



UK Government

Small Modular Reactor Owner's Engineer

Summary Business Case



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Executive Summary

1. This business case seeks approval for the appointment of an Owner's Engineer (OE) to provide independent technical assurance, design review, and delivery oversight which will enable Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) to fulfil its Intelligent Client and Intelligent Customer functions in delivery of the small modular reactor (SMR) Project.

Strategic Case

2. The OE will fulfil the statutory Intelligent Customer role by providing independent assurance across design, construction, commissioning, and overall project delivery, ensuring compliance with technical, safety, regulatory, and quality requirements. The contract also provides flexible access to additional specialist expertise to strengthen project capability and support successful delivery as required.

Economic Case

3. The OE preferred bidder offered strong value for money across economy, efficiency and effectiveness, with competitive rates, robust mobilisation plans, and proven nuclear-sector capability.

Commercial Case

4. GBE-N ran a Competitive Flexible procurement process in line with the Procurement Act 2023. Key requirements included nuclear licensing expertise, experience with First-of-a-Kind technologies, and thorough understanding of UK regulatory compliance.
5. The Preferred Bidder represented the Most Advantageous Tender in compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 and demonstrated value for money.

Financial Case

6. The Finance Case confirms that expenditure on the OE will be managed within the budget envelope allocated by DESNZ to GBE-N in June 2025.

Management Case

7. The governance of the OE contract will operate through a structured contract management plan and formal NEC4 provisions.

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