent CEO Joanna Woolf said: "We know that many companies are feeling the pain: but a downturn can provide the opportunity to realise long-term gain. This fund supports an investment in people so that organisations are even stronger when times improve."

Cogent is urging employers to build their talent pool through the fund and take advantage of the free advice that goes with it.

Training supports people in multi-tasking and taking on more responsibility, which in turn keeps the demand for new staff under check. In addition, training and development is motivating, supporting morale in difficult times.



NSAN's Jean Llewellyn

Employers can obtain access to the fund through Cogent's partner the National Skills Academy Nuclear which can help them to understand their business's skills needs and direct them to the right solutions through *Train to Gain* and a network of high-quality training providers.

Jean Llewellyn, CEO of the Skills Academy said: "The Government is making skills in the nuclear industry a top priority and this fund is supporting companies right across the sector, in all areas, from decommissioning to new build. Here at the Academy we can support employers in developing an action plan and in their endeavours to get new talent on board and upskill the existing workforce."

To find out more about the funding and advice on offer employers can email: traintogain@nuclear.nsacademy.co.uk or phone on 0845 607 0140.

Nuclear dialogue reaches summit

January saw the culmination of the year-long Dods *nuclear dialogue project*, a series of political engagements in which the NIA has been a key partner.

The project involved seven partners coming together to run a series of events aimed at stimulating awareness of the nuclear industry throughout the body politic. It involved hosting three party conference fringe events and three round-table Delphi discussion groups amongst much else.

The final event of the project was the Dods Nuclear Summit – a select one day conference at which senior individuals from throughout the industry were able to engage key figures from the political world.

NIA was – as ever – at the heart of proceedings, with Lord O'Neill giving a keynote address; and Keith Parker taking part in an afternoon panel session alongside former Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks.

The day saw positive comments from Conservative Shadow Energy Minister Charles Hendry, and prominent Liberal Democrat MP Lembit Öpik; whilst newly appointed Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Simon Hughes outlined his party's perspective on the nuclear debate.

The project has been a great success, and has made much headway towards its aim of stimulating further debate on nuclear throughout the political arena.

Ultra awarded British Energy control system contract

Ultra Electronics announces that it has been awarded a contract in the UK for the provision of high integrity control systems within British Energy's nuclear power stations.

The contract from British Energy is to design, manufacture and install facilities for the controlled injection of carbonyl sulphide (COS) gas into the coolant systems of both the reactors at Torness Power Station. Ultra's systems are scheduled to be in service in 2010. Ultra's Command & Control Systems business, based near High Wycombe, will lead the programme with significant technical input from the Group's Precision Air Systems business based near Gloucester.

Malcolm Twist, Head of Supply Chain and Outage at British Energy said:

"We have been working with Ultra for a number of years now and recognise the company as a strategic supplier in the control and instrumentation sector of our business. We are very pleased with the way Ultra has approached the COS Gas Injection programme – taking a pro-active, fleet-wide stance in their tender. The COS Gas Injection System contract will permit BE and Ultra to continue to build closer business relationships."

Chris Binsley, Nuclear Systems Director at Ultra commented:

"This contract underlines Ultra's position as a key supplier to the nuclear industry. The Group already supplies high integrity plant protection equipment and in-core monitoring systems. This contract extends Ultra's reach into high pressure gas systems in the nuclear industry by building on existing skills within the business."

Energy Choices a hit with o



Dick Razz

THE NIA's flagship conference, *Energy Choices '08 – From Here to Delivery* was a major hit with over 300 delegates.

The traditional year-ending event was held at Church House, Westminster and attracted some top-level speakers including energy minister Mike O'Brien, Sir David King, Lady Barbara Judge, Jean Llewellyn, Bill Coley, Luc Oursel, Paul Golby and Jim Al-Khallili.

The conference looked at the road map to delivering new nuclear build in the UK and focussed on skills, investment, current political thinking on energy and the worldwide nuclear renaissance.

Bell Pottinger's Kevin Read expertly chaired the morning session before the BBC's veteran broadcaster John Humphrys took centre stage in the afternoon session to host a political Question Time with shadow energy minister Charles Hendry, Adam Ingram from Labour and Steve Webb from the LibDems.

Keith Parker, chief executive of the NIA said the conference was growing in stature and was now widely recognised as a key sounding board between industry, government and other key stakeholders.

"Every year Energy Choices gets bigger and better. The quality of the speakers this year was excellent and I would like to thank the NIA team for their sterling work in making it such a huge success."

The conference was followed in the evening by the NIA/Nuclear Institute's annual dinner at the Royal Lancaster hotel, where some 1200 industry insiders gathered to hear speeches by NIA chairman Lord O'Neill and Malcolm Wicks.



Barbara Judge makes her point



Professor Sir David King



Jean Llewellyn



The wonderful setting at Church House

New man at Sellafield



Bill Poulson

Bill Poulson was appointed as Managing Director and Chairman of the Sellafield Site Licence Company in January to replace Bob Pedde who reluctantly stepped down because of a family health issue.

Bill has 35 years of engineering, operations and general management experience in the nuclear industry including executive site management throughout the U.S. Department of Energy Complex.

At the U.S Department of Energy Savannah River Site Bill led key programmes including the management and operations organisation. At the same site Bill also managed the High Level Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel divisions delivering \$25million in validated cost reductions to the Department of Energy.

In his role as General Manager of the \$1.39billion West Valley Demonstration Project he received a Department of Energy award for demonstrating 'exemplary standards in safe operation' of the vitrification system.

New look Tessella re-brands

NIA member Tessella, the information technology and consulting services company has announced the launch of Tessella consultancy services and the rollout of a new visual identity to reflect this broader business capability.

As part of the initiative the company name will be changed to Tessella plc. The company was previously known as Tessella Support Services plc.

Kevin Gell, managing director, said "Since our foundation in 1980, Tessella has successfully delivered many application development and system integration projects to R&D, science and engineering leaders."

"Over time, however, our assignments have deepened both in scope and nature. Increasingly we provide clients a wider range of services like consultancy and outsourcing. We expect this part of our business to grow and want our name and brand to reflect this."

NIA leads trade mission to India

The NIA took a leading role in a recent UK civil nuclear delegation to India where Lord Mandelson made a keynote speech championing British nuclear expertise.

NIA Chief Executive Keith Parker led the collaborative visit which included 17 member companies including AMEC, Serco, A N Tech, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Thompson Valves, Centronic, Halcrow, Rolls-Royce, Urenco, Lloyds Register, Weir Power, Herbert Smith, CMS Cameron McKenna, Simmons & Simmons and Corporate Risk Associates Ltd. The University of Sheffield was also represented and the trip was facilitated by UK Trade & Investment.

The group visited New Delhi where they attended a dinner at the High Commissioner's residence.

Lord Mandelson chaired a session with India's Minister of Power Jairam Ramesh before Keith Parker gave a presentation on the UK nuclear scene and capabilities among UK companies.

The group moved on to Mumbai where they heard from Dr Anil Kakodkar, head of India's Atomic Energy Commission, who reports direct to the Indian Prime Minister.

Networking with Indian nuclear companies followed before a seminar on Opportunities for Indo-UK collaborations at the city's Taj Mahal Hotel.

The group also visited the Nuclear Power Corporation and Atomic Regulatory Board.

Keith Parker said the trade mission had been invaluable and thanked both Lord Mandelson, and UK Trade & Investment for their support.

"We received an extremely positive reception from industry in India. There is undoubtedly strong interest in collaboration between UK and Indian companies and a very ambitious Indian nuclear programme. The trip did much to remind us that there are now global opportunities in civil nuclear."

The NIA will be leading another trade mission to Canada in late February. More details to follow in the next issue of Industry Link.



Keith Parker speaking during the Indian trade mission

World News



Story: John McNamara
Email: john.mcnamara@niauk.org

German nuclear output up

Output from Germany's nuclear power plants increased by nearly 6% in 2008, according to latest industry figures.

Germany's 17 operational reactor units generated 148.8 terawatt hours of electricity compared to 140.5 TWh of electricity in 2007.

The 1,400-megawatt pressurised water reactor (PWR) Isar-2 was the best individually performing plant in terms of production in 2008 generating 12.1TWh of electricity.

The overall increase in nuclear generation was mainly due to best-ever outputs from Biblis-A and Biblis-B PWRs in the state of Hessen.

Nuclear's share of output in Germany is 11.5%

A 2008 survey showed more than half of Germans are in favour of extending operating lives of nuclear plant.

Poland to go nuclear

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced the country will produce power from "one or two nuclear power plants" by 2020.

Mr Tusk said Poland had "adopted a resolution on nuclear energy" and that plans to accelerate the country's new build programme were underway.

Currently more than 90% of Poland's electricity comes from coal and 40% of its gas comes direct from Russia. The nuclear initiative is part of a range of measures aimed at diversifying Poland's energy mix.

The Poles are keen to go nuclear for the first time and feasibility and environmental impact studies are currently being carried out at nine potential sites.

Study urges Dutch decision on new nukes

The International Energy Agency has urged the Dutch government to take a decision on new nuclear build as soon as possible or risk creating uncertainty.

In its publication, 'Energy Policies of IEA Countries – the Netherlands 2008 Review', the IEA says it is "commendable that the government is beginning to consider whether nuclear could play a larger role in the country's future energy mix".

In September 2008, Dutch utility Delta announced proposals to build a second reactor unit at Borssele that the utility said could be operational by 2016.

Political observers have noted that the coalition government is split on the subject of nuclear power.

Bulgaria Poll shows strong support for new nuclear

A new poll shows strong support for construction of Bulgaria's two-unit Belene nuclear power plant.

Most Bulgarians have a positive attitude towards nuclear energy and the new plant will boost the country's economy, according to the results of the poll.

The Sova Harris agency in Bulgaria conducted the poll towards the end of 2008. Respondents were aged 18 and above.

According to the poll, 72 percent of those questioned at a national level supported Belene's construction while 97 percent of those living in the vicinity of the plant supported the project.

In January 2008, Atomstroyexport of Russia and Bulgaria's National Electric Company (NEK) signed a contract for the design, construction and commissioning of two Russian-designed VVER-1000 pressurised water reactor units at Belene.

Nuclear People



Richard Penrose,
Managing Director, NIS Ltd

Who I work for

NIS Ltd are a specialist integrated engineering company providing the design and manufacture of bespoke plant and equipment across a broad spectrum of industry. Based in Chorley, Lancashire, NIS have over 25 years of experience in the nuclear industry and have successfully delivered plants items for all stages of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

My Position

I transferred to NIS Ltd from our sister company NSG Environmental nearly 18 months ago, and as Managing Director I have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring all aspects of our business are delivered safely, cost effectively and to the customers' satisfaction. Our Nuclear sector provides more than half of our annual turnover, and since joining NIS I've been committed to driving forward the necessary business improvements that will enable us to strengthen our position as the supplier of choice to the industry.

Our Objectives

Our key objective is to build on our 25 years of experience and knowledge creating and maintaining world class performance in the design and manufacture of quality products for the nuclear industry and our other business markets. I believe this can only be achieved by the continual pursuit of excellence.

Our People, Our Environment, Our Communities and Our Industries are at the heart of everything we do, and it's imperative that we acknowledge and deliver on our responsibilities to each of them by continuing to benchmark our performance, extract learning, and adapt our working practices where necessary.

Having been in the nuclear industry as long as NIS it would be easy to sit back and rely on both our reputation and tried and tested working methods, but innovation is part of our culture and will be an essential part of our future growth.

The Future

It's an exciting time in the nuclear industry, and I'm confident that the combination of our talented resources, long standing experience and re-invigorated approach will make us ideally placed to address the challenges and seize the opportunities that will be presented by both the legacy Decommissioning and New Build markets

Government announcements mark progress towards new build

COINCIDING WITH the January meeting of the Nuclear Development Forum the government published a series of documents making progress towards new nuclear power stations in the UK.

Firstly they have opened applications for sites for new nuclear build to be put forward for approval as part of the national policy statement for nuclear. Any proposal for a site has to be supported by a credible nuclear operator before it can be assessed. Applications are open until 31 March and they will then be assessed and a definitive list published with the national policy statement. It is known that EDF will be applying for Dungeness, Hartlepool, Heysham, Hinkley Point and Sizewell and the NDA will be applying for Bradwell, Oldbury, Sellafield and Wylfa. Applicants will be required to show that they have consulted with local people and that they have considered alternative sites before deciding on the ones they have and what the reasoning is.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has also published a route map for implementation of the Planning Act and a consultation on the statutory consultees to be included in the formulation of national policy statements. This details the initial 12 statements they intend to make (including an overarching energy one, nuclear and energy networks) and timetables which shows the IPC up and running and the first statements (including nuclear) in place in early 2010.

The Office for Nuclear Development has also published:

- A leaflet 'New Nuclear Power Stations – How Sites Will Be Chosen and How You Can Have Your Say'
- The Stone Review of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's regulatory responsibilities and the Government Response;
- An indicative timeline setting out how the key parts of the new nuclear programme fit together;
- A consultations map to make it easier for the public to understand how they can "have their say" in the new nuclear programme;
- A nuclear skills map detailing the skills landscape in the UK.
- Milestones and Achievements one year on from the White Paper

It has also announced the reappointment of Tim Stone as the chairman to the OND for another 12 months.

World Nuclear Skills Conference a first for UK

HOW CAN the UK up-skill to deliver vast programmes of decommissioning, new build, defence and power generation?

Helping to provide an answer will be the 2009 'Nuclear World Class Skills Conference', being held at Manchester Central on 12 March. This will showcase the best the nuclear industry has to offer, while bringing together the workforce of today and tomorrow; students, graduates and professionals.

Aimed at organisations in the nuclear sector, teachers, colleges, universities and the industry's workforce, World Class Skills will exhibit the projects, case studies, funders and providers that are proving that the UK is a world leader in this field.

By bringing together the industry, its suppliers and future talent, opportunities to network and share knowledge will be huge. There will be three distinctive zones, each incorporating

- STEM & Skills Sustainability
- Vocational and Technical Skills
- Higher Education & Graduates

These zones will cover issues including best practice, mobility, NVQ's, studentships, STEM pressures, chartership, SQEP, graduates, talent management, apprenticeships, union learning representation and responding to tomorrow's challenges.

On the evening of the conference there will also be the high profile Skills Awards Dinner, featuring awards such as the Apprenticeship of the Year and the Foundation Degree/HND/HNC Student of the Year Award. The Skills Awards Dinner is a collaborative event organised by the Skills Academy and Cogent Sector Skills Council.

For further information on the conference, please contact:
info@nuclearskillsconference.com
+44 (0) 161 743 9212

Further information about the Skills Awards is available from www.nuclear.nscademy.co.uk/nuclear-skills-award-event.

Power Politics



Story: Simon James
Email: simon.james@niauk.org

Power politics

2008 was a busy year in Parliament with the three key bills effecting new nuclear build (Climate Change, Energy and Planning) under consideration. So at first glance 2009 could seem to be a bit easier in the political arena. However once the bills become acts (the so called primary legislation) a series of regulations and guidance is issued which implements them (the secondary legislation). Certainly in this case it will encompass some major pieces of work including the regulations for establishing a funded decommissioning plan for a new nuclear plant under the Energy Act and national planning policy statements under the Planning Act.

The national policy statements on energy, nuclear and energy networks in particular will have a large impact on the industry and will surely be high on the political agenda. Most pieces of secondary legislation are laid before parliament and become law unless MPs actively seek to block it. However these statements will be scrutinised by select committee in parliament before being formally tabled (there will also be a public consultation in advance of this). In the case of the nuclear statement this will be the closest thing that parliament gets to a specific vote on nuclear power so the debate will undoubtedly be intense. NIA will certainly play its part in that debate keeping politicians briefed on the issues raised and countering any disinformation being used by the industry's detractors.

The process of formulating the notional policy statement for nuclear started this month with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) inviting applications from organisations wishing to nominate a site to be included in the Strategic Siting Assessment for new nuclear reactors. The NDA have already indicated they will propose Bradwell, Oldbury, Sellafield and Wylfa and EDF intend to propose Dungeness, Hartlepool, Heysham, Hinkley Point and Sizewell. Once DECC have analysed the applications they will produce a definitive list for inclusion in the national policy statement. NIA continues to maintain close contacts with DECC and will keep members informed of developments via the members website.

NIA polling shows public support for nuclear is soaring

SUPPORT FOR NEW NUCLEAR power stations is soaring among the UK public following a year of intense publicity around key policy decisions – and a changing economic outlook.

The NIA's latest public opinion polling by Ipsos MORI released at Energy Choices '09 shows broadening support for new nuclear based on worries over security of supply and climate change – and energy costs.

Opposition to new nuclear power stations is at its lowest level since polling began in 2002.

And new nuclear now gets a positive rating among all demographic groups following the polling of a representative sample of nearly 2,000 people.

The key outcomes of the research are:

- 65% of the public support nuclear as part of a balanced energy mix (10% disagree)
- 44% of the public support the replacement of existing nuclear power stations, just 19% would oppose (the lowest figure recorded since polling began).
- 40% of the public would back an increased role for nuclear in the UK's energy mix, only 24% would oppose further growth (a drop of 16 points in opposition since 2005).
- Favourability to nuclear energy across the UK is at its highest peak in a decade.
- The North-West has most support – probably based on the possible economic benefits of new nuclear – Scotland and Yorkshire are least favourable – but still positive on balance.
- The public's prime concern on nuclear remains the disposal of radioactive waste.

Energy Minister Mike O'Brien said: "This research from MORI is encouraging. The public view about nuclear is changing but we must recognise that some people still have concerns about waste, safety, security and whether new nuclear would mean less renewables."

He added: "A transparent and open approach is important in building and maintaining public support for new nuclear power stations."

NIA Chief Executive Keith Parker said the findings were the result of an open and transparent dialogue with the public over the UK's future energy needs.

"The public are increasingly aware of the importance of tackling global climate change and the need to ensure secure and affordable supplies of energy for the UK."

Mr. Parker added: "These results show that the public understands the crucial role that nuclear power plays in keeping the lights on and emissions down".

On concerns over waste he said technological solutions existed and government was moving towards the creation of a long-term repository.

"We understand people's concerns in this area but we must remember our waste is professionally managed and contained - and not released into the atmosphere to cause environmental damage. Overall, people recognise the benefits of secure, low carbon and stably-priced electricity that nuclear energy provides."

New Managing Director for Springfields Fuels Limited

An organisational restructuring at Westinghouse-operated Springfields Fuels Limited has resulted in the appointment of a new Managing Director at the nuclear fuel manufacturers, near Preston.

Neil Longfellow, who recently held the position of Deputy Managing Director, Sellafield Site, in Cumbria, takes up the role of Managing Director at Springfields on 2 February 2009.

Westinghouse is currently in discussions with a number of utilities regarding their AP1000 reactor as part of the new build programme in the UK and Springfields is becoming more commercially focussed to ensure it is prepared to take advantage of any potential business opportunities arising from new nuclear build in the UK and Europe.



Neil Longfellow

With a career of almost 18 years experience in the nuclear industry, including management of nuclear operations and commercial operations, Neil is ideally equipped to lead Springfields Fuels Limited into the nuclear renaissance. He has held a number of senior operational posts at the Sellafield site, which included Head of Waste Treatment Plants and Head of Magnox Reprocessing. More recently he was Director for Commercial Recycling Operations, with responsibility for THORP Reprocessing and the Sellafield Mox Plant.

"The challenge for Springfields Fuels Limited is to maintain safe, high quality operations and demonstrate that we are a centre of excellence for nuclear fuel manufacturing, to ensure we are the supplier of choice for existing and potential future customers," said Neil.

"These are exciting times for Springfields Fuels Limited and I am looking forward to leading the business into the future."

British Energy launch charity of the year

SECRETARY of State for Health, Alan Johnson MP formally announced the partnership between British Energy and the MS Society, paying tribute to the work of both organisations.

Over 150 guests attended the reception held on the Terrace of the House of Commons to launch British Energy's charity of the year. The event was hosted by East Lothian MP Anne Moffat and guests included a variety of MPs and Paralympian athletes Anne Dunham and Stephanie Millward.

In addition to the Secretary of State for Health, speakers at the event included Tony Kennan (Chairman of the MS Society), Bill Coley (British Energy CEO) and Phil Waterhouse (British Energy).

The Secretary of State for Health said: "I am delighted that British Energy employees have chosen the MS Society as their Charity of The Year. The MS Society makes a huge contribution to the lives of so many people around the UK, and the involvement of those in British Energy will be a considerable boost to the Society's excellent efforts."

Phil Waterhouse, an IMD business solutions manager based at Dungeness had the biggest reaction of the evening with his heartfelt speech about his personal experiences living with MS (Multiple sclerosis) and working for British Energy. Phil highlighted how BE's Human Performance tools had been invaluable to him as he learned to live with MS both within and outside work.

Phil's gratitude for the way British Energy helped him get back to work following his diagnosis prompted him to get heavily

involved with the new partnership. "I felt that it was a great opportunity to thank the company for the support for my family and myself through my initial diagnosis and my relapse last year. My experience demonstrates that by having a supportive company behind an MS sufferer, it is still possible to be a valued team member within the working environment."

The partnership got off to the perfect start. Following the speeches Bill Coley handed over a cheque for £34,000 to Tony Kennan, highlighting the tremendous effort already put in by staff in the first six weeks of the partnership.



Alan Johnson MP with Bill Coley, Tony Keenan and Anne Moffat MP

Fluor breaks ground on new HQ

KEY GOVERNMENT officials and local dignitaries joined Fluor executives at the official ground-breaking ceremony for the company's new flagship UK headquarters in Farnborough.

Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform welcomed the move and paid tribute to Fluor's decision.

He said: "This will be a world-class centre of excellence in Farnborough. The jobs and skills that this sustains will help strengthen Britain's capacity as a world leader in engineering."

"The sector is vital to the UK's future success, and we welcome Fluor's investment. I am gladdened that a well-regarded global business such as Fluor is placing the UK at the heart of its operations."

David Seaton, president of Fluor Corporation's Energy & Chemicals Group explained the company's motivation.

"Relocating to Farnborough will help Fluor with recruiting and retaining employees, commuting to and from work, realising energy efficiencies as well as having access to world class amenities. We look forward to being an active corporate citizen in the region."

"Today is a great day for Fluor and for our UK employees." said Ian Thomas, Managing Director of Fluor.

"For more than 50 years, Fluor has been active in many key UK markets such as energy and chemicals; power; renewable energy; manufacturing and life sciences; nuclear; transportation and telecommunications. In the UK, we have nearly 1,800 employees working for clients from around the globe helping them meet the needs of their customers in diverse end markets. Farnborough is the ideal place for Fluor to execute our work of behalf of these clients."

Construction of the new campus is now underway, with completion expected by mid-2010. Fluor has been headquartered in Camberley

since the mid-1980s and has maintained a permanent operation centre in the UK for more than 50 years.

Fluor's new UK headquarters will include a state-of-the art, four-building complex comprising approximately 210,000 square feet.



(L-R) Mr. Ian A. Thomas OBE, Managing Director of Fluor Limited; Rt. Hon. Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; Mr. Ian Coull, Chief Executive of Segro

Membership News



Story: Amanda Macmillan
Email: amanda.macmillan@niauk.org

A key priority for NIA this year is to help companies in the UK nuclear supply chain to make a major contribution to the global renaissance and establish the UK as a major global player in civil nuclear programmes around the world.

At the Nuclear Development Forum meeting on 27 January 2009 chaired by Ed Miliband, the DECC Secretary of State, it was announced that the NIA and the Office of Nuclear Development (OND) "will work closely to roll out a 'supply chain development programme' – a 2 year programme starting this year with the aim of strengthening and promoting the capability of the UK supply chain."

Through a series of national activities led and co-ordinated by the NIA the programme aims to raise awareness among UK supply chain companies of the opportunities being generated by the revival of interest in nuclear energy throughout the world, and provide them with high quality information, advice and assistance to enable them to play a full role in future nuclear development at home and overseas

The launch event for the programme will be held on 3 March at Rolls-Royce, Derby in conjunction with the Special Metals Forum, Office of Nuclear Development, BERR Manufacturing and Rolls-Royce. Details can be found on the NIA website www.niauk.org and follow the right tab to events and conferences.

NIA members wishing to receive **early e-notification's** of future events, workshops and seminars, please register with nikki.powney@niauk.org.

Don't forget to check out the improved dedicated members' area, where up-to-date industry information can be easily located. Please contact stephanie.longland@niauk.org to request a reminder of your NIA corporate membership login details.

Nuclear honours



Mike Parker

Some of the nuclear industry's most respected figures were rewarded for their services to the industry in the 2009 Queen's New Year honours list.

BNFL CEO Mike Parker was awarded the CBE, whilst Chairman of *Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd* Stephen White was awarded the OBE. NIA offers our most sincere congratulations to both, and thanks them for their outstanding services to the industry.

ONET Group buy Gravatom

NIA MEMBER company Gravatom, the British-based nuclear engineering company, has been acquired by corporate services providers, ONET Group.

Under the terms of the deal, Gravatom – which employs around 130 people at its manufacturing sites in Hampshire and West Cumbria - will become part of ONET Technologies, the specialist nuclear and engineering division of ONET Group.

President of ONET Technologies and incoming Gravatom MD Dominique Mouillot, said the company had acquired Gravatom, "as part of an ambitious strategy to expand in the UK and exploit the opportunities for nuclear decommissioning and new build."

Former MD of Gravatom Dave Barker, commented: "The acquisition is fantastic news for Gravatom. ONET Technologies is a highly respected, progressive company committed to strengthening Gravatom's position in the UK."

Hima-Sella introduces 24/7 technical support Call Centre

NIA MEMBER and systems integration specialist Hima-Sella has introduced a dedicated 24/7 technical support call centre for clients.

By calling the support line – 0161 425 6648 – clients will be put straight through to an experienced member of the Hima-Sella support team, who can answer questions or talk customers through a range of potential areas of difficulty with their installed systems, such as an unexplained error code or an unexpected plant trip.

Should a suitable engineer not be available immediately, Hima-Sella guarantees a call-back within 30 minutes.

Mick Stevens is Technical Support Manager at Hima-Sella.

He said: "We believe this is an exciting development for Hima-Sella and for our clients. We are now on-call 24 hours a day, and seven days a week."

Jacobs acquire share in AWE

NIA MEMBER Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. announced it has agreed to acquire a one-third share in AWE Management Limited (AWEML) from British Nuclear Fuels plc (BNFL).

The terms of the deal were not disclosed.

AWEML, a company founded in 2000, is a joint venture between BNFL, Lockheed Martin and Serco to manage the Atomic Weapons Establishment on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence. Jacobs has been serving as a strategic supplier to AWE.

Jacobs President and CEO Craig Martin said: "We are excited to expand our strategic relationship with AWEML and become partners with Lockheed Martin and Serco. We are now able to offer the Ministry of Defence a much broader range of services to support their mission."

Jacobs, with over 57,000 employees and revenues exceeding \$11.0 billion, provides technical, professional, and construction services globally.

New NIA Members

ESR Technology Ltd

ESR Technology provides engineering, safety and risk management services to a wide range of utilities and power generation companies. Their expertise and technical support has played a key role in enabling customers to operate and maintain their plant more effectively – improving reliability and minimising costs.

Allen & Overy LLP

Allen & Overy provide legal advice across relevant practice areas of projects (new build), corporate (mergers and acquisitions) and environment (waste and decommissioning).

For more than twenty years Allen & Overy has been an active adviser to the UK nuclear sector. Their most significant nuclear advice to date involved the privatisation of British Energy, the restructuring of the UK nuclear sector and advising a host state on the implementation of its nuclear power programme

International Nuclear Services Ltd

International Nuclear Services Ltd (INS) manages the contracts and logistics for nuclear fuel recycling products and services for UK and overseas customers. As the customer interface to over 20 utility customers for reprocessing and MOX fuel supply contracts, and the associated transport of these products, INS endeavours to meet customers' needs to exacting standards of quality and safety.

The Saint Consulting Group

The Saint Consulting Group (TSCG) is an International management consultancy which specialises in winning planning and land-use battles. TSCG has staff which have successful political strategists who understand what drives decision-making in Government, communities and the real estate marketplace. Value for their clients is created by securing difficult planning approvals. Clients are protected from unwanted competition.

Carillion plc

Carillion is pleased to have renewed its membership of the NIA. Bolstered by the acquisition of Alfred McAlpine, Carillion now offers to the nuclear industry an enhanced civil engineering capability with a reputation for safety. We look forward to working with our nuclear sector Clients to help realise their ambitions.

The New Year is heating up



Ian Salter

For over a decade, long standing NIA member Burges Salmon has advised the nuclear sector, gaining independent recognition as one of the top UK law firms with genuine nuclear law expertise.

Last month, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) appointed Burges Salmon as advisors

on the Parent Body Organisation selection competition for Dounreay Site Restoration Limited, the Site Licence Company for the former UKAEA site at Dounreay.

The competition process will commence in earnest late this summer, with the contract award expected in late 2010. The decommissioning programme will cost an estimated £2.5 billion over the next 20 years.

The nuclear team has worked alongside the NDA since its inception and advised on numerous initiatives. It also advises a significant number of other clients and has particular expertise in nuclear planning, interim and long term waste disposal and transport and regulatory.

Central to the firm's development strategy is a 'core' team of dedicated nuclear specialists, with expertise in each phase of the nuclear plant life cycle – from new build planning right through to final de-licensing, whether operational or regulatory. Lawyers at the firm have been members of the International Nuclear Lawyers Association since 1998 and, for

example, Ian has published and presented papers from previous congress on sub sea bed disposal of radioactive waste, as well as on radioactive contaminated land. They are currently working on a working group initiative on the role of strategic environmental assessment in nuclear new build planning.

During January the firm supported the C5 New Build Conference in London. The key message to consider was that by mid-summer the industry will know who the new build programme developers will be, what technology will be used and where the new power stations will be.

With nuclear power perceived as part of the solution to satisfy future global energy needs, experience gained domestically, being equally applicable and transferable to the international marketplace, is seen as a significant export opportunity extending potentially long into the future.

Late last year, the team's capability was bolstered with the appointment of Anthony Wetherall, who joined after seven years at the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs, where he advised on international nuclear law issues, including safety, security and liability.

Anthony's extensive service on the IAEA International Expert Group (Nuclear Liability) and expertise on international nuclear liability instruments will undoubtedly provide clients with a valuable resource particularly when setting up national nuclear legislative and regulatory frameworks, and infrastructural issues arising from new build programmes.

For further information please contact

Ian Salter, Head of Nuclear

ian.salter@burges-salmon.com +44 (0) 117 939 2225.

With regular attendance in excess of sixty, the Decommissioning and Rad-waste Working Group (DWG) remains the largest members' forum within the NIA programme.

This packed event attracts high calibre speakers from NDA, SLC's, regulators and all levels of the supply chain. With exclusive updates; promotion of innovative products, capability and services, this is one of the best **free** networking sessions in the nuclear industry calendar.

The aim of the DWG is to create an environment to facilitate early supply chain engagement to support current and nurture future business activities. It also provides a platform for consultation and raising the level of awareness of the strategic programmes in the sector. It is a valuable day for technical, business and research professionals.

The newly appointed deputy chair, Dr. Andrew Munro, said: "This is

a great meeting to share information and provides first-class networking opportunities. Working with the NIA, we aim to ensure a current, lively and constructive programme reflecting current influences in the market".

The DWG will return to Scotland on the 2nd April and will be sponsored by Halcrow. Details of the agenda and registration details can be found in the members' portal on the website or contact stephanie.longland@niauk.org

Having listened to feedback from members, this year we will endeavour to provide early notification of working groups, to help with diary planning. It is anticipated that our second DWG will be held in the North-East in July, followed by a visit to the South-West in November.

If you wish to explore the development of industry issues, share views on future programmes or enquire about sponsorship opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact amanda.macmillan@niauk.org

OEE

- Improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of current waste management and power generating operations through the use of 'lean' methods.
- Development of organisational structures, business operating models and teams for increased effectiveness
- Analysis and optimisation of operational strategies for waste management
- Lean Training
- Design for effective operations including OEE studies
- Operability assessments of plants and facilities under design
- Business process reengineering and consultancy

Shadbolt LLP

Shadbolt LLP is an international firm of specialist projects and construction lawyers. Shadbolt operate in, and have experience of a variety of sectors including, energy, transport infrastructure, social infrastructure and regeneration. Although known for their projects and construction expertise in these sectors, they do offer the full range of corporate legal services including employment, real estate, corporate, commercial dispute resolution and technology law.

Thornton Consulting Limited

Thornton Consulting is involved with Executive level search (recruitment), Research into available skills and experience – for bids and proposals, In depth salary surveys and working with key individuals to develop their career strategy.

TWI Ltd

TWI is a global company delivering world class value to its members, through research, consultancy and training services in welding and joining, engineering, NDT inspection, materials, surfacing, and lifecycle integrity – respected for its expertise, professionalism and independence. TWI has over 40 years' experience working for a wide range of nuclear companies.

Laing O'Rourke

Laing O'Rourke has had a long involvement in the sector since its start in the 1950's and built the last major station in the UK which is the only PWR in the UK. The group has extensive involvement in new build at Sellafield and is currently working on the D&C of a £75 million intermediate level waste store on the site.



Top of the bill... NIA chairman Lord O'Neill addresses more than 1200 attendees at the NIA/Nuclear Institute Annual Dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel following Energy Choices '08. In a typically robust and entertaining speech Lord O'Neill urged the industry forward in working closely with Government to deliver a nuclear future for the UK

Independent health study shows "healthy worker" effect

A new study by the Health Protection Agency shows mortality in the UK's 175,000 radiation workers is lower than that in the general population.

The "healthy worker effect" has been observed in studies of many other occupational groups before including nuclear.

The study published in the British Journal of Cancer also found the risk of developing cancer among radiation workers increases with the dose of ionising radiation they are exposed to.

Dr Colin Muirhead from the Health Protection Agency said: "This is a continuation of a study started in 1976 and it provides reliable information on the health of people working with ionising radiation."

He added: "The results confirm the cancer risk estimates observed in other studies even though, overall, radiation workers have lower cancer risks than the general population."

This study provides the most precise estimates to date of mortality and cancer risks following occupational radiation exposure and strengthens the scientific evidence for raised risks from these exposures. The cancer risk estimates are consistent with international radiation protection standards, both for leukaemia and for all other cancers combined.

In a separate paper published at the same time, researchers at the Childhood Cancer Research Group at the University of Oxford and the Health Protection Agency have studied cancer in the children of female radiation workers. This study does not support an earlier finding of a raised risk of cancer.

The two papers are published in the British Journal of Cancer and radiation workers and their representatives were informed of the results before publication.

Quake plant "operated safely"

A TOP-LEVEL IAEA report into the earthquake-hit Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in Japan says it operated safely during and after the 2007 incident.

All seven units at the plant, in Niigata prefecture, have been shut down since the earthquake, which "significantly" exceeded levels of seismic ground motion in the station's design process.

The IAEA said "...it has been possible to identify the precautions needed to be taken in relation to possible future events and the newly-calculated seismic hazard at the site is much higher than both the July 2007 event and the original design earthquake level."

"These precautions were based on extensive studies and assessments conducted by a number of specialised institutions and experts in different fields. The necessary upgrades and actions were consequently defined and are being implemented by the Japanese utility (Tokyo Electric Power Company) for both safety and non-safety related components at the nuclear power plant."

Lessons learned from the results of the plant integrity evaluation process applied to the July 2007 earthquake and used for the seismic safety re-evaluation to the new higher seismic input will improve the design and evaluation criteria and approaches currently used in Japan and worldwide, the IAEA said.

The report is on the IAEA's web site (<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2009/kashiwazaki290109.html>).



Lawrie Haynes

Former British Nuclear Group CEO Lawrie Haynes joined Rolls-Royce this month to head up the Group's nuclear sector. As President – Nuclear, Lawrie has responsibility for both the company's civil and defence nuclear businesses and is based in London.

Lawrie joined Rolls-Royce from White Young Green plc where he was CEO. Prior to that, he was also CEO at BNG and a main board director of BNFL plc. He has extensive experience in the aerospace and telecommunications sectors and was previously Chief Executive of the Highways Agency.

Lawrie said, "I am delighted to be joining Rolls-Royce at such an exciting time in the development of its nuclear businesses. The Group has significant and growing capabilities in the nuclear sector and I am looking forward to progressing these further."