

View from the top...

Who are we?

Google's mission statement is to "organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful".

Wow, that's pretty impressive. Simple, right?

Maybe not, but Google is on a mission to collect the world's information, organise it, and put it at our fingertips.

And to their credit, when we want to find some obscure piece of information, it is Google that we will turn to.

Well, the LLWR should be able to simply state what its mission is as well.

We should be able to define who we are as well as any organisation. And we can: Our mission is:

"to support the UK by providing permanent, cost effective and environmentally sound solutions for the management of nuclear waste"

I know, it is not as exciting as Google's mission, but it is who we are.

And we are proud of the fact that we are fulfilling our mission and doing our part.

Just as most of us turn to Google for our information needs, waste generators across the UK turn to us with many of their nuclear waste disposal needs.

However, what I am the most proud of is *how* we are delivering our mission.

You see, who we are is as much *how* we do what we do as it is *what* we actually do.

As you read through this edition, you will note a common theme.

You will notice that one of our key tenets is our desire and ability to collaborate.

Over the years, we have developed a strong value toward delivering through a deliberate intention to work closely with key partners.

Each of the articles in this edition speak to this ability and desire to collaborate.

Whether it involves working with GRAHAM Construction, our Engineering and Design partner, to be awarded a Considerate Constructors Scheme award, or our partnership with Bendalls of Carlisle to deliver a fleet of very complicated transport packages.

Or something as simple as collaborating with our local schools to assist them with the Lego competitions.

These are all great examples of what we do, but more importantly, they begin to paint a picture of who we are.

Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director



Iain's second bite at site

Iain Irving has completed an 18-year journey to return to LLWR as Head of Site. The Scot, pictured, was the first to hold the position, from 1999, and at just 31 the site, where only around 15 people then worked, made a big impression on him.

"I always said it was the best job I've ever had, and if I was to ever go back to take a look, I would want to work there, again," said Iain.

"You could get the whole team together in one go, which made it a lot easier to manage. We received a lot of support from Sellafield in terms of functional work, with what's now Waste Management Services coming from Sellafield.

"It was a completely different business model to what it is now. At first it was a case of looking after the infrastructure and the Grout Plant.

"The workforce went up to 54 when we started PCM retrievals. This was a £55m project held up by Sellafield as one of its most successful. It was in full swing by the time I left."

Ayr-born Iain was destined for a career in senior management and has spent most of his career in the nuclear industry. He is not planning to implement major changes on site.

"There's an old saying, 'if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it,'" he continued. "The site has done remarkably well and I'm not coming in to do anything radical. We are seen as delivering and maintaining our momentum."

Iain replaces Paul Pointon, who has been appointed Deputy Managing Director of LLWR.



Lego again next year, kids!

Ennerdale Engineers flew the flag for our area in the LLWR-sponsored First Lego League UK finals in Bristol.

The youngsters, from Ennerdale & Kinniside Primary School, finished second in the 48-team Robot Performance section and were invited to travel to Denmark, home of Lego, for the European Open competition, with an option to also contest the Global Finals in Bath.

KS CLIC from Keswick School, the other team to qualify for the national finals from the West Cumbria regional finals at St Bees, made it through to the quarter finals.



On their metal: Youngsters were joined by LLWR volunteers at the West Cumbria Regional Finals in St Bees and throughout the competition

Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public affairs, said: "We were delighted with the enthusiastic response at the West Cumbria finals, not least from our own employees, many of whom had volunteered to take part to help the schoolchildren. We have agreed a five-year sponsorship of the Lego League and can't wait for next year's event to see the incredible ingenuity on show, once again."

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In the Frame for honours!

LLW Repository Ltd's Engineering, Design & Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has been recognised with a national award – as work on a centrepiece of the contract was completed on schedule and under budget.

Members of the Framework will travel to Manchester on 21st March to collect their Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) award, though they will not know the grade of the honour until it's announced at the ceremony.

This will depend on whether any national scheme in its category scored more than the impressive 43 points out of 50 awarded to the Framework on CCS Monitor Tom Lawson's second of two visits to LLWR site.

"Whether it's gold, silver or bronze, it's a notable achievement," said Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR. "CCS was established by the construction industry to improve its image by improving standards, and we were rated 'beyond compliant' in all five categories examined by the scheme."

Meanwhile, work on LLWR's new 4.2km Security Fence Line Project has been completed by the Framework team. The project was split into nine sections with work on the first eight progressing smoothly. On the final stage, the Framework team discovered a host of uncharted services, which slowed momentum, though impacts to the schedule were minimised due to quick and innovative solutions from the engineering team.

Andrew Banks, GRAHAM Construction Senior Project Manager, said: "The Fence Line was indeed a challenging project but the skills brought by all involved ensured that the project was delivered within time and below budget. "The works helped the site understand and identify numerous historical legacy services and



Digging it: Work on installing posts for the new fence last year, when sections of the old fence were still in place

structures that future works will benefit from.

"The workers who contributed to this success can be very proud of what they have achieved knowing they have delivered a very demanding project with the added bonus that the skills and knowledge learnt by the EDCF team will stand us in good stead for future projects."

CCS had been particularly keen to see how well infrastructure projects were being developed on

a Nuclear Licenced site.

Framework Programme manager Tony Buchanan said: "The Project team worked extremely well to negotiate all obstacles thrown at them. Working closely with the various stakeholders, the project showed a fantastic schedule-focused attitude, whilst maintaining the correct compliance to the Site License conditions."

RDP's first new jobs on the cards

Preparatory work on the LLWR Repository Development Programme (RDP) is set to get underway next month after the first phase of the scheme was given the go-ahead. Tranche 1, valued at £86.8m, cleared the final hurdle when agreed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Board. This phase will take around 10 years to complete and includes capping Vault 8 and the adjacent trenches. The first visible sign that preparatory work for RDP is underway will be seen later this year when noise reduction barriers are installed. The first new posts associated with the Programme are also in the pipeline with a Civil Engineer possessing a Geotechnical background and an Environmental Team member with ecological experience currently being sought.

Dave Saul, RDP Programme Manager, said "We are looking forward to developing the team and these vacancies offer a fantastic opportunity to be involved in a unique long-term project." For current job vacancies check out our website: www.llwrsite.com



Ready for any emergency

Cumbria Fire & Rescue sprang into action when the shout came of “men down” in a smoke-filled vehicle repair workshop on the LLWR site.

Thankfully, this was simply another of the many emergency exercises held annually by LLWR to prepare for the type of incident they hope will never arise.

Four fire vehicles joined the exercise, with officers from the retained crew at Millom

involved for the first time on site with colleagues from Whitehaven, Seascale and Egremont.

Under the exercise scenario, crews going to the aid of the two stricken workers also suffered a “man down” and all three had to be helped from the building.

“It was a good exercise from which LLWR and Cumbria Fire & Rescue both got some good learning,” said Mark Butterworth, Exercise

Controller at the scene. It’s exactly why we carry out these exercises – to learn. We believe you can’t get too much practice.

“We work hand-in-hand with Cumbria Fire & Rescue, and always talk through what we want to achieve from an exercise.

“Both parties benefit from them. They are happy to assist and it’s a good example of integrated working.”

Walk this Way ...

A plaque at Seascale to mark the walk that celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of famed Cumberland scientist John Dalton has been sponsored by LLWR.

Dalton, born in Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, in 1776, discovered atomic theory, so LLWR thought it fitting to agree to a request for funding from walking group, Nuclear Striders.

“The walk links Dalton’s birthplace with Cockermouth then on to Calder Hall, the first commercial atomic power station in the world, when it was commissioned in 1956,” said Frank McGrath, from the Nuclear Striders Walking Group, who thanked LLWR for its donation.

The 45km John Dalton Way passes through some of West Cumbria’s



Giant Striders: Frank McGrath, left, with Jean McGrath and, back row, Richard Hartjig, Phil Campbell and Morris Pringle

most picturesque countryside before ending at the information point on the seafront at Seascale.

Our company allotment adjacent to Pelham House will welcome lots of new faces this year in the shape of a pack of 18 Brownies. Waste Specialist and Head Gardener Fiona Robinson is also a leader at Seascale Brownies and has arranged, with financial help from Copeland Community Fund, for the youngsters to work towards securing their gardening badges They will grow a variety of veg alongside LLWR volunteers.

Type B delivery set for May

LLW Repository Ltd is due to take delivery in May of the second pair of high-precision new Type B (Novapak) Packaging that will enable the resumption of transport of legacy nuclear material by rail from the LLWR site to Sellafield.

The first pair of stainless steel boxes were delivered in February by Cumbrian firm Bendalls under a multi-million pound programme and are currently undergoing inactive handling trials at the Harwell site in Oxfordshire after completing similar trials at Sellafield.

The use of Novapaks is associated with the clean-up of intermediate level waste from nuclear decommissioning, and Carlisle-based Bendalls are manufacturing the second and third pairs simultaneously.

“We have produced this highly-complex product, and I’m delighted with the result,” said Alan Jackson, LLWR Programme Manager.

“It has been a cracking team effort between multiple organisations, from Bendalls to Mott MacDonald, Nuvia, Prima Uno and LLWR staff, working together for a common goal – providing packaging to deliver the NDA’s Consolidation Strategy.

Peter Welch, the NDA’s head of the LLWR programme is also pleased with progress achieved.

“This is a fantastic example of everyone working together,” he said. “Co-ordinated and driven by LLWR, the team work between them, Bendalls and the quality control team at Sellafield, has



Box nation: Members of the LLWR team involved in the Programme

ultimately secured the success that we can now all build on.”

Bendalls, part of the Carr’s Engineering Group, won the contract through a competitive tendering process and will manufacture at least five pairs of Novapaks, which contain an outer packaging providing thermal and main impact protection while inner packaging provides containment.

Sean Saunders, Bendalls’ Operations Director, said: “It’s a very technically-demanding build so to see the first two built is very pleasing.

“We know it’s an important asset in the NDA’s wider programme.

“One of the big things about working with LLWR is its collaborative nature. Whenever we faced a challenge, they weren’t heavy-handed, they came to the table and asked how we could work through it together.

“The challenge has been a shared one, and that’s a big part of the success of completing the first two boxes.”

Each Novapak, around 2m³, will carry up to four, 200 litre drums of material. LLWR worked closely and collaboratively with Nuvia, which is integrally involved through the manufacturing, operations and maintenance of the packaging. The Novapaks will replace LLWR’s existing fleet and be in operation for around eight years.

Visitors from across globe welcomed to site

We have hosted more than 50 visits to our facilities during the financial year, with over 400 visitors welcomed through our gates to get the lowdown on the low level waste industry.

This includes visitors from as far afield as China, Japan and Australia, as well as many much closer to home, such as Cumbrian local authorities, schools, and even local clergy.

LLWR also hosted representatives from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Authority, Nugen, who are looking to build a new nuclear power station at nearby Moorside, and decommissioning Site Licence Company Magnox, among many others.

Donna Glasson, Visits Co-ordinator, said: “We’ve had excellent feedback from visitors throughout the year.

“We get a lot of requests to visit from universities, whether from an engineering, environmental or radiological stand-point. This is because

our visits have a good reputation and word gets around the universities.

“Around one-third of our visits are requested by NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority), and we always try to accommodate our client. We pull out all the stops, and, in fact, we never turn down an NDA visit request.”

Extensive development works to the site entrance area meant that for six months this year, some visits to site proved difficult to arrange.

“We had to rearrange and work around the construction works, which was very difficult at times,” Donna said.

“Some visits were hosted at Pelham House, which led to some staff having to give up meeting rooms they had booked.

“But we had great support from the teams at Pelham House, who worked around me.”