

## SIN and Spark! - fostering a Franco-British energy community, bringing young talent closer to industry



Throughout 2016 the SIN France team have supported the creation of The Spark! Contest,<sup>1</sup> focused on fostering a Franco-British community within the energy sector.

Sponsored by companies such as EDF and Rolls Royce, the Spark! Contest invites teams of French and British students and graduates to submit papers on key issues for the industry. In this way, the contest encourages exchange between a pool of young talent, bringing them closer to industry, encouraging innovation and building Franco-British connections amongst the next generation of nuclear talent.

A workshop for the competition finalists was held at the Ambassador's Residence in Paris, where Professor Robin Grimes along with senior representatives from nuclear businesses, associated service companies, regulators and training organisations, was able to further inspire participants. The final prizes were later awarded at the World Nuclear Exhibition 2016 in Paris – at which we were also able to celebrate the signing of an MoU between SFEN (Société Française d'Énergie Nucléaire) and the UK's NIA (Nuclear Industry Association).



*Be bright, ignite your career!*



The work that Spark! is taking forward is an important part of our broader efforts to enhance nuclear research and skills collaboration between the UK and France, which is particularly important in the context of the recent signing of the Hinkley Point C contract. Other elements of this effort include an AREVA investment of £100k in the UK's National Skills Academy for Nuclear to support supply chain apprenticeships, and development of a CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) nuclear skills roadmap that includes placements to UK students, and EDF becoming a strategic partner for the South West Nuclear Hub.

The Spark! Contest has continued develop in 2017, with the number of participants almost doubling. Having supported the Spark! Contest from the outset, including hosting the first finalist workshop, SIN has been delighted to see this important link between British and French young minds continue to go from strength to strength, feeding the pipeline of talent for the nuclear sector.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thesparkcontest.org/spark-contest-2016.html>

