

CONSIDER NUCLEAR

Preparing for Gwyndod - and bridging the gap

Overview

A project of national significance is heading to Anglesey. The Gwyndod project represents an energy infrastructure project of national significance and has the potential to lead to sustainable jobs and industrial opportunities in the area. Preparations for working in the UK nuclear sector take time, especially for manufacturers and safety critical suppliers as the barriers to entry can be significant with alien terminology and culture. While construction is unlikely to start until the 2030's, now is the time to consider preparing for the project and pursuing enabling opportunities in the sector.

The **Fit4Nuclear** programme is designed to prepare companies with the standards expected for delivery into the UK nuclear sector. The costs of the programme could be covered by local manufacturing grants, for example the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone opportunity.

In other areas of the sector, including Sellafield, Aldermaston and Barrow, supply chain spend over the next 5 years is in the billions with small to medium sized enterprise friendly frameworks already in place. By preparing to Gwyndod, there is a very real opportunity to enter a growing and sustainable sector for more than just one project.

The Gwyndod Project

The new build at Gwyndod includes the construction of 3 x Rolls Royce UK Small Modular Reactors (RR UKSMR) with an option for an additional three. The UK government has committed to funding works on the first three reactors with the second tranche being targeted for private finance. A contract has been let by Great British Energy - Nuclear (GBE-N) for the initial works for Gwyndod. The UKSMR has been identified as the preferred technology in the Czech Republic and is also well advanced in competitions and talks in Poland and Scandinavia, creating an international opportunity.

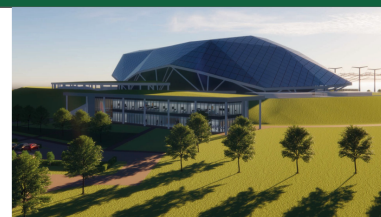
For the project to be successful, there will be need for a wide range of suppliers to the site, from manufacturers to caterers, construction services to transport and accommodation. In the near term the works will involve environmental and design assessments with the main works expected to start somewhere around 2030. The build philosophy, maximising off site modular construction, is also expected to put a focus on traceability and inspection on supplier factory sites ensuring the right items are delivered at the right time to the right quality to site.

Gwyndod at a Glance

Gwyndod Build Philosophy:

- 3 x UK SMRs to be built + option for additional 3
- Maximise off site build – modular construction
- Minimise weather risk – cover installed early
- Bespoke foundations, generic power station
- First of a Kind at Gwyndod – similar opportunities to follow?

Indicative Timeline



While 2030 seems a while away, at that time there are likely to be several major nuclear projects being completed at the same time, with Sizewell C, Sellafield decommissioning and defence programmes / upgrades all being executed in parallel. In short, due to capacity constraints, an investment in nuclear is likely to yield positive results.

Preparing for Gwyndod

There is a clear message for local suppliers to consider preparing for the Gwyndod project now and there are potential funding routes to help. The UK civil nuclear sector is akin to other regulated sectors where quality and safety are integral to both operations and equipment delivery. The sector has its own terminology and its own culture and practices. While many companies will have experience of regulated sectors, eg defence, rail, aerospace or energy, the transition can be challenging.

Fit4Nuclear (F4N) is a structured, 7-step development programme that helps you benchmark and build the capabilities needed to become supply-ready for the nuclear industry, taking you from "Strategy to Torque Wrench".

The programme centres on two key assessments. The first is a Business Excellence Assessment, which focuses on your core business processes. The second is a Nuclear Sector-Specific Assessment, which builds on this by focusing on the additional capabilities and standards required by the nuclear sector, aligned to the nuclear clauses in ISO 19443. F4N positions manufacturers to deliver safety-critical equipment and, working with Lloyds Register, Fit4Nuclear companies are well positioned for full ISO 19443 accreditation. Companies typically achieve F4N-granted status within 12 to 18 months, though this can be faster. The journey involves a mix of in-person Business Excellence site visits and assessments, complemented by a nuclear sector-specific assessment covering culture, safety requirements, and terminology.

Throughout your development journey, you will work with your own dedicated Supply Chain Consultant, who will support you and provide guidance on industry best practice. You will also have access to the F4N Cohort Members' Area, containing hundreds of best-practice guides and templates, along with marketing intelligence on UK nuclear programmes, tender portal lists, and the ability to interact with the wider F4N cohort of companies. Your full journey is securely managed through the online Fit4Nuclear portal, capturing action plans and monitoring your progress.

Once F4N-granted, you join the Fit4Nuclear community and progress onto the annual Maintain & Sustain programme. This provides ongoing engagement and continuous improvement and support while also giving you access to the full range of additional service offerings to support you in winning work.

Bridging the Gap

The objective of targeting the civil nuclear sector is to win work and create a diversified long term income stream. 2030 is a while away yet. There are opportunities for companies to enter the market now and demonstrate experience prior to the Gwyndod project starting operations.

Example projects range from the Decommissioning and Nuclear Waste Programme and Infrastructure Delivery Partnership at Sellafield, the capability refreshment programmes at Aldermaston and new fuel facilities

being developed at Capenhurst and Springfield with over £7.5bn of programme frameworks let over the last 12 months at Sellafield alone. As important is the growing trend to support SMEs with local and SME framework requirements reaching up to 30% of spend on some frameworks. The message being that to hit those requirements the main contractors and sites need to grow their supply chains and bring new entrants into the sector.

In other opportunities, open frameworks exist, for example the Sellafield dynamic purchasing system opportunity which offers a range of manufacturing, testing and engineering services opportunities. The route to market for these opportunities varies. Some are via the Tier 2 supplier portals while others are direct with the sites.

Next Steps

We are here to help. Acuitas Insights work closely with the NucCol team who are the custodians of Fit4Nuclear and lead the Fit4Nuclear community. Please get in touch for a no-obligation discussion concerning the scheme and how it could benefit your company specifically. Alternatively, the NucCol supply chain summit for 2026 takes place on 7th October 2026 in Derby (<https://nuclearsupplychainsummit.com/>).

For those businesses, for example in Flintshire and Wrexham, where there are possible funding routes to support the scheme, we will actively help you in making the arguments needed to pursue funding and take your business on the next steps towards entering a new market. We can also offer near term opportunity identification and tendering support on a consultancy basis.

For further information please contact Gareth Peel at gareth.peel@acuitas-insights.com or Stephen Kinsey at stephen.kinsey@nucol.co.uk.

Fit4Nuclear at a Glance

Fit4Nuclear is the supply chain readiness programme for companies considering entry to the UK's nuclear sector. Delivered by **NucCol**, the programme includes:

- Business Excellence Assessment; sector-agnostic and strengthens your core business processes overall.
- Nuclear Sector-Specific Assessment; additional capabilities and standards required by the nuclear sector. Aligned to ISO 19443.
- Action planning to bridge the gaps.
- Companies manage their journey to granting through a secure online portal.

The programme is delivered in a hybrid fashion with in-person visits and ongoing support throughout from your dedicated Supply Chain Consultant. In addition, member have access to:

- A live members' area containing news, tenders, knowledge and toolbox.
- Regular webinars, live and on demand.

F4N
Fit For Nuclear



Opportunity – Sellafield Dynamic Purchasing System

The Sellafield DPS opportunity is a framework across 12 lots specifically designed for smaller contracts and with a pro-SME element. The framework can be joined at any time until the end of the authorised duration in 2029.

Categories included in the framework are broken into lots and sub-lots and include manufacturing, robotics, prototyping, design services, digital services and asset maintenance and care.

The route to market is via the NDA Atamis system.

Once on the framework, work is tendered via competition only to those companies on the framework. The framework can be used by any NDA company, including Sellafield, NRS, NWS and the NDA themselves.

Engineering and Technology Solutions Market Place
Dynamic Purchasing System

