The Nuclear South West Supply Chain Network

There are significant opportunities for new investors within the Nuclear South West Cluster. It is estimated that the UK needs 5,000 small and medium size enterprises for its new build and decommissioning programme. Adding major defence projects, this number grows significantly.

Some case studies of Nuclear South West companies and organisations are listed here:

Nuclear South West partners have supported several groups of smaller companies working together to secure Hinkley Point C and other large construction contracts. The Advanced Precision Engineering Consortium (APEC) is a partnership of proactive high precision engineering firms: CAM Machine Components, Berry & Escott Ltd, TMB Patterns Ltd and Metaltech Precision Ltd. APEC has over 200 years combined experience and a joint workforce of more than 200 employees. Chris Escott from Berry & Escott Ltd stated, “Early on, it became apparent that the potential size of projects required for Hinkley Point C could be much larger than any one of our companies could handle, so after conversations at Somerset Chamber events, it was decided that forming a new consortium would better equip us to manage these opportunities as well as share knowledge and experience. The Somerset Chamber has been instrumental in helping us set up this group, the continued support and advice they have provided is invaluable.”
**Burges Salmon** is an independent UK law firm with 87 partners and over 700 employees, which delivers a globally-respected mix of advice, service and value. Based in Bristol, Burges Salmon works across the world. The company boasts market-leading nuclear lawyers with a proven track record and unrivalled understanding of UK and international nuclear law. It has worked on almost all of the UK’s public nuclear licensed sites.

As a FTSE 100 company employing over 34,000 highly skilled staff, **Babcock** is one of the largest and most successful businesses in the UK. The Plymouth Devonport Dockyard operator has announced that its order book and pipeline now stands at a bumper £30.8 billion thanks to new Trident submarine contracts.

**Blackhill Engineering** is a specialist heavy engineering business based in Devon and part of the multi-sectored SC Group. Blackhill handles large fabrication, machining and assembly projects and its 61,000kg lifting capability is a unique resource in southern England. The company has built up a strong portfolio of customers across multiple sectors including marine, automotive, defence, oil and gas, renewables and nuclear.

Nick Ames, CEO of SC Group, said: “SC Group has been a South West company for over 35-years and it benefits from being part of the region’s strong and diverse engineering sector. This enables us to take advantage of the exciting and collaborative opportunities opening up now in the nuclear sector and specifically with Hinkley Point C”. SC Group’s sister business SC Innovation offers project management and technical services and both have secured work on HPC. SC Innovation was the first South West engineering company to open an office in the Somerset Energy Innovation Centre and seek new partnerships within the local supply chain.

“Being in the South West allows us the best of all worlds. We can access very innovative minds, highly skilled staff and local, national and international markets. Also staff have an excellent quality of life and can access London in less than two hours. We enjoy the vibrancy, energy and variety that the region offers and believe that it adds to the quality of the offering that we have. We take great pride in our location and look forward to contributing to its success”.

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For over 40 years Pipex PX (a National Oilwell Varco Company, located in Plymouth) has developed FRP composite and thermoplastic materials. Pipex products are created using the most advanced materials, design, manufacturing and installation methods and processes. Pipex has been awarded the Fit for Nuclear qualification by the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, to enable the company to bid for work in the UK’s nuclear industry.

Invest Bristol & Bath (IBB), part of the Nuclear South West team, has supported EDF Energy (EDFE) with its relocation to Bristol since 2015. IBB worked alongside EDFE’s relocation agency and attended a number of events, including meeting employees and their families. 75% of employees consulted decided to make the move to Bristol by the end of 2016. The IBB team continues to work with EDFE to ensure they settle quickly into the city and can attract and retain staff going forward. Emily Boase, acting Head of HR for HPC commented: “Invest Bristol and Bath provided excellent input to many aspects of the activities that we ran to support our relocation consultation process. Their support complimented our relocation providers excellently and their knowledge materials and resources greatly enhanced our employees’ experience at both the relocation exhibitions and familiarisation visits we ran”.

With over 700 UK employees and sites in Bristol, Dorset and Gloucestershire, Frazer-Nash is a leading systems and engineering technology company. Working across the globe, Frazer-Nash helps clients meet the strict nuclear industry regulatory requirements throughout the life of their nuclear projects, including the full lifecycle management of nuclear material and waste.

With its headquarters in Gloucestershire, Horizon Nuclear Power is a nuclear power station developer and subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd. New build projects at Wylfa Newydd in Wales and Oldbury in Gloucestershire will create up to 850 permanent jobs during operation, with a construction workforce of up to 9,000 workers at the peak of construction. Located on the banks of the Severn Estuary, Oldbury has a strong history of nuclear power generation, an experienced local skills base and good connection into the electricity transmission network. Construction is expected to start in the late 2020s.

Spanish-owned company TRADEBE is an international leader in waste reclamation and recycling solutions managing more than two million tons of waste annually, and recycling 60% of that waste. Tradebe, purchased by Dorset-based Inutec in 2013, is an industry leader in low radioactive waste management, and continues to operate from its Winfrith site and using its mobile plants. Current capabilities include radioactive materials transport containers, waste retrieval equipment, waste process development laboratories and tritium and carbon-14 decontamination facilities.
Jordan Manufacturing, a Redhall Group Company, provides high integrity manufacturing services with a market-leading reputation for quality, delivery and technical expertise. Operating from unique multi-disciplined facilities near Bristol, Jordan provides a wide range of design, manufacturing, assembly, testing and site services to many diverse and high integrity industries. Fully accredited operating systems are reinforced by the engineering team who are highly skilled in consistently delivering projects safely to tight programmes and within budget constraints.

Headquartered in Gloucestershire, Magnox Ltd, owned by the Cavendish Fluor Partnership, is the management and operations contractor responsible for safely managing twelve nuclear sites and a hydroelectric plant in the UK. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority contracts Magnox to manage through lifecycles, overseeing all aspects of defueling and decommissioning. Magnox manages four sites within Nuclear South West: Berkeley, Oldbury, Hinkley Point A and Winfrith.

With an office in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, the team of around 500 staff of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) regulates nuclear safety and security across 36 nuclear licensed sites in the UK.

For over 15 years, Bristol-based OC Robotics has developed robotic technologies. The industry-heralded LaserSnake is self-supporting with a reach of more than 3ms and cumulative bend of more than 180 degrees. It is designed for confined and hazardous environments, such as decommissioning nuclear power stations. OC Robotics, which operates in numerous industries, was recently purchased by GE Aviation, which also has a site in Bristol.

The Somerset Team also supported creation of the Somerset Infrastructure Alliance. This group is the EDFE preferred bidder for the site infrastructure services work package. This work package has a potential contract value of £35million over the next eight years. The RK Bell Group founded in Bridgewater Somerset in 1941 is one of the Group’s founding companies. It is a Construction Plant Hire and Contractor, gaining a reputation for reliable machinery and safe working practices.

Wilshire-based Steve Vick International (SVI) is at the forefront of developing and manufacturing products and techniques for the trenchless repair, renovation and decommissioning of pipes. For over 20 years, the company has worked on bespoke solutions for decommissioning projects. SVI products and services provide safe and cost effective methods for remotely sealing and decommissioning pipelines, ducts and voids for almost any situation.

An established leader in the design, manufacture, supply, support, lifetime extension and decommissioning of I&C systems for the worldwide civil and defence nuclear industry, Ultra Electronics Nuclear Control Systems (Ultra) is based in Dorset. Ultra has spanned the defence, nuclear, medical and industrial sectors for more than 60 years. The company’s integration services and capabilities cover the complete system life cycle.

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