

SME Steering Group - Wales

Meeting 13: 11am 15 May 2017, Welsh Gov Offices, Llandudno Junction

MINUTES

Attendees

SMEs: Chair: Matt Tuck (MT), Chair Matom Mark Sykes (MS) Beehive Coaching Andrew Samuel (AS) Mon Maintenance Sean O'Brien (SB) Caulmert Chris Gilliard (CG) - NI Batteries Ian Faulkner (IF) – Lloyd Morris Electrical	Tier 2s: Lee McLaughlin – Costain Support Organisations: Wyn Roberts (WR) Welsh Government Cheryl Whitaker (CW) - Welsh Government
SLCs: Andrew New (AN) – Magnox Jonathan Evans (JE) - SSA	NDA: Ron Gorham, Caroline Wood, Ian Johnson, Pippa Kelly
Apologies: Tony Godley – NDA, Peter A McNaughton - Doosan Babcock, Diane Brookshaw - Caulmert	

1. SLC Directors and SME Chairs Meeting

The normal structure of the Groups is to hold a National meeting with the chairs, NDA and members of the regional and national governments. In a change to this routine, the Chairs of the groups were brought together with the leading Commercial Directors of the SLCs and SSA in May to discuss the key issues that SMEs encounter whilst engaging with the NDA Estate. Each region gave a brief update from their groups and both Sellafield and Magnox gave a presentation on Supply chain engagement. It was agreed that the Chairs of the groups would bring together their key concerns to be considered by the Directors and responded to. These 5 points have been collated and a response is due shortly from the Directors on what action can be taken across the Estate and what help would possibly be requested from the regional groups to ensure that any solutions are robust and resolve the issues.

In addition NDA have encouraged a number of the Tier2 companies to include procurement opportunities on CTM that will automatically feed into Contracts Finder. Unfortunately CF does not automatically update to Sell to Wales (Welsh Government procurement portal)

Action : CW to investigate the right people to discuss making a possible link with Cabinet Office (RG) or CTM

2. SSA Presentation – Jonathan Evans

JE presented the background and purpose of the SSA group and the changes that have been made to bring in 16 dedicated members of staff from across the NDA Estate. A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes.

SSA will be responsible for looking at various issues affecting Suppliers working on the SSA contracts, including security access across sites, assurance, flowdowns, T & C's, quality audits etc

Action : SSA is looking for volunteers from the SME Steering Groups to support a review of current Terms & Conditions. Anyone wishing to be involved to contact jonathan.evans@llwrsite.com.

A procurement plan for the SSA is available on the NDA Website and should be updated at the end of the month. Contact details for the major contract frameworks will and the category manager with the SSA will also be available online. Opportunities currently going to market are Health Physics, ICT Services and Facilities Management.

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JE also gave an outline of the LLWR Business Services Marketplace, a dynamic purchasing system giving an alternative method of contracting within the public procurement regulations. The system is more accessible to local and SME suppliers in addition to the traditional suppliers. To access the opportunities, register on CTM and search for the Business Service Marketplace and register here. A standard set of questions is required and evaluated before a company is accepted on to the register. During registration a company selects the appropriate category (s) and notices of any procurement opportunities from LLWR or the rest of the estate using the system will be issued.

3. NDA Update

During purdah some interactions have had to be held back such as the new SME Action Plan. Contributions were invited from the SME community to the revisions and the plan has been extended to cover all the SLCs at an Estate level.

NDA staffing changes : Caroline Wood has joined as a new Supply Chain Manger, along with Ian Johnson, new Head of Supply Chain Development.

The SME target for 2020 will continue at 33% for Government and an NDA target of 31%. Currently on track to achieve our target range for this current year. It has been discovered that the NDA were not aligned with the rest of Government in excluding agency supplied workers (ASW's) as part of the SME data collection. In the light of this the NDA has now included single employee limited companies in the data collection, most of whom are employed through Capita. In the future years this will not include any company that falls under the IR35 regulations.

The next NDA Supply Chain Event will be held on 2nd November at the same venue but with the opportunity for the SLCs to have an additional space for small presentations. For more information please visit the website : www.decommsupplyevent.co.uk

Note from MT : NIA have set up a new Export group which include both INS and NDA.

4. Welsh Government update

Currently moving the support structures into a programme of Nuclear Sector support – not only new build but also decommissioning and small modular reactors. The First Minister has taken an interest in the sector and the profile is raised within the Welsh Government. A new programme of activity is being developed and a bid for funding is being applied for on the supply chain and inward investment. WR focusing on intervention - support for business in the sector eg F4N – currently 20 companies to be expanded to 50 this year, enhanced programme for f4n by end of calendar year.

Wylfa/Newydd new build plans are moving forward with a 3rd phase of public consultation – delays due to a new drive to reduce costs and also with changes to the Wales Act there are differences to the legal framework for the project within Planning regime.

Welsh Gov engaging with Hinkley Point project supply chain team to try to maximise the local and welsh company involvement, some successful bids have been made and one company has a £100m contract for 200tonnes of rebar!

Welsh Nuclear Forum has been running for 12months with 60 companies involved, current focus is more towards new build. Once the forum has developed there may be more opportunity to engage with the SME Steering Group but decommissioning is not yet on the agenda.

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DIT are working with the Welsh Government and took a group of Welsh companies to Japan in January with the Embassy. 2 days, first on decommissioning and second was on new build. No further engagement has been had on new build.

Action : Invite Rhodri Owen from Horizon to attend the next meeting – MT

5. Magnox Update

There has been a mutual decision between Cavendish Fluor and NDA to terminate the PBO contract on 31st August 2019. This has had considerable impact on the staff, continuing the uncertainty for employees and the supply chain. The huge significant difference in the work estimated during the tender process and the actual situation now faced meant that Magnox would have been unable to resolve. NDA will review the model process and make a decision on how to proceed. Magnox will continue with it's planned programme up until the end of the current contract with no intention to slow or reduce the intended work streams unless the NDA considers it unsuitable at the present time and situation. They will continue with the change in the organisational structure. All procurement plans are published on the Magnox website and are updated on a regular basis. Contracts currently in place are with Magnox and not the PBO and therefore should continue beyond the PBO change. There may be opportunities with a new PBO and NDA to bring some projects to be brought forward within 2019/20.

Current work at Wylfa includes fuel transfer and asbestos removal.

Most of the work at Trawsfynydd has already been awarded however there is some small scale work to move the site into care and maintenance.

For the rest of the term of the contract as PBO, £370m due to be spent within the supply chain of which £18m is in small scale work, £260m is for work already awarded, currently tendering for £35m, balance is in the budget but not yet allocated to particular streams of work.

6. AOB

Costain – much of the work currently being offered by Magnox is not appealing to 'large' companies however Costain would like to offer support for companies interested in working with them in other sites such as Sellafield, Faslane, Devonport, AWE or Hinkley. Please contact Lee McLaughlin for more information.

Costain Academy has been used by many members of the group and Richard Howell (or via LMc) is keen to know how many Welsh companies would be interested in taking part. The Academy is free to join and was presented at both the NIA/Welsh Gov form and within one of the previous steering group meetings.

7. Next Meeting

PK to send doodle for meeting in mid- sept.