

The Spark

September 2026 – Volume IV

The latest updates from Great British Energy - Nuclear

The Results Are In

A new chapter began on 26th June, when Great British Energy – Nuclear announced the name of its SMR project site near Wylfa Power Station on Anglesey: **Gwyndod**. The name was chosen following a community-led site naming initiative that invited local people to submit suggestions for the new site. The final choice was made by a panel of young people, with two representatives from each secondary school on Anglesey and two students from Coleg Menai, chaired by Llinos Medi MP and the Rt Hon Jo Stevens. After thoughtful discussion, the panel selected Gwyndod, a name which is inspired by a historic Welsh term associated with the people of Anglesey. We are grateful to Rachel Parry from Caergeiliog for suggesting the winning name, and we would also like to thank the young people who took part in this special milestone. Their contribution has helped shape the identity of the project from the very beginning.



Local secondary school pupils and Coleg Menai students revealing their chosen name for GBE-N's SMR site

Team Gwyndod is Growing

Since the last edition of *The Spark*, our team at the Gwyndod Site Office has continued to grow. We are delighted to have welcomed five new colleagues to the team, all of whom are Welsh speakers and local to Anglesey. Their arrival strengthens our local presence and reflects GBE-N's commitment to ensuring that people and communities in the area can benefit from the project. It also underlines the importance we place on promoting and respecting the Welsh language as we continue to build relationships across the Island. Keep an eye on our website if you are interested in opportunities to join our team.

If you have any questions about the project, we would be very happy to hear from you in Welsh or English:
Gwyndod@greatbritishnuclear.uk

Meeting with the Welsh Energy Minister

GBE-N representatives recently met with Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Adam Price, to provide an update on programme progress and discuss key upcoming milestones and priorities. The meeting formed part of GBE-N's ongoing engagement programme with Welsh Government as work continues to progress the Gwyndod project and wider SMR programme.

A Warm Welcome at Anglesey Show

Over two busy and very hot days in August, the GBE-N team was pleased to meet and speak with people from across Anglesey and beyond at the Anglesey Show. The event gave us a valuable opportunity to listen, answer questions and hear a wide range of views about the Gwyndod Project. We were encouraged by the level of interest shown by visitors, and by the many thoughtful conversations that took place throughout the show.

Although the Anglesey Show is over for another year, our conversations with communities across the Island are only just beginning. We look forward to continuing to engage, listen and work with local people who will be instrumental in helping us develop the project.



GBE-N's stand at Anglesey Show 2026

Launching Our Delivery Partner Procurement

In July, GBE-N reached a key milestone in the Gwyndod Project with the launch of its Delivery Partner procurement. This competitive process will appoint an organisation to provide the technical, commercial and programme management expertise needed to support the project as it moves into its next stage. The Delivery Partner will play an important role in helping GBE-N build the capability and capacity required to deliver a project of this scale, working alongside our teams as plans continue to develop. The launch followed months of detailed work across GBE-N and marks another important step in putting the right foundations in place for the future delivery of the Gwyndod Project.

GBE-N Joins World Nuclear Safety Organisation

GBE-N has formally joined the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) as a Category 5 (new entrant) member, marking an important step in our journey to becoming a world-class nuclear operator. WANO is critical across the global nuclear sector, bringing organisations together to share operating experience, safety insight and best practice.

For GBE-N, this membership is essential to building a strong safety culture from the outset and learning from decades of international expertise as we progress our SMR programme.

Through WANO, we will benefit from tailored support, access to real industry data and events, and a structured engagement plan, helping us embed high standards in operations, organisation and safety long before construction begins.

In return, GBE-N will contribute to the global community by sharing learning from SMR development and supporting future innovation.

On Your Bike!

Project Gwyndod colleagues from GBE-N and Rolls-Royce SMR got on their bikes in August to take part in the Tour de Môn, tackling the challenging 107-mile route around beautiful Anglesey. Together, the team raised £750 for Môn Search and Rescue, a charity that provides a vital, life-saving service across the Island.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in what proved to be a demanding and memorable ride. With its climbs, rolling countryside and coastal roads, Anglesey certainly kept riders on their toes, proving once again that it is far from flat! The experience has clearly made an impression on GBE-N colleagues, with some already talking about taking on next year's challenge!

Thank you to everyone who helps to make Tour de Môn such a special event year after year, from the organisers and marshals to the communities who came out to cheer riders along the way.



Gwyndod team at the Tour de Môn

Delivering Together

In October, GBE-N will co-host Delivering Together, a two-day supply chain conference alongside Rolls-Royce SMR at Coleg Menai. The event will bring together suppliers, stakeholders and partners to explore how businesses can help support the delivery of the UK's next generation of nuclear projects. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the skills, services and capabilities that will be needed as the Gwyndod Project develops. The second day will focus specifically on unlocking opportunities for local small and medium-sized businesses across Anglesey and North Wales, helping them understand how they can get involved, prepare for future opportunities and benefit from the project as it moves forward. [Head to Great British Energy – Nuclear & Rolls-Royce SMR Supply Chain Conference](#) to learn more about this event and to express an interest in joining us.



GBE-N's CEO Simon Roddy with Elfed Williams and Mair Rowlands

Welcoming Senedd Members to Gwyndod

While autumn is often seen as a quieter season, there are no plans to slow down at Gwyndod. September has already been a busy month, with GBE-N Chief Executive Officer Simon Roddy welcoming some of our newly-elected Senedd Members to the site. During the visit, Mair Rowlands and Elfed Williams met members of the Gwyndod team, toured the site, seeing first-hand its scale and potential, and the early works already underway. The visit provided an important opportunity to discuss the project's progress, its role in supporting future clean energy ambitions, and the importance of continuing to work closely with communities and representatives across Wales.

Moving Forward Together

On 4th June, colleagues from across GBE-N and RR-SMR came together for the *Moving Forward Together: Getting Gwyndod Right* event. With a focus on progress, priorities and partnerships, it was emphasised that Gwyndod cannot be delivered by one organisation alone, but alongside a wider system of partners, suppliers, regulators and, most importantly, communities. With presentations from senior leadership, panel discussions and workshops, the event was a golden opportunity to bring both organisations together to share ideas and help shape initiatives and new ways of working.



Moving Forward Together event

A Closer Look at Sizewell C

On 4th August, leaders from GBE-N and Rolls-Royce SMR took part in a joint visit to Sizewell C, one of the UK's newest nuclear power station projects being developed in Suffolk. The visit provided an opportunity to see first-hand how a major new nuclear project is being planned and delivered, and to hear directly from those involved in bringing the project forward.

For GBE-N, the visit was a valuable opportunity to learn from the experience of the Sizewell C team and better understand the systems, ways of working and partnerships needed to deliver a project of this scale. As work continues to develop Gwyndod, engaging with other major nuclear projects will help ensure we draw on proven lessons, build the right capability and apply practical insight as we progress plans for the UK's first fleet of small modular reactors.

Looking Back to Look After the Future

As part of any mega project such as the Gwyndod programme, archaeological surveys are essential to better understand site characteristics, conditions and history prior to any consenting decisions being made. This work helps to identify and record any archaeological features to ensure that cultural heritage considerations are understood and appropriately managed as project proposals develop.

Although archaeological surveys were previously carried out as part of the Horizon project, the Gwyndod proposals are different and require a fresh programme of survey work to support the

project's continued development. Therefore, over the coming months and years, you may notice more activity on site as we carry out these essential surveys and enabling works.



Preserving the past for future generations

Gwyndod opening UK-wide opportunities

On 3rd September, GBE-N's Chief Executive Officer Simon Roddy, joined Secretary of State Miatta Fahnbulleh, Rolls-Royce SMR and Siemens Energy to announce that key components of steam turbines for the first three Gwyndod SMRs will be manufactured in Siemens Energy's facility in Newcastle. The facility will produce high-pressure turbines and valve casings, marking the first time components of this type will be manufactured for a small modular reactor anywhere in Europe. Expected to support hundreds of jobs, the agreement will strengthen the UK's manufacturing skills and supply chains. While the project is located on Anglesey and will deliver long-term benefits for the local community, this announcement also highlights the national impact of the Gwyndod programme.

Anglesey Apprentices Embark On Nuclear Careers

Ten young apprentices have recently begun their nuclear careers with GBE-N's technology provider, Rolls-Royce SMR, at an incredibly exciting time for the industry and for the Gwyndod Project. Their apprenticeship combines a Level 3 Engineering qualification at Coleg Menai with practical experience and in-house training delivered by experts within RR-SMR's Safety and Regulatory Affairs team. This blend of classroom learning and hands-on experience will help them build the skills, confidence and knowledge needed to safely support the next generation of nuclear projects. It is especially encouraging to see local young people already benefiting from the opportunities being created, gaining high-quality training and taking their first steps towards long-term careers in the sector, here in their home region.



GBE-N's Technology Partner, RR-SMR, have welcomed 10 local apprentices

Welcoming a new Executive Project Director and Chief Commercial Officer

This summer also saw GBE-N welcome two senior leaders to the organisation as the Gwyndod Project continues to move forward. Chris Goodwin has joined as Executive Project Director, taking over from Kenny Douglas. With experience of delivering major, multi-billion-pound infrastructure projects around the world, Chris brings strong leadership and delivery expertise at an important stage for the project. GBE-N has also welcomed Andrew Stephenson as Chief Commercial Officer, taking over from Beverley Gray. Andrew brings extensive experience in public sector procurement and complex capital programmes valued at more than £100bn, and is widely recognised for his work on major infrastructure projects. We are delighted to welcome both Chris and Andrew to the team as we continue to build the skills and leadership needed to support the next phase of the project.

Bronze Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

GBE-N has been awarded Bronze status under the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), which recognises organisations that demonstrate their support for serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families through their employment practices and workplace culture.

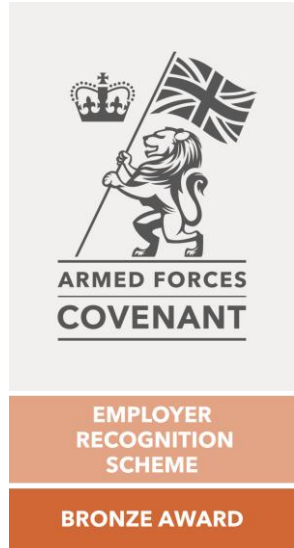
For GBE-N, the recognition reflects our commitment to building an inclusive organisation that values the skills, experience and perspectives people bring from a wide range of backgrounds.

Simon Roddy, GBE-N's Chief Executive Officer, said: "As we deliver the UK's next generation of nuclear power, we know the experience, professionalism and commitment of the Armed Forces community will play an important role in that mission.

Receiving this Bronze Award is an important milestone and demonstrates our commitment to creating opportunities for people from the Armed Forces community to continue making a difference through meaningful careers."

The Employer Recognition Scheme forms part of the Armed Forces Covenant and includes Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for organisations that actively support the Armed Forces community.

As we continue to grow, we're committed to attracting talented people from every background who want to help deliver the UK's clean energy future, and we'll continue building a workplace where that experience is recognised and valued.



Oldbury Community Forum

The 10th September marked the first meeting of Oldbury Community Forum which has been established jointly by GBE-N and Oldbury Parish Council. The Forum is a means of engaging with the community and brings together key stakeholders of the Oldbury site with Gillian Ellis-King, a highly respected and experienced figure in nuclear development, acting as Chair.



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