Delivery Partners for the Hinkley Supply Chain Team

April 2023

What an incredible few months it has been at Hinkley Point C. Not only did the first reactor pressure vessel for a UK power station in more than three decades arrive at site, but the world's biggest crane, Big Carl, undertook one of the biggest and most complex lifts to date.

The crane successfully lifted the reactor cavity and core pool – weighing in excess of 700 tonnes - into place in Unit 1.

You can find photos and full details of the arrival of the reactor pressure vessel and Big Carl's lift below.

An image of Big Carl successfully lifting the reactor cavity and core pool also took pride of place on the front cover of the Government's new energy strategy, Powering up Britain, confirming the importance of HPC as a key national infrastructure project.

You can find out more in this newsletter about EDF's UK CEO, Simone Rossi's, reaction to the Powering up Britain document and the launch of Great British Nuclear, which reaffirms nuclear at the heart of the Government's plans for net zero.
All this is good news for local and regional contractors as it means work is continuing apace at site, with the full support of Government.

But in order to win contracts on the project, businesses must be registered on the supply chain portal with their most up-to-date information. So, if you have not visited the website recently, please log-in to the portal to ensure your registration details are correct.

You can find the portal and the Hinkley Supply Chain's new-look website here.

Scott Jenkins, Hinkley Supply Chain Project Lead
Somerset Chamber of Commerce

Project Update

The RPV was manufactured by Framatome at its factory in Saint-Marcel, France, before arriving at Avonmouth Docks, in Bristol, then being moved by barge to Combwich Wharf and on to site via a special road transporter *(more details and photos below).*

Teams on Unit 1 undertook one of the largest and most challenging lifts seen so far on site. The world's largest crane, Big Carl, successfully lifted the reactor cavity and core pool – weighing in excess of 700 tonnes - into place. The reactor

cavity and core internal storage pool will provide a tank of water to completely cover the reactor during refuelling and maintenance.

The Bylor Precast team began constructing the precast base unit for the pool in 2021, while Darchem built the stainless steel liners. The team then finished the pool off by installing the internal formwork and reinforcement fixings, before making the final concrete pours.

Big Carl was also kept busy lifting the second of four accumulator tanks into position in the north-east corner of the Unit 1 reactor building. The accumulators are an essential safety component that will kick into life supplying coolant to the primary circuit in case of a loss-of-coolant incident and without the need for outside intervention. The huge tank weighs in at around 50 tonnes and measures at 9.1m tall by 3.5m in diameter.

Elsewhere, A 20m-tall building has been constructed alongside the HPC training centre as a temporary home for the Unit 1 polar crane assembly operation. A team of 10 scaffolders spent three months turning 1,000 tonnes of materials into the massive support structure inside which the polar crane will be assembled. Around 6,000m2 of white sheeting was used to protect their work from the elements.

Once the polar crane is ready to be installed, the roof of the structure will be removed so that the crane can be lifted into the Unit 1 reactor building. The Unit 1 polar crane will be transported in 32 containers from storage in Avonmouth, then assembled under the roof of the new temporary building alongside the training centre.

Supplied by APCO Technologies, the crane will eventually swivel around the dome of the reactor building, while moving heavy components, such as steam generators and the reactor vessel head, during construction, maintenance and refuelling.

Preparations are well under way in the reactor building to receive the finished assembly. The Unit 1 team is surveying and adjusting 45 polar brackets, weighing 4.5 tonnes each, on Liner Ring 3. The polar brackets will carry the special rail that runs the crane around the circumference of the building.

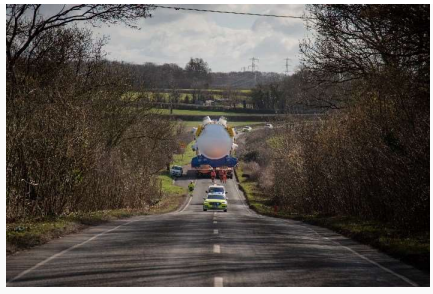
First reactor arrives at HPC

The first new nuclear reactor for a British power station for more than 30 years has arrived in Somerset. At just 13-metres long and weighing 500-tonnes, the “reactor pressure vessel” will create the heat needed to make steam for the world’s largest turbines.

It is the first of two nuclear reactors which will be installed at Hinkley Point C. Each reactor will help provide enough low carbon electricity for 3m homes and will be vital in helping Britain achieve Net Zero and stronger energy security

The reactor made by Framatome, in France, comes from the same factory which made the last nuclear reactor for a British power station at Sizewell B in Suffolk. It became operational in 1995.

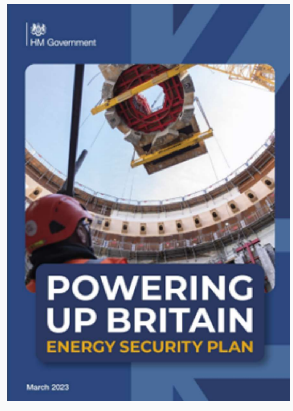
The reactor first arrived in Britain at Avonmouth Docks, in Bristol, before being transported by barge to Combwich Wharf on the River Parrett in Somerset. The final journey was a five-hour trip for four miles by a transporter to its permanent home on the construction site.



The arrival of the reactor marks a significant milestone for Hinkley Point C, where more than 8,000 workers are now on site every day. It will be installed in the reactor building after the dome is lifted into place.

EDF responds to Government's new Energy and Climate Change Strategy

Nuclear features predominantly in the Government's new Powering up Britain documents, which sets out how the Government plans to enhance the UK's energy security, boost economic opportunities and deliver on net zero commitments.



Great British Nuclear forms a core part of the strategy, as do technologies like carbon capture, floating offshore wind manufacturing and hydrogen schemes.

Following the Government announcement, Simone Rossi UK CEO of EDF said: "Two years of energy crisis have demonstrated the urgency to ensure clean, secure, affordable energy for Britain's homes and businesses.

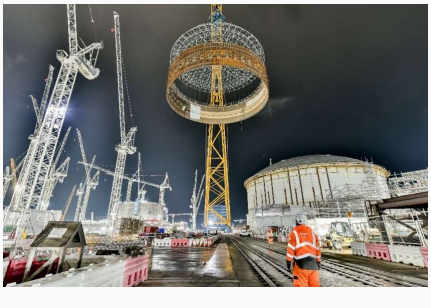
"Action on nuclear and renewable generation, green hydrogen production, energy efficiency and electrification of heat and transport, as well as tackling obstacles to infrastructure development, are all welcome. Action at scale and pace is needed on all these fronts. These announcements go in the right direction and we will review their detail."

On nuclear, he said: "Great British Nuclear's launch reconfirms nuclear at the heart of the Government's plans to get to net zero. Great British Nuclear can accelerate the delivery of new nuclear projects after Sizewell C by helping developers overcome obstacles in financing and planning.

"At Heysham and Hartlepool we have the land, people and community support for new nuclear, and look forward to working with GBN and others to support projects.

"Great British Nuclear can also be a powerful voice for nuclear skills development, making sure we not only have the projects we need to Get to net zero, but the people too."

On the Government's reconfirmation of commitments to tackle energy efficiency and decarbonise household heating, Mr Rossi said: "We need to make choosing the green option the easy option for customers and this includes bringing costs down.



"Incentives for heat pump technologies and removing the levies which inflate the cost of electricity will be essential in the transition to Net Zero. To support, EDF is investing in the skills needed to deliver these technologies through its partnership with CB Heating and development of its training centre in Clacton.

The ECO scheme has brought significant benefits to those most in need, which EDF has been a leader in delivering, and we hope to see even greater ambition in this area to bring down more people's bills even sooner. Last year, we brought forward £20m investment in energy efficiency measures for those in fuel poverty via the ECO scheme."

On renewables, Matthieu Hue, CEO of EDF Renewables UK and Ireland, said: "We are at a pivotal moment in our fight against climate change and in the growth of clean energy within the UK. We have been calling on the government to pay close attention to the developing global race for renewables and to respond accordingly through ambitious policy change.

"We welcome the announcements made today, especially the shortlisting of our Tees Green Hydrogen project and that the government will not be making changes to the categories of agricultural land which had the potential to constrain the deployment of solar.

"To unlock the clean energy revolution that we need, we would also like to see an increase in the budget for the next Contract for Difference auction round. This would be a boost to the renewables industry and result in a greater volume of projects coming through with positive impacts on industrialisation, energy security and consumers bills."