



## The latest updates from Great British Energy - Nuclear

### Wylfa selected as site for Europe's first SMRs

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Wylfa on Anglesey was announced as the chosen site for the UK's first small modular reactor (SMR) units, a major milestone in delivering clean, secure, and homegrown energy.

This first SMR project will add up to 1.5GW of low-carbon power to the grid, creating up to 3,000 jobs during peak construction and thousands more across the supply chain.



The GBE-N team briefs UK Government and Welsh Government ministers on Wylfa plans

Welcoming the news, Prime Minister, Keir Starmer said:

*"Britain was once a world-leader in nuclear power, but years of neglect and inertia has meant places like Anglesey have been let down and left behind.*

*"Today, that changes. We're using all the tools in our armoury – cutting red tape, changing planning laws, and backing growth – to deliver the country's first SMR in North Wales.*

*"This government isn't just reversing decline, it's delivering thousands of future-proofed jobs, driving billions in investment, and providing cheaper energy bills in the long term.*

*"That's national renewal in action: powered by British talent, powered by nuclear, and powered by a government that's delivering for working people."*

## Wylfa selected as site for Europe's first SMRs (cont.)

Our own Chair, Simon Bowen, added:

*"This is a historic moment for the UK, and is another momentous step in realising Britain's potential in leading the way on nuclear energy."*

*"These first SMRs at Wylfa will lay the groundwork for a fleet-based approach to nuclear development, strengthening the UK's energy independence and bringing long-term investment to the local economy."*

*"Wylfa has a proud history of nuclear*

*excellence, and we're excited to build on that foundation to deliver jobs, training, and low-carbon energy for generations to come."*

On the same day, GBE-N was tasked by the Government with identifying more sites in the UK, including those in Scotland, which could host future large-scale developments. We will report on our findings in Autumn 2026, which will in turn help inform future decisions at the next Spending Review.

## Simon Bowen appointed Chair of GBE-N

On the same day as our siting announcement, Simon Bowen was named as the Chair of Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) having served as interim Chair since 2023.

Under Simon's leadership, GBE-N delivered rigorous technology selection process, naming Rolls-Royce SMR as our preferred technology partner.

Simon will now oversee the creation of a new development company to deliver the UK's first SMR project and continue shaping GBE-N's strategic role in enabling the UK government's nuclear programme.



Simon Bowen

## Simon Roddy announced as new Chief Executive



Simon Roddy

Last week we were delighted to announce that Simon Roddy has been appointed the new CEO of GBE-N.

Simon brings more than 30 years' experience with Shell in the energy sector, both internationally and the UK. His background includes extensive experience in the management of energy infrastructure, and the delivery of complex energy projects. Most recently, as Senior Vice President for Shell UK, he has played a pivotal role in the North Sea's energy transition.

Simon's proven track record in managing large-scale energy investments will be critical as GBE-N progresses project development and delivers on the Government's ambition to bring forward one of Europe's first SMR fleets – supporting economic growth, creating skilled jobs, and powering millions of homes.

Simon will officially assume his role as CEO on 2nd March 2026.

Minister for Science, Innovation, Research and Nuclear, Lord Vallance, said:

*"Simon brings a wealth of expertise and a proven track record that will help deliver the UK's first small modular reactors at Wylfa in North Wales."*

*"I look forward to working with Simon and Great British Energy - Nuclear's leadership team as we enter a new golden age of nuclear, which will create thousands of jobs and boost the UK's energy security."*



## GBE-N Chair gives keynote speech to nuclear industry's annual conference

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Simon Bowen delivered a keynote speech to the Nuclear Industry Association's *Nuclear 2025* conference, giving an overview of how far GBE-N has come in such a short space of time, as well as looking to the future, and our additional mandate of assessing the potential of future nuclear sites in the UK.



*Chair, Simon Bowen presents at Nuclear 2025*

## Wylfa: A site with a proud history of generating safe, reliable nuclear power

The news that Wylfa had been selected as the site for our first SMRs was warmly welcomed across the Island and the wider North Wales region, which has benefitted hugely over the years of hosting the original Wylfa Power Station.

From the start of construction on the twin-reactor Magnox nuclear plant in 1963, to the end of generation in 2015, Wylfa had a long and proud history of producing safe, clean nuclear power.

Each reactor had a capacity of 490 MWe, making Wylfa the largest Magnox station to be built, and was for a time the largest nuclear power plant in the world.

Located around a mile from the nearby town of Cemaes, Wylfa was the final Magnox station to be built and the last one to enter

decommissioning.

At its peak, it employed more than 1,000 people, and it generated 232 TWh of electricity over its 44 years of operation. In real terms, this would be enough to power nearly all of Wales' 1.3 million homes since 1971, all whilst avoiding the emission of over 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

While we at GBE-N get ready to build next generation SMRs on the new build site next door, our colleagues at Nuclear Restoration Services will continue working diligently to safely decommission the original Wylfa Power Station, which meant so much to generations across the island.



*The decommissioning Wylfa power station and the site for the UK's first small modular reactors*

## The roadmap to new nuclear at Wylfa

The announcement of new nuclear coming to Anglesey (Ynys Môn) will kick start a period of development for the UK's first SMR power station project.

This period will be characterised by planning for, and applying for various regulatory steps which we must clear before construction can start.

One of the largest is its planning permission, which would be granted by the Government (as advised by the Planning Inspectorate) through a development consent order, and

represents several years' work, involving detailed design work, environmental impact assessment, and public consultation. It's likely that along the way, there'll be a need for smaller planning permissions, which will be applied for through the local authority, Isle of Anglesey County Council.

For the safety and security of the project through development, construction, and into operation, an application will be made to the Office for Nuclear Regulation for a nuclear site licence. Meanwhile, for

environmental protection, a number of environmental permits will need to be applied for through Natural Resources Wales, as the devolved environmental regulator.

As the various permissions are applied for and granted, GBE-N is committed to communicating clearly and engaging with the local communities around the project to make sure that they have opportunities to understand and where possible, provide their input to our proposals.



*GBE-N and local stakeholders gather at the site to mark the announcement that Wylfa is to be the site of the UK's first small modular reactors. L-R Cllr Jackie Lewis, council leader Cllr Gary Pritchard, GBE-N Chair Simon Bowen, Cllr Kenneth Hughes, Llinos Medi MP, Cllr Derek Owen, GBE-N Project Director Kenny Douglas, Council CEO Dylan Williams, NRS Site Director Stuart Law, Cllr Aled Morris Jones.*



## GBE-N holds supply chain engagement event in Manchester

In October, we held a formal market engagement event for our Delivery Partner procurement in Manchester.

Led by our Chief Commercial Officer, Helen Perthen, the day focused on capability and collaboration – key themes in delivering the UK's SMR programme, supporting British jobs, skills, and maximising economic growth.

We were proud to have our Chair, Simon Bowen, and SMR Executive Project Director, Kenny Douglas, contribute to the discussions, exploring how GBE-N can unlock opportunities and ensure the UK is ready to deliver at pace.

We'd like to thank all those who joined us and shared valuable insights. Together, we're building momentum toward a cleaner, more secure energy future for the UK.



*Chief Commercial Officer Helen Perthen presents the GBE-N team at the delivery partner market engagement event*

## Thank you for reading

To stay up to date with news and events from GBE-N, please contact our Head of Communications, **Ieuan Williams**, at: [ieuan.williams@greatbritishnuclear.uk](mailto:ieuan.williams@greatbritishnuclear.uk).

Or follow us on our social media channels:



[GBNgovuk](#)



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## First Early Careers cohort starts at GBE-N

In October we were delighted to welcome our very first Early Careers cohort to GBE-N.

Our new colleagues, joined by our Chief Financial Officer, Neil Cooper, started their journey with a tailored induction designed to set them up for success.

From building connections and exploring our culture, to preparing for their first rotations across the nuclear sector, this is the start of an exciting chapter for both them and us.

A big thank you to our Talent Development team, in particular our Talent Development Lead, Vicki Dingwall, for the hard work that went into creating and delivering such a strong onboarding experience.

We're also proud to work alongside organisations like Energus, Cogent Skills, and the Nuclear Institute Young Generation Network to deliver our Early Careers Programme.

We look forward to supporting our new graduates, apprentices and fast-track colleagues as they build their careers – their futures in nuclear start here!



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