

The Spark

June 2026 – Volume III

The latest updates from Great British Energy - Nuclear

Wylfa stakeholder event builds momentum



Ffwrdd â ni! Let's go! CEO Simon Roddy gets things moving at Wylfa event marking contract signing

In May, Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) held an event for local stakeholders on Anglesey to mark the contract beginning between GBE-N and Rolls-Royce SMR.

Featuring speeches from Anglesey County Council, Rolls-Royce SMR and GBE-N, the event brought together the Island's community, educational institutions and prospective supply chain for the Wylfa project.

Meaningful and honest engagement with our project's neighbours is a vital part of successful delivery as we prepare the site for the UK's first small modular reactors (SMRs), and this event marks the first in many which will take place over the coming months and years.

Naming campaign launched

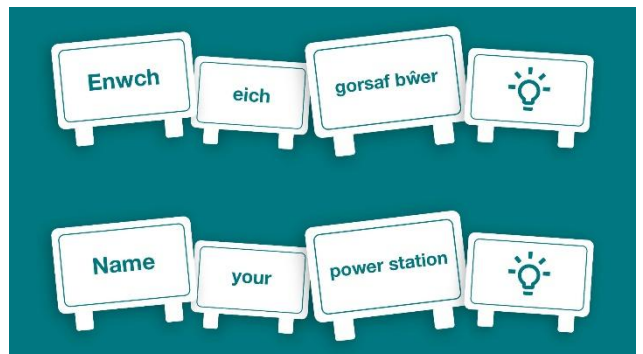
At the stakeholder event, GBE-N launched a naming campaign for its flagship SMR power station. Open to all Anglesey residents, the competition is open until 5pm on Monday 8th June, with the winning name being announced soon after.

Chief Executive, Simon Roddy, said: "This is the start

of a decades-long relationship with the people of Anglesey, so it's only right that we ask them to help name the power station which will be a part of this community's story for generations.

"Wylfa is a first-of-a-kind project for the UK, with long-term benefits both locally and nationally, and at GBE-N we are serious about delivering it safely, responsibly and with the community at its heart.

"This is our moment to deliver on a nationally critical mission and we're excited and committed to doing it together."



greatbritishenergynuclear.uk/nameyourpowerstation

A foreword from our new CEO

Having joined the GBE-N team in early March, I can say with confidence that I've hit the ground running!

While I'm new to nuclear, I've spent the majority of career in energy, and am excited to come onboard as the new Chief Executive of GBE-N at a genuinely crucial time for this industry, and indeed the country.

Energy security for growth, that is our underlying mission. Within weeks of my arrival we hit a major milestone in that effort, our contract signing with the technology partner for our Wylfa Project, Rolls-Royce SMR. This was the culmination of years of work across government, GBE-N and the nuclear sector, and I thank all who played a role in the small modular reactor (SMR) selection process, and running it so professionally and efficiently.

Now to our main task, getting Wylfa right, the gravity of which cannot be understated. This project is the reset point for the nuclear industry following John Fingleton's regulatory review, with systemic issues unlocked, allowing us to deliver the first units, and enabling the fleet beyond it. I pay tribute to our outgoing CEO, Gwen Parry-Jones, for her enormous contribution in getting us to where we are now.

I'm honoured to be part of this organisation's journey, this is our moment, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.



Simon



Collaboration Agreement marks another step forward

GBE-N and the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) have signed a Collaboration Agreement which sets out how the two organisations will work together to support delivery of the UK's first SMRs at Wylfa.

The agreement will ensure a transparent, efficient, respectful and positive partnership, aimed at delivering positive outcomes for the island's community while supporting economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing.

Nuclear Grads Assessment – Supporting the Next Generation

GBE-N was proud to take part in the Nuclear Graduates Assessment Centre, delivered by Energen as the final stage of recruitment of the Nuclear Graduates scheme.

Held in January, the event brought together 157 shortlisted candidates from an initial pool of over 1,000 applicants – all vying for a place on this prestigious programme.

As part of the process, members of the GBE-N team supported interviews, group activities and exercises to help identify the graduates who will join our next GBE-N sponsored cohort in September. From assessors volunteering their time to graduates and

the wider team showcasing what life at GBE-N looks like on our stand, the energy and enthusiasm throughout the day were fantastic.



The GBE-N team promoting careers in nuclear



Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Rt Hon Ed Miliband, flanked by graduates from GBE-N and Rolls-Royce SMR announces the contract signing to build three SMRs at Wylfa

GBE-N signs contract with Rolls-Royce SMR

On Monday 13th April it was announced that GBE-N had entered into a contract with Rolls-Royce SMR to be the technology provider for the UK's first SMR project at Wylfa.

The contract will require Rolls-Royce SMR to work with GBE-N to deliver against key milestones as it commences site-specific design, regulatory engagement, and planning processes, ahead of a future Final Investment Decision.

The project is estimated to support around 3,000 jobs on site at peak construction and thousands more across the UK supply chain, strengthening national energy security and supporting long-term economic growth for local communities.

To mark the occasion, an event was held at Number 11 Downing Street with speeches from the Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Energy Secretary Ed Miliband.

Simon Bowen, Chair of Great British Energy - Nuclear, said: *"This is an immense moment for the UK nuclear programme, our organisation, and the industry as a whole."*

"Today represents a true recognition of the efforts made across GBE-N, Rolls-Royce SMR and UK Government to get to this point, and I'm hugely proud of the team for reaching this critical milestone."

Simon Roddy, CEO of Great British Energy - Nuclear, added: *"This agreement is a landmark moment for the nuclear industry. Working with Rolls-Royce SMR, we're bringing a significant long-term investment to the UK industrial supply chain."*

"Supporting skills, innovation and growing our industrial capability is essential to this partnership and will ensure the UK is well-placed to deliver the next generation of nuclear infrastructure."



Left: CEOs of GBE-N and RR SMR respectively, Simon Roddy and Chris Cholerton sign the contract, flanked by GBE-N Chair Simon Bowen (L) and CEO of Rolls-Royce Group, Tufan Erginbilgic (R), with the Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, and the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Right: CEO Simon Roddy and Chair Simon Bowen en route to Downing Street accompanied by the GBE-N sponsored Nuclear Graduates, Ellie Wilson, Emily Tebbutt, Demay Banks, and Sulaiman Mohammed

First bite of *Fission Chips*, as podcast takes off

In April, we filmed the first three episodes of *Fission Chips*, our new social media campaign created with the Nuclear Institute's Young Generation Network (YGN). GBE-N became a company partner of the YGN last year, and this project marks the first major outcome of that partnership.

The episodes were filmed in Warrington at *New Cod on the Block*.

Fission Chips is a series in which young nuclear professionals sit down with leading figures from across the sector in a local fish and chip shop. The aim is to create an informal setting that makes conversations about nuclear feel open and approachable.

The campaign is designed for people aged 16 to 25 and its purpose is to demystify the nuclear industry, highlight real career pathways, build wider support for the sector and help young people understand how nuclear fits into the UK's future.

Our first guest was Elliot Andrews, a Mechanical Engineering Degree Apprentice from Sellafield, who spoke about his early career experience and the route that brought him into the industry. The second episode features Adrian Bull, President of the Nuclear



NI President Adrian Bull prepares for his *Fission Chips* conversation with the YGN and GBE-N

Institute reflecting on the progress he has seen throughout his career and the reasons he feels positive about the future of the sector. The third episode includes Charlotte Nichols, MP for Warrington North, discussing the role nuclear plays in her constituency and how public attitudes have shifted during her time in politics.

These first episodes will be released across the YGN's social media channels, including LinkedIn, Instagram and TikTok.

GBE-N continues to build delivery team for first SMRs



The road to nuclear new build at Wylfa; an aerial view of the site from Cemlyn

In the first quarter of 2026, GBE-N has continued to make great strides in building the team which will deliver the UK's first SMRs. This is part of intense commercial activity to scope, procure and award multi-million-pound contracts for the nuclear supply chain.

- **Owner's Engineer**, awarded to Litmus Nuclear – a Joint Venture between Amentum and Cavendish Nuclear, valued at up to £300m.
- The **Environmental Services and Permitting** contract for Wylfa, awarded to WSP and Mott MacDonald, which was made up of two contracts worth up to £25m and £6.6m respectively
- **Foundation Engineering**, awarded to Arup, with support from Costain, LDA Design, TUV Sud Nuclear Technologies, Mace and Gleeds, valued at up to £19.5m.
- **Property and Land Management**, awarded to Fisher German, valued at up to £2.55m.

The combined value of these contracts is over £350m.

Site office and compound opens at Oldbury-on-Severn

GBE-N's team has established a site office and compound at its Oldbury-on-Severn site ahead of a programme of site characterisation, the plan for which has recently received planning permission from South Gloucestershire Council.

The works involve ground investigations, looking at the geology and hydrology across the 180-hectare site using various methods, such as borehole drilling and ground pressure testing. In parallel, GBE-N will be digging some trial pits to understand the archaeology across the site.

The Oldbury site, acquired at the same time as the Wylfa site from Horizon Nuclear Power, has huge potential for new nuclear development. Deepening our understanding of the site through characterisation is an important part of GBE-N's role in promoting Oldbury for future projects.

Meanwhile, in February the UK Government announced the Advanced Nuclear Framework, which will support the development, commercialisation and deployment of eligible innovative nuclear projects within the UK energy system.

GBE-N is supporting the Framework by assessing proposals as they come forward, and engaging, via government, with prospective developers considering Oldbury as part of their applications.

More information for prospective developers is available on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).



Above: GBE-N's new site office and compound at its Oldbury-on-Severn site. Below: Yate and Thornbury MP, Claire Young becomes the first visitor as she is welcomed by CEO Simon Roddy for a site tour.



Bursaries awarded for new research

Bangor University and Cwmni Eginio, in partnership with GBE-N, have announced the recipients of the 2026 Bursary Scheme, which supports innovative research exploring North Wales' relationship with nuclear energy.

A total of £10,000 was made available by Cwmni Eginio and attracted high quality and competitive proposals from colleagues and students across the University.

Following a rigorous selection process, a panel representing Cwmni Eginio, the University and GBE-N selected four projects that will support research into North Wales' past, present and future relationship with nuclear energy.

[You can find a full list of the successful projects here.](#)

GBE-N Secures Licence to Generate

In March, GBE-N successfully obtained an Electricity Generation Licence from the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), representing a landmark moment in its mission to deliver Europe's first Small Modular Reactors.

Gaining this licence from Ofgem authorises GBE-N to generate electricity in the UK, which will supply homes, businesses, and communities with reliable, clean power for decades to come.

Acquiring a generation licence is one of the first in a chain of approvals needed to construct and operate power infrastructure in the UK. Having this certification means Ofgem deems GBE-N to be a qualified, well-run organisation, which is capable of meeting national safety standards in electricity generation.

