

# Hinkley Point C Supply Chain Update



## Delivery Partners for the Hinkley Supply Chain Team

## February 2021

Dear



Welcome to the first Hinkley Supply Chain newsletter of 2021. We're looking forward to discovering what Hinkley Point C opportunities will be in the pipeline for the regional supply chain this year.

Even though it's a new year, that doesn't mean that the achievements of last year are forgotten. Despite the ongoing pandemic the project still managed to achieve 18 of its 20 key milestones and is still keeping pace with its aim of Dome lift '22. The next phase of the project will see hundreds of miles of pipes and cables installed as the power station rises above ground.

In this edition of the newsletter, we have a case study from Zulu Joint Integrity and Training, who have been successful in winning work with the MEH (Mechanical, Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Alliance as well as a news story from Osprey, who will be involved in the movement of AILs (Abnormal Indivisible Loads).

Expertise has been sought from the Professional Services Group who have written an article to help you understand the implications of the domestic reverse charge for supplies of building and construction services from March 1, 2021. The article can be found below.

The Hinkley Supply Chain team, while (like many businesses) changing the way it works, has continued to support the regional suppliers. We have provided details of 1,300 regional business capabilities for 41 different work packages for 19 different contractors. Of the 1,300+ businesses profiled in 2020 many have made the next step on their 'journey to HPC' and have engaged further with the contractors. From completing PQQ and ITT forms to signing contracts, the regional supply chain has continued to develop its involvement with the project and the legacy the construction of HPC will leave in the area.

There is still time to get involved with the project, so keep an eye on upcoming work packages.

Here's to a positive 2021 where the Hinkley Supply Chain Team will, as ever, be on hand to signpost, engage with and assist our regional suppliers.

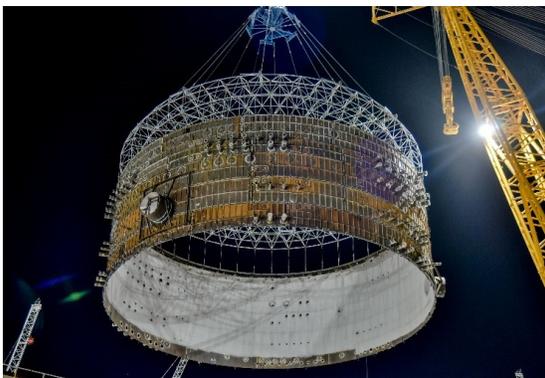
**Natalie Beacham, Hinkley Supply Chain Project Lead,  
Somerset Chamber of Commerce**

## Project Update

The Hinkley Point C project has now entered two very important years of work that will culminate in the installation of the containment dome on Unit 1. This is a very important milestone and requires real focus by everyone on the project. This was the message that was given in a series of presentations to staff, key contractors, the UK and international supply chain, to local stakeholders and the UK Government. Stuart Crooks, the HPC Managing Director led the presentations and explained the importance of delivering this major milestone as it would show not only confidence in the HPC project but would support the case for a second project at Sizewell in Suffolk. Also in the news during January were the results of assessments made to determine the impact the pandemic had had on the overall construction programme. Despite the amazing progress made in 2020, the pandemic did result in some work being postponed. Taking account of this and the likely impact the current restrictions will have in the next few months, the predicted date that Unit 1 will start generating electricity is now June 2026. You can watch the [project update given by Stuart by clicking here](#) and hear more about it.



The project has also re-evaluated the likely number of on-site construction and support workers needed at peak construction. This will approach 8,500 and will occur in 2022/2023, once Coronavirus restrictions are lifted. It offers even more employment opportunities to local people and business to local companies. This prediction has been possible now that the detailed programmes have been finalised and Tier 1 contractors appointed. A series of workshops with local stakeholders about this revised figure are taking place throughout February.



In the national press and on TV, the lifting of the first ring of Unit 1 containment liner by Big Carl hit the headlines just before Christmas (see full story below). The 400 tonnes structure was fabricated in one of the onsite fabrication bunkers and then lifted into place on December 17. A few days later, a second even heavier lift took place moving the first large prefabricated concrete section into place in Unit 1. Together with the crane hook this lift was almost 1,000 tonnes at a 160 metres reach.

Having completed the first cooling water tunnel in December the focus now turns to the

shorter outfall tunnel. This is 7metres in diameter and extends over a kilometre under the Bristol channel and is scheduled to be completed this year. The final tunnel for Unit 2 will be started later this year.

## Supplier Case Studies



Bridgend-based company Zulu Joint Integrity & Training Ltd is working at Hinkley Point C (HPC) to support the delivery of industry-approved and accredited training and assessment qualifications to help ensure the quality and integrity of bolted joints.

The company is supporting the MEH (MEH (Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning)) Joint Venture and is also assisting with joint integrity management support.

Zulu Joint Integrity & Training Ltd is an established, specialist, joint integrity management and training services company, with a strong track record of providing solutions and form part of the Phoenix Technology Group. Their mission is to assist clients with process safety, leak reduction and bolted joint safety issues to enable a safe and timely leak-free start-up and continued leak-free process operation.

To read more [click here](#).

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### **"Osprey Group wins contract to handle more than £1 billion in critical assets"**



Osprey Group has won the multi-million Pound contract to deliver all of the oversized equipment needed in the next phase of construction at Hinkley Point C (HPC).

Through their innovative shared services logistics model, the team will use its expertise in both marine and heavy land transport to provide centralised logistics and management for all major critical assets coming into the site – giving project-critical support to Hinkley Point C and its suppliers.

Osprey Group is a British-owned company that's local to Hinkley Point C, in Somerset. It is the only British firm with the cumulative experience, skill sets, and in-house resources to deliver this new, innovative shared services model of special logistics support that's now needed for Hinkley Point C (HPC).

Suppliers to HPC are encouraged to showcase innovative methods than can help overcome the challenges of major infrastructure logistics. This is Osprey's forte: by using their learnings from a range of offshore oil and gas construction projects, Osprey's multi-disciplined team identifies efficiencies and improves reliability in its delivery of logistics to major construction projects onshore.

Osprey will become a strategically important, collaboration-focused Tier 1 supplier. The team's shared services model removes many of the risks faced by one-off, critical asset suppliers – some delivering unique components weighing over 750 tonnes per piece –

many of whom might not have the experience or local knowledge needed for organising specialist logistics to this particular site.

To read more [click here](#).

## World's biggest crane completes its biggest lift at Hinkley Point C



Big Carl, the world's largest crane, has just completed its biggest ever lift at Hinkley Point C. The super-crane lifted a total weight of 575 tonnes to install the first of three massive, prefabricated steel rings which form the reinforced cylinder around the nuclear reactor.

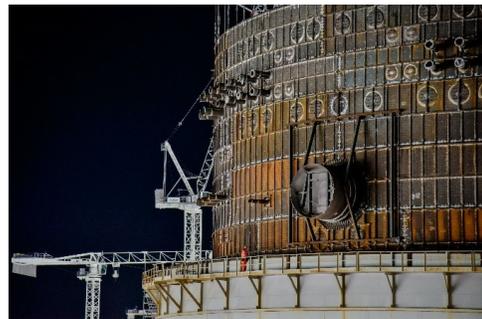
The 17m tall ring with a diameter of 47m – was lifted out of a bunker where it was constructed in factory conditions – one of the innovations to improve quality on the project. Big Carl reached out 160m to put it in place during a night lift – timed to take advantage of lighter winds during a four-day operation.

Despite the challenge of operating under Coronavirus restrictions, the final big lift of the year was one of many significant milestones achieved in 2020. These include the completion of the first 3.5km cooling water tunnels and the reactor base of unit two. The power station will help Britain reach Net Zero by producing reliable low carbon electricity for more than 6m homes.

Lift facts:

- The first steel containment ring weighs 382 tonnes – around the weight of a 747 Jumbo jet - lifting gear took the total lift weight to 575 tonnes.
- The liner ring is the second of five pieces that make up the steel containment for each reactor, including the base and the dome.
- Big Carl is 250m tall, moves on rail tracks and will eventually lift pieces weighing more than 1,000 tonnes
- The ring was gently placed on 96 hydraulic jacks which lowered the ring into its exact position

Hinkley Point C Managing Director, Stuart Crooks, said: "This spectacular lift is a remarkable achievement in a year when everyone has had to make extraordinary efforts to keep the site and community safe from infection. The precision involved is like watch-making on an industrial scale.



"Our ability to maintain progress in such tough circumstances is a testament to the commitment of the workforce and our suppliers across Britain and the world. Construction of Hinkley Point C's two reactors continues to provide evidence that repeating an identical design improves quality and efficiency – something that will bring big benefits to Sizewell C in Suffolk."

# explains major changes to VAT for construction from March 1, 2021



Next month a new 'Domestic Reverse Charge' scheme will change the way VAT is operated in the construction industry. Key changes and challenges include:

- Understanding and documenting who will account for and pay VAT to HMRC, before every contract.
- Training staff to understand and apply the new process and updating your systems.
- A potential funding gap, particularly for contractors who use invoice finance.
- Some businesses will have to change their VAT scheme.

Hinkley PSG members [Wessex Commercial Solutions](#) and [Poolbridge Accountancy](#) take a look at how the scheme will affect cashflow and business processes in their blogs '[What will the Domestic Reverse Charge mean for Construction Businesses?](#)' and '[Applying the new VAT Reverse Charge](#)'. Group members are also on hand to provide advice.

You can follow the Hinkley PSG on [LinkedIn](#) for updates.



Please click the link below to see previous newsletter editions:

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