

 <p>UK Atomic Energy Authority</p>	BOARD MEETING - MINUTES Meeting Reference UKAEA(25)4	
Date	Wednesday 2 July	
Time	1015 - 1625	
Location	UKAEA Board Room, C7, Culham Campus	
Members	Bernard Taylor (Chair) Ian Chapman Luc Bardin Tim Bestwick Ruth Elliot Claire Flint (remote)	Sue Gray Robin Grimes Richard Hookway Stephen Hillier Mary Ryan Lee McDonough (DESNZ)
Attendees	Madhav Bakshi (DESNZ) David Gann (UKIFS Chair) Justin Kingsford (UKAEA COO) Nina Tomlin (Sec)	

Agenda Items

1. Opening Remarks and Declarations led by B Taylor.

1.1. The Chair welcomed Claire Flint to her first Board meeting and expressed the Board's gratitude to outgoing CEO Ian Chapman.

1.2. **Declarations:** None relevant to agenda.

1.3. UKAEA(25)4 – PRemCo Chair appointment

Claire Flint's appointment as Chair of People and Remuneration Sub-Committee was **approved**.

Decisions:

Reference	Decision
UKAEA(25)4/D1	Claire Flint was approved as Chair of PRemCo

2. Minutes and Actions Review, UKAEA(25)M3 led by B Taylor:

Minutes review: Approved.

2.1. Open actions due by July were reviewed:

Action	Owner	Due	Status	Update
Consider and arrange a Board discussion at higher security classification	L McDonough	March 2025	Open	This is being arranged for September's Board meeting.

JM, LB and BT to meet to discuss commercial strategy for AIGZ	B Taylor	May 2025	Open	Strategy discussion to be set up with relevant colleagues.
Share NAO draft of ARA with ARAC members.	N Tomlin	June 2025	Closed	
Add GGCs and TCFD updates to Board Forward Look	N Tomlin	June 2025	Closed	
Provide dashboard of key facts and milestones as part of UKIFS CEO report	P Methven	July 2025	Closed	Dashboard included with CEO Update; additional information will be added to future dashboard.
CAIGZ - work together with UKAEA Executives to clarify process and next steps.	L McDonough	July 2025	Closed	Closed after today's discussion under item 9.
Invite regulators to present to UKAEA Board on establishment of a fusion regulatory framework.	S Hillier	September 2025	Open	N Barber and S Hillier taking forward action to issue invitation to EA and HSE to a future Board meeting.

3. UKAEA Group Executive Board Report, UKIFS Executive Report & Risk Report, led by I Chapman, T Bestwick, J Kingsford, R Elliot

UKAEA(25)4 - UKAEA Executive Board Report

- 3.1. The Board noted the updates, including Spending Review settlement, to be considered in more detail under agenda item 4. IC expressed his thanks to colleagues in DESNZ for the genuine partnership working to achieve this SR outcome.
- 3.2. Other items of note were Fusion's inclusion in the HMG Modern Industrial Strategy 2025, safety updates, site improvements, transport to site, and ongoing work to finalise international collaboration agreements.
- 3.3. The Board also discussed commercial matters, investment, and flywheel repurposing.

Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)4/1	Schedule biannual Safety Walkabout of Culham site for Board in forward planner	N Tomlin	Jul 25

UKAEA(25)4/2	L McDonough to liaise with HMG colleagues on progress of flywheels repurposing	L McDonough	Sep 25
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UKAEA(25)4 - UKIFS CEO Report, led by P Methven (attendee)

- 3.4. PM reiterated thanks to DESNZ team on their work to achieve the SR settlement for UKAEA Group, including STEP programme.
- 3.5. The Board noted progress on negotiations of international collaboration agreements.
- 3.6. The Chair led a discussion on the concept design technology update within the UKIFS CEO Report, focusing on plasma operation, fuel and breeder ratios, design plans and technical risks.

Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)4/3	PM to advise on suitable time to bring update on technical challenges and impacts back to Board.	P Methven	Nov 25

4. Spending Review 2025, led by R Elliot

- 4.1. The Board heard initial plans for implementation of the SR25 settlement, including priorities and profiling, following a detailed discussion at UKAEA PSRE ExCo earlier that week. The Board heard that the overall shape of the settlement was £2.5bn over five years, including £2.1bn for four years from 2026/27.
- 4.2. A more detailed paper on implementation would be brought to Board in September.
- 4.3. The Board requested that the impact of the SR25 profile on STEP and UKIFS be shared with them in parallel with the UKIFS Board.

Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)4/4	PM to share SR25 plans and impact on STEP with Board in parallel with UKIFS Board	P Methven	Jul 25

5. Finance update, led by R Elliot

UKAEA(25)4 – Finance update Jul25

- 5.1. The Board heard an update on Finances for the current financial year. A more detailed discussion was due at the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on 3rd July.
- 5.2. The National Audit Office annual audit was nearing completion.

6. Annual Report 2024/25, led by R Elliot

UKAEA(25)4 – UKAEA Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25

- 6.1. The Board heard that ARA content had been updated to reflect the outcome of the Spending Review and minor comments received from the National Audit Office.
- 6.2. The report would be laid on 17th July.
- 6.3. The Annual Report and Accounts were **recommended for approval**.
- 6.4. A brief meeting of the Board would be held online on 11th July to provide a recommendation on the final version.

7. Sub-Committee reports, led by C Flint and R Grimes

- 7.1. CF provided a report on the PRemCo meeting held that morning, which had considered Board succession planning, Board skills assessment, competencies and annual appraisals, UKAEA senior team appraisals, senior pay remit, pay flex case and CEO recruitment.

UKAEA(25)4 – PAC Report

- 7.2. RG reported on the recent three-day meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee, which meets twice a year.
- 7.3. The Sub-Committee concluded its report with 6 key recommendations across a wide range of UKAEA's programmes.

8. Technical Update: Integrated Engineering, led by I Chapman

UKAEA(25)4 – Integrated Engineering Technical Update

- 8.1. M Shannon presented the work of the Integrated Engineering Division, including an overview of its constituent units.
- 8.2. Discussion focused on priorities for IED, how it worked with programmes across UKAEA, and skills development.

9. AIGZ / Investor Partner, led by R Elliot

- 9.1. The Board heard an update on progress, following Culham Campus's announcement as the UK's first AI Growth Zone in January this year. An investment partner was being sought.
- 9.2. A critical friend review from DESNZ had taken place in June; HMG approvals route to be confirmed.

Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)4/5	L McDonough to review how HMG approvals can be streamlined	L McDonough	Sep 25

10. Risk Report – dashboard and update, led by R Elliot

UKAEA(25)4 – Board Risk Report

- 10.1. A more detailed and re-profiled framework would be brought to September's Board meeting.
- 10.2. The Board agreed that a risk explicitly related to the STEP programme should be included in the list of Group risks.

Actions:

Reference	Action	Actionee	Due
UKAEA(25)4/6	Group Risk register to include a risk explicitly related to the STEP programme	R Elliot	Sep 25

11. Six-month review of Eni collaboration, led by T Bestwick

- 11.1. K Dunn provided an update on the Eni collaboration since the signing of the collaboration agreement in December 2024.
- 11.2. The Board noted benefits, feedback and media stories, inclusion in the HMG Modern Industrial Strategy, and the active collaboration taking place across all aspects of programme delivery, supported by 9 Eni secondees based at Culham Campus.
- 11.3. The Board also noted plans for the coming six months.

12. AOB, led by B Taylor

UKAEA(25)4 – strategic items on forward agenda

UKAEA(25)4 – forward look

- 12.1. The Board discussed topics that would warrant a longer strategic discussion at future Board meetings.
- 12.2. These topics would be integrated into the Board's forward plan and a call for additional topics would be included as a regular agenda item.

Meeting closed 15:50

Attendance record:

Position	Name	Present	Absent
Members	Bernard Taylor	/	
	Ian Chapman	/	
	Ruth Elliot	/	
	Tim Bestwick	/	
	Richard Hookway	/	
	Luc Bardin	/	
	Claire Flint	/ (remote)	
	Sue Gray	/ (remote)	
	Stephen Hillier	/	
	Mary Ryan	/	
	Robin Grimes	/	
	Lee McDonough	/	
Attendees	Nina Tomlin	/	
	Justin Kingsford	/	
	David Gann	/	
	Madhav Bakshi	/	

End of Minutes