

SME Steering Group - North

Meeting 10 – 28.1.15, K Home International, Stockton on Tees

MINUTES

Attendees

SMEs: Chair: Mark Beirne (MB), Collaborative Working Centre Mark Taylor (MT), ITS Ltd Jon Myers (JMy), Abbot Risk Consulting Dave Boxall (DB) K Home Intl Andrew Home (AH), K Home Intl Aileen Gray (AG) WITT UK Group John Morris (JM) NSG Ltd	Tier 2s: Charlotte McLaren (CMc) Support Organisations/Guests Paul Sephton (PS) DBD – SME Aidan McManus (AMc) Tenet - SME
SLCs: Jonathan Evans (JE), LLWR	NDA: Pippa Kelly (PK), Ron Gorham (RG)
Apologies: Taylor-Jayne Fox(TF) Graham Engineering; Sam Dancy (SD) NDA; Paul Read (PR), James Fisher; Nigel Routledge (NR), Jacobs	

1) Welcome and Introductions

Thank you to K Home for hosting the meeting.

2) Review and Updates

RG gave an update on the announcement in Parliament that the PBO model for Sellafield will be changed. Following much analysis within the NDA, it was decided that the PBO model used for the other SLC sites was not the best format for supporting Sellafield in its decommissioning mission. Moving forward a simpler model will be used with Sellafield being owned by the NDA and supported by a Strategic partner. Decisions on how and who this will be have still to be decided upon. Final termination dates for the contract with NMP are still to be announced. No immediate changes should be felt within the supply chain due to this announcement but due to PP14 (Performance Plan 2014) there may be some change in priorities on work streams.

NDA are currently in consultation on the new Business Plan and are proposing an SME target of 22.5 % in the next Parliament. Parliament are reviewing the Public Contract Regulations allowing past performance to be taken into consideration when awarding future contracts.

RG keen to have the group map changes in requests for people rather than a solution based contract.

Action : CMc to bring details of the SME Harbour proposed by ATOS to the next meeting.

Gov are considering legislating for 30 day payment terms – standing request to members to report any issues to NDA, all communications would be treated confidentially. Reports that although terms are set correctly, issues with delayed payment through human error still occurring.

Action : JE suggested an anonymous survey to all suppliers to raise these issues – JE will discuss with the commercial Directors at the next meeting.

RG would be happy to see a 'league' table of performance from Supply Chain companies.

Action : Contracts Finder in Beta testing – MT part of test group and will report to next meeting.

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4) Next steps for Steering Group – North

Issues being experienced include the increasing level of documentation required, reportedly out of proportion with the work conducted. Some explanation received that this is partly due to the increasing requirement for SLC's to be able to maintain records for posterity.

Issue has been recognised at the SSAG, potential opportunity for a coordinated consideration of what is required by SLC's and how to minimise the negative impact on the Supply Chain.

Action : Group to prepare a 2/3 page statement defining the issues for RG and JE to present to the Commercial Directors. Include the impact on the Supply Chain, Industry and the underlying costs. Keep the defining and quantifying the problem.

Possible repeat of SME day? Consider changing venue to Leeds/Carnforth/Sheffield, possible link to NAMRC (venue not big enough?)

Action : RG to discuss with NAMRC options for inclusion/venues for June

Action : PK to ask SLC's (SL, Magnox and LLWR) to present some of their opportunities?

Action : All to check calendars for May/June for any conflicting events and respond to PK soonest.

Action : Group to consider whether useful to produce another document – if so on what subject?

5) How to best represent and communicate with the SME community

Variety of different groups meeting, how to engage with them all and feed/receive information for dissemination to the SME community.

Suggestion that each member of this group selects a number of SME's and keeps in contact prior to each meeting to raise any issues, creating a network.

Action : MB to consider inviting guest from Birchwood forum to next meeting?

Action : MB to invite Axiom (Anita McCallister) to present at meeting (also Mike Borland? Progressive)

6) AOB

Update from Firma Engineering (a new micro SME). Had some success with possible future engagement with Axiom - will keep group updated on their progress entering the decommissioning arena.

Next meeting to be hosted by John Morris at NSG – PK to send out Doodle request.