UK Nuclear Fleet Stakeholder Update

POWERING **AN ELECTRIC BRITAIN** January 2026

Since our last stakeholder update in January 2025 there have been several significant developments in the UK nuclear industry with financial close for Sizewell C and plans for new nuclear developments at Cottam, Hartlepool and Wylfa, signalling growth not seen for decades. The Nuclear Taskforce, established by the UK Government, also published its report on nuclear regulation.

While new stations are planned and constructed EDF's existing fleet continues to play a key role supporting the UK's energy security. The Nuclear Operations business is a core part of EDF's broad family of businesses in the UK (nuclear, renewables, technical services, retail and business/wholesale) and helps deliver the company's purpose to power an electric Britain. The business is 80% owned by EDF Group and 20% by Centrica plc and employs around 5,000 people at 10 main sites. It owns eight nuclear power stations across the UK, five of which are generating zero carbon electricity and three that are now in decommissioning.

The Nuclear Operations business has five clear priorities over the next decade – deliver value from Sizewell B power station; maximise output from the four generating Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) nuclear stations; defuel the AGR stations efficiently; seamlessly transfer them to Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) and to develop our long-term future, recognising that by the mid-2030s all seven of the AGR stations will be owned by the UK Government.

Underpinning everything is an overriding commitment to nuclear safety and to investing in people and skills.

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Executive Summary

This update to interested stakeholders provides some background information on the existing UK nuclear fleet and information on these five key priorities over the coming years. For those wanting a "two-minute" read the following is an executive summary:

- Maintaining a strong **nuclear safety** track record remains the over-riding priority. Performance in 2025 was very good, with zero 'top tier' nuclear safety, security, fire and environmental events .
- Since acquiring the nuclear fleet in 2009, EDF has **invested around £8.6 billion** and will invest a further **£1.2 billion over the next three years (2026-28)** to help sustain current levels of generation, boost energy security and cut carbon.
- Over that 17-year period the UK's nuclear stations have generated **263TWh more electricity than** expected through life extensions and better operational performance. That is enough zero carbon electricity to power **every UK home for almost three years**.
- UK nuclear output in **2025 totalled 32.9TWh** – this was lower than 2024 but more than three times the output anticipated at the point of acquisition in 2009. The objective is to **achieve c.36TWh of output in 2026**. The UK imported c.21TWh from France in 2025, the majority of which will have been generated by French nuclear reactors.
- Sustaining existing output is also positive for jobs and tax receipts. In 2025, EDF's Nuclear Operations business **expects to pay around £400 million in taxes**.
- The estimated generating lifetimes of **Hartlepool and Heysham 1** were extended by a further one year (to March 2028). EDF's ambition is to generate beyond these dates, subject to plant inspections, reliability and regulatory oversight.
- Nuclear is not weather dependent and **Sizewell B achieved a load factor of 99% for the year, generating 10.4TWh or over 30% of total UK output**. Progressing a 20-year life extension opportunity (2035 to 2055) is a priority but dependent on agreeing the appropriate commercial model to ensure such an extension is viable.
- **EDF continues to deliver on its defueling contract** with two of the decommissioning stations now free of spent nuclear fuel. Both Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B are **on schedule to transfer** to Nuclear Restoration Services in 2026.
- We are working with government and private companies to **develop the future** of our sites with plans starting to be shaped for new nuclear at Cottam and Hartlepool. Heysham in Lancashire and Torness in Scotland are both sites with lots of advantages for new developments.

Supporting UK Energy Security

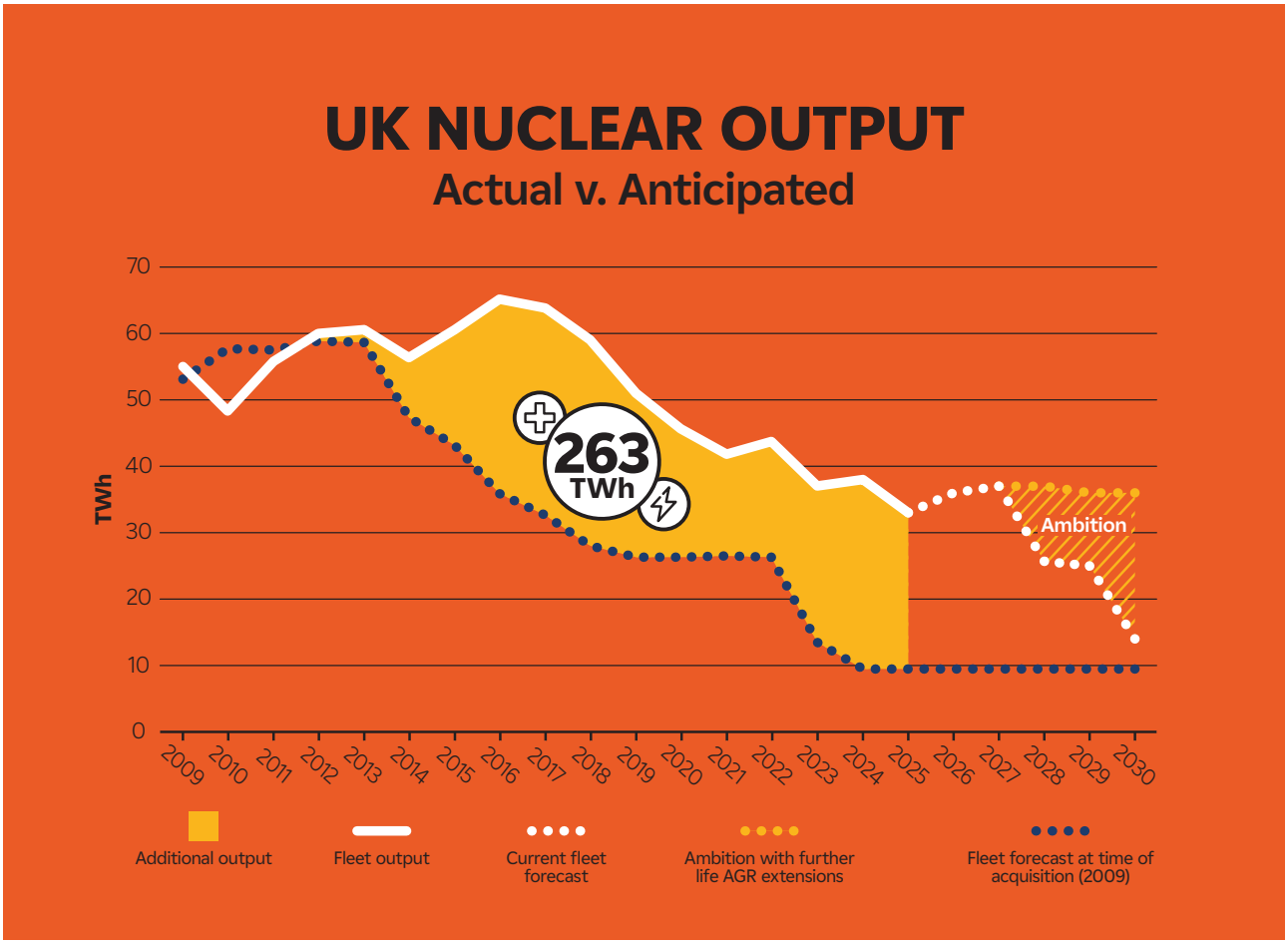
This year we celebrate a significant milestone - 50 years of AGR operations. On 5 February 1976 Hinkley Point B synchronised to the grid, with Hunterston B coming online the next day. The AGR stations have been generating low carbon electricity and supporting UK energy security ever since.

The AGR fleet was not originally expected to achieve this golden milestone. When EDF acquired the fleet in 2009 the youngest two stations (Torness and Heysham 2) were due to stop generating in 2023, which would have left the UK's sole Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) Sizewell B as the only operating station - generating around 9TWh each year.

EDF has committed around £8.6 billion to improving performance and operating the fleet for longer than was forecast – to date we have delivered 38 years' worth of life extensions across the seven stations in the AGR fleet.

In fact, over the past 17 years the UK's nuclear fleet has generated 263TWh, or 43%, more electricity than anticipated through life extensions and better operational performance. That is enough low carbon electricity to power every UK home for almost three years.

As well as a large amount of clean, reliable power these stations have delivered economic benefit – around 31,000 jobs a year and more than **£123 billion in economic value** (as at the end of 2024) to the UK so far.



Nuclear output in 2025 was 32.9TWh. While this was down 12% on 2024's output, it is still more than three times the volume expected when EDF acquired the fleet. The reduction was due to operational challenges, particularly at Hartlepool, and the plan for 2026 is to produce c.36TWh followed by c.37TWh in 2027. This accounts for around 12% of the UK's electricity generation.

The nuclear fleet's contribution to UK energy security goes beyond the reliable production of clean electricity, it also has a vital role in maintaining grid stability.

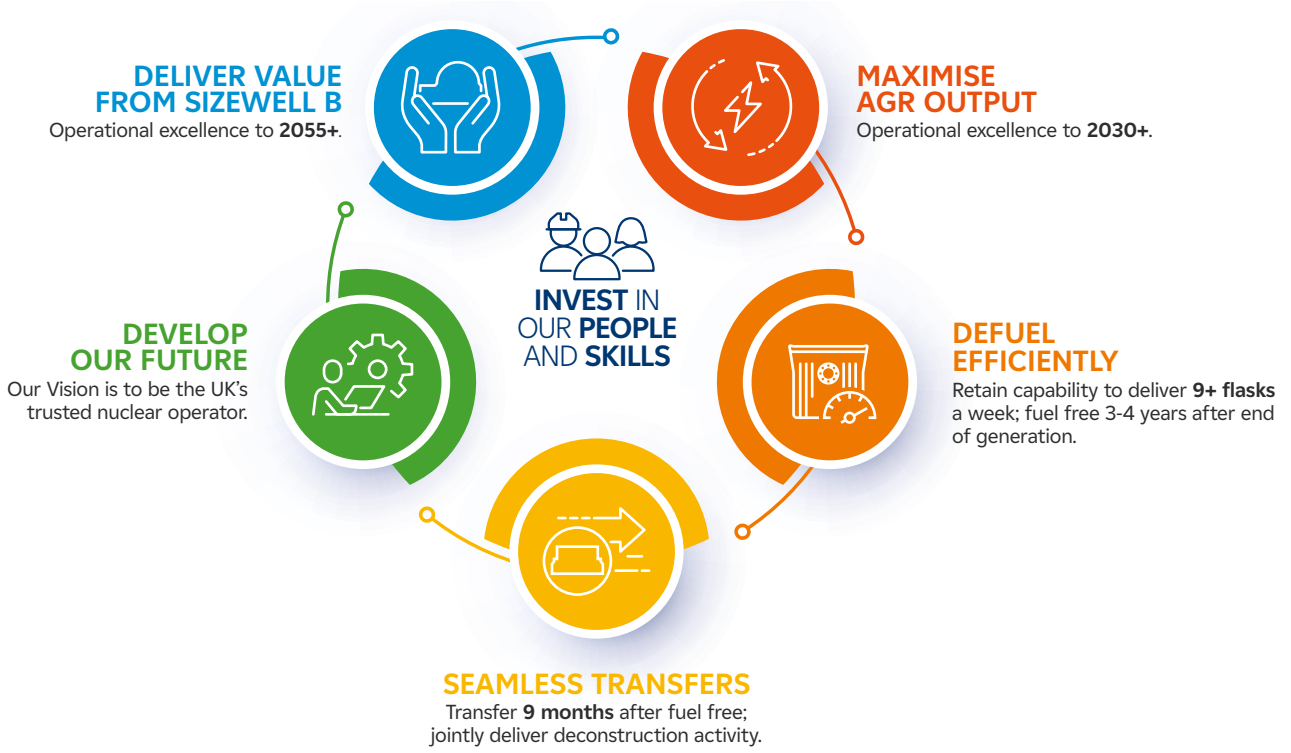
This is especially true when demand is high, and renewables output is low due to weather conditions. Grid stability is becoming increasingly important as the power system decarbonises and conventional thermal plants, like coal and gas, are being replaced by renewable generation.

During the year, the two youngest AGR stations reached significant milestones. In March, Torness surpassed Hunterston B's lifetime output making it the most productive low carbon generator in Scotland. Over its 37-year life it has generated enough electricity to power every home in Scotland for 36 years. As 2025 ended, Heysham 2 surpassed Hinkley Point B's lifetime output making it the UK's most productive nuclear power station.

Through its UK Nuclear Operations business, EDF is due to pay around £400 million taxes for 2025.

Around 5,000 people are directly employed in the operating fleet, across 10 UK locations. Planned investment in the five generating stations is forecast to be £1.2 billion over the 2026-28 period, to support the objective to safely maximise generation.

Our **10-YEAR** priorities



Agility - Excellence - Integrity

Nuclear safety is our overriding priority

Priority One:

Deliver value from Sizewell B

Sizewell B is a valuable national asset which performed exceptionally during 2025. Its uptime for the year was 99% with output of 10.4TWh. That is enough to charge every Electric Vehicle in the UK for two years. Prior to its last statutory maintenance outage, it generated 1200MW continuously for over 500 days. This reliability demonstrates the value of nuclear as a stable baseload generator.

In February 2025, the station celebrated 30 years of operation. Over its lifetime it has generated 270TWh, enough to meet the needs of every home in East Anglia for more than 83 years. It was initially intended to be one of a fleet of Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) stations to be built in Britain, a programme that was cancelled by the UK Government in the early 1990s. Sizewell B life extension is a great opportunity and EDF and Centrica stand ready to invest. Operating the power station beyond 2035 to at least 2055 is technically feasible, has been achieved at similar power stations worldwide and would provide a reliable, clean source of power as new nuclear and renewable projects are brought online. However, volatility in the energy markets over the past few years has reinforced the importance of securing an appropriate commercial model for Sizewell B's longer-term output.

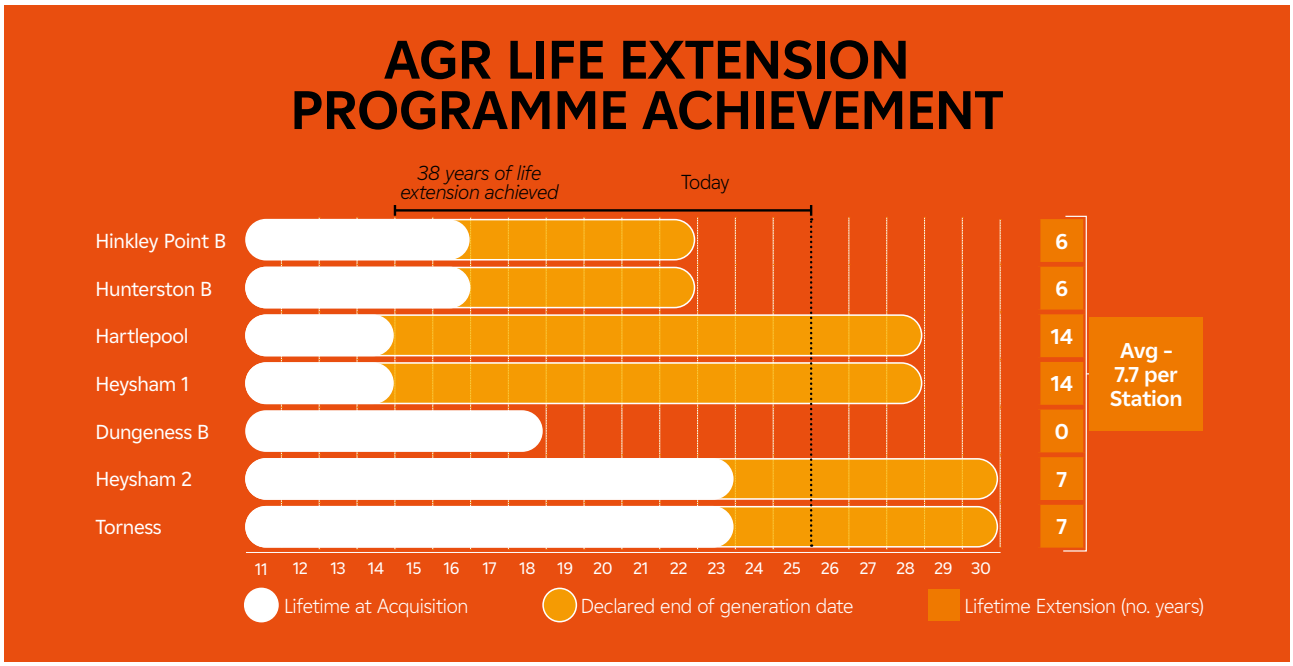
Priority Two:

Maximise Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor output

Making the most of existing assets whilst it remains safe to do so is an excellent way to deliver clean, secure power to the grid for longer. Globally, around 100 reactors have already had their lives extended, including most of the UK's fleet.

When EDF acquired the AGR fleet in 2009 all seven stations were due to be offline by March 2023, leaving the UK with just one generating nuclear power station, Sizewell B. Careful stewardship and sustained investment have seen several life extensions for these stations and much higher output than was anticipated.

We have achieved 38 years' worth of life extensions across our Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations delivering an extra 263TWh of low carbon electricity. That is more than the lifetime output of Heysham 1 (254TWh), demonstrating the huge value in extending station lifetimes when possible.



In September 2025 we were able to **extend the lifetimes of Heysham 1 and Hartlepool** for a further year to 2028. This followed several inspection and safety case milestones in 2025 that gave us the evidence needed to make that decision.

Extending the life of these stations secures employment for longer for more than 1,000 people who work at those sites, and supports the UK's ambitions to have a clean, secure electricity supply. A further year of operation for these two stations has the potential to power more than four million homes and reduce the need for imported gas.

Unlike light water reactors (PWRs and EPRs) the actual end of generation dates for the AGR stations will most likely be determined by the condition of the graphite making up the reactor cores, which is regularly inspected, and subject to rigorous assessment by the independent regulator.

Inspections provide reassurance and allow us to meet strict external requirements, including global earthquake regulations. This means we must prove we can shut down the reactors during a major earthquake, a 1 in 10,000-year event much larger than the UK has ever recorded or expects to happen.

In November, the **UK Government** said the retirement of the AGRs "risks leaving a dangerous gap in Britain's low-carbon energy supply". EDF has an ambition to generate low carbon electricity from all four generating AGR stations for as long as it is safe and commercially viable to do so, though now the stations are in the latter stages of their generating lives further extensions will not be for long. We will keep their lifetimes under review to assess whether further life extensions can be achieved.

Priority Three:

Defuel the AGR Fleet Efficiently

In 2025, EDF made huge progress in delivering on its defueling commitments to the UK Government. EDF's agreement with the UK Government will see it defuel all seven AGR stations before the sites are transferred into Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) ownership.

Three power stations are now in the decommissioning stage (Hunterston B, Hinkley Point B and Dungeness B) and the cost of that work is covered by an existing fund known as the **Nuclear Liabilities Fund**, which has built up over time and has a current value of £20.7 billion.

With the UK Government, and by extension the taxpayer, as our client, we are working hard to meet agreed performance targets while driving value for money and minimising costs. This is primarily a cost-recovery contract with an incentive and penalty framework in place which is subject to stretching targets.

Operationally, defueling is an extension of the refuelling we have been carrying out for 50 years, though at a greater volume and faster pace. The programme requires the very best of our operating expertise and innovative ways of working as we aim to deliver defueling safely and cost effectively.

Hinkley Point B staff in front of a transporter loaded with the last flask of spent fuel to leave site.

Our spent fuel is transported to Sellafield for processing and medium-term management until a geological disposal facility is available for final disposal. Performance at the NDA's Sellafield facility is key to successful defueling, and we continue to collaborate closely.

There was significant progress in our defueling programme during 2025:

- In April, Hunterston B **completed its defueling mission** on time and on budget, becoming the first of the AGR stations to be declared free of all spent nuclear fuel. This followed transportation of the final flask of spent fuel to Sellafield in February and a series of rigorous checks by EDF and the ONR to verify no spent fuel was left at the site. This was an excellent result and a great demonstration of our ability to deliver to plan.
- In November, Hinkley Point B completed the removal of all spent fuel from its reactors. This was a significant milestone in the station's defueling journey with a total of 4,928 fuel elements removed from the station's two reactors since the end of generation in August 2022 and a 243-day improvement in delivery between the first and second reactors.
- Dungeness B is a more complex station partly due to its unique design. The team have worked through some early challenges, and the first reactor is now around a quarter defueled.
- Essential Defueling Safety Cases for the four generating AGR stations were approved (Heysham 1 and Hartlepool in January, Heysham 2 and Torness in December) which will enable stations to start defueling without delay once generation ends.
- Over the past year we have continued to see a strong performance in flask dispatches from all seven AGRs to Sellafield. In 2025, we dispatched 358 flasks. While this was fewer than the record number dispatched the previous year, this reflected the end of defueling at Hunterston B and still represented a 92% adherence to the plan.
- Station flasking performance was strong and the role of Sellafield in this success cannot be understated. As the single receiving point for all spent fuel, issues at the site have the potential to affect our ability to meet targets. In 2025, Sellafield's plant, people and processes have performed well and have been integral to the achievement.
- There will be a further reduction in flask dispatches in 2026 with the completion of Hinkley Point B's defueling but focus will be on retaining the capability to dispatch nine flasks a week in preparation for rates increasing again as further AGR stations stop generating.

Priority Four:

Seamless transfer of the AGR Fleet

Completely decommissioning all seven AGR stations will be a multi-decade project.

Once each site has been defueled by EDF it will be transferred to the NDA for its subsidiary, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), to carry out the next stages of decommissioning.

The first station, Hunterston B, is due to transfer in April 2026 and Hinkley Point B will follow in October 2026. The rest of the fleet will transfer on a rolling basis in the years that follow, depending on actual end of generation dates and overall defueling performance at each station and Sellafield.

The joint team developed with NRS to enable transfer has made huge progress over the past year with much of the focus of the programme on delivering the seamless transfer of Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B over the coming months.

Case Study – Hunterston B becomes 'Decommissioning Ready'

Following the end of defueling Hunterston B entered a transition phase with several milestones set out in the "Site Transition Plan" that had to be met before the site could be declared "Decommissioning Ready".

These included verification, by EDF and the ONR, of its fuel free status as well as the approval and implementation of new emergency arrangements and of a new post-defueling safety case.

This phase was completed on 30th September 2025 has enabled the new site organisation structure to be put in place. Of the 400 people that contributed to successful defueling, we have met 98% of people's aspirations, with 246 securing roles in the decommissioning organisation that will transfer to NRS, and others moving to positions elsewhere in EDF or choosing voluntary redundancy.

Work is continuing to ensure all the legal, regulatory and commercial arrangements are in place on time, but achieving "Decommissioning Ready" status represents huge progress towards transfer to NRS in April.

Hunterston B team mark the station's "Decommissioning Ready" status with unveiling of new safety message.

Other examples of transfer progress during 2025:

- Hinkley Point B **secured consent** from the independent regulator, the ONR, to start decommissioning following an application under the Environmental Impact Assessment Decommissioning Regulations (EIADR). The consent followed several rounds of public consultation by EDF and the ONR. This development paves the way for the safe and efficient decommissioning of Hinkley Point B.
- Applications to transfer the radioactive substances permits for both Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B to NRS were submitted. The Hunterston application was submitted to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) three months early and the Hinkley application was delivered to the Environment Agency (EA) two months ahead of schedule.
- We completed a formal consultation process with staff at Hinkley Point B to understand who wanted to stay with the site and transfer to NRS after defueling. Following the consultation period, we were able to populate the new organisation structure and talk to people about their futures.
- NRS held further staff engagement events at Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B to help people find out more about the organisation.
- NRS submitted an application to the ONR for approval to become the new duty-holder for Hunterston B, which would allow it to take on the Site Licence.

Priority Five:

Develop our future as the UK's trusted nuclear operator

Our fifth priority is to help develop longer term opportunities for our sites and people and to be the UK's trusted nuclear operator.

As the owner and operator of the UK's existing nuclear fleet, and the company responsible for re-starting the UK's nuclear programme after a 30-year hiatus, we are in a unique position to support the development of new nuclear.

Last year saw a number of new nuclear projects announced, most notably the final investment decision on Sizewell C in July 2025. This is financed and governed in a very different way to Hinkley Point C and EDF is a minority shareholder and critical equipment supplier. Sharing the learnings from Hinkley Point C will be very important to delivering efficiency and cost improvements at Sizewell C.

Artist's impression of the Cottam power park

Progress was also made at two EDF-owned sites. The proposed new small modular reactor (SMR) project at Cottam in Nottinghamshire, developed by EDF UK, Holtec International and Tritax Management, would see the construction of a 1GW data centre at the **former Cottam power station**, powered by four Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to be built on the same site. The project would support energy security, economic growth and the UK's ambition to be a global leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Feasibility studies and early investment discussions are underway.

Elsewhere, Centrica and X-Energy have **signed a joint development agreement** to explore deploying X-Energy's High Temperature Gas Reactors at Hartlepool and beyond. Both parties recognise our valuable nuclear expertise in this area and discussions are ongoing as to how we can support the development plans.

The third project to be announced in 2025 was the **selection of the Wylfa site** in Wales as the preferred location for the first Rolls Royce SMRs. This would be progress for the site after years of uncertainty and as the need for wider industry involvement becomes clearer EDF will look to establish how it can support.

All three plans could generate significant inward investment, creating skilled jobs during the construction and operational phases of the projects and delivering long-term growth across those regions.

Regulation has long been a critical element to the deployment of nuclear in the UK, alongside other factors such as siting policy and financing. Regulation is crucial to the safe deployment of nuclear and getting the balance right so that the demands of regulation are proportionate to the risks posed by the technology it regulates, is a challenging task. It is an area where the UK has led the world for decades and John Fingleton's Nuclear Regulatory Review, published in November 2025 made a number of recommendations to ensure it continues to do so, including simplification of the regulatory landscape and addressing "costly, risk-averse measures that far exceed ALARP requirements". We agree with the **Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce Review** that there is an opportunity to improve some regulatory processes to better enable the delivery of essential national infrastructure. For example, the current Semi-Urban Population Density Criteria (SUPDC) which assesses site suitability for new nuclear development based on local population size and proximity, could rule out sites like Heysham, despite their clear advantages.

At Heysham, we believe our site is well-suited for future nuclear development. In addition to available land, grid and rail connections, and a supportive community, we also have a highly-skilled workforce, the largest of any generating nuclear site in the UK, which could support the operation of any future development. We will continue to work with local stakeholders and government to explore options for the site.

We would also encourage a continued dialogue about the role nuclear energy could play in Scotland's long-term energy future, particularly at the Torness site, especially with the growth in AI/data centres and industrial decarbonisation.

Invest in our people and skills

The UK's nuclear industry has seen growth over the past year with the number of people employed reaching a record high. According to the **Nuclear Industry Association** more than 98,000 people are now employed across the sector, an 11,000 increase on the previous year and a rise of 55% over the past decade.

This growth is positive for the industry, but challenges remain in securing people with the right skills to be able to deliver the UK's new "golden age" of nuclear. EDF has identified specific skills challenges in Engineering Instrumentation and Control (I&C), Cyber Engineers/Design, Project Management and Fuel Engineers.

EDF is committed to promoting and developing nuclear skills for the future. Our Nuclear Operations business is comprised of around 5,000 permanent employees with thousands more contractors and suppliers supporting the power stations.

Nuclear Operations Apprentice of the Year: Jessica Belmont, Heysham 2

In 2025, EDF brought almost 300 people into the Nuclear Operations business with a further 100 people expected to join this year. Across EDF's nuclear family, a group of five businesses which includes specialist engineering services and new build projects, we aim to hire 1,500 people in 2026.

Last year, around 100 people joined early careers programmes in Nuclear Operations, including apprenticeships, the graduate programme and industrial placements. In total, there are more than 600 people in early careers programmes across EDF's nuclear family.

Extending the lifetimes of our generating AGRs supports around 2,000 staff jobs across four stations. Meanwhile, at sites which have ended generation we are preserving crucial nuclear skills by supporting our people to retrain to stay at their current location. At Hunterston B more than 100 of the 246 people transferring over to NRS in April 2026 have retrained into new roles, to support the post-defueling decommissioning phase of the nuclear life cycle.

We have also supported colleagues at Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B to take on new opportunities at other sites in the generating fleet, in our central support teams and new nuclear projects. Last year 91 people moved from Nuclear Operations to Hinkley Point C, bringing the total number of transfers to more than 600 people over the last decade. These roles are across a broad range of operations, engineering, regulatory and commercial skill sets.

EDF's Nuclear Services organisation, based in Gloucester, is home to a range of specialist nuclear skills supporting Nuclear Operations and our new build projects. Over the past year the number of people supporting that business has grown to around 900.

Operations and technical support for the existing fleet involves close collaboration with contract partners and suppliers, supporting thousands more UK jobs. In 2024, EDF spent more than around £1 billion to support its operational sites with 1,300 suppliers, 94% of these being UK-based.

We continue to work with industry partners and government to support the development of skills and to attract new people to the sector.

We are active within the National Nuclear Plan for Skills and sit on the Delivery Board and Executive, and play key roles on the boards of ECITB, Cogent Skills, Energy & Utility Skills and National College for Nuclear.

We also reach into our communities to inspire the nuclear professionals of the future. In 2025, almost 14,000 people toured our sites, including many school and university groups and our visitor centres held events to engage and inspire.

Last year, as well as welcoming more than 100 local school children to its annual “Christmas Cracker” STEM event, Torness held an engineering focussed session for 65 female pupils to encourage them to consider a career in the industry. At Heysham, the Inspira Low Carbon event was held, in collaboration with Lancashire Careers Hub, which saw Year 9 pupils spend the morning at careers-related workshops at a local college before a session at Heysham in the afternoon.


Pupils taking part in a female focused STEM event at Torness

EDF will continue to work with Government and industry to address skills shortages and issues that impact operations and project delivery, including diversity, further education, supply chain capacity, migration, and the efficiency of vetting.

Clarity over sequencing and timing of new developments in the UK is also essential to help skills planning and investment. Moving too slowly on new nuclear development at sites with an existing operational workforce will result in a loss of valuable skills and will make it harder to restart the industry in those areas.

Our Nuclear Family

EDF Nuclear Operations

Nuclear Operations manages the eight nuclear power stations in the UK nuclear fleet.

Five are generating zero carbon electricity and three are in the early stages of decommissioning and nearing transfer to Nuclear Restoration Services from 2026 onwards.

EDF Nuclear Services

Nuclear Services provides technical expertise and support to each of its three licensees: Hinkley Point C, Sizewell C and Nuclear Operations.

EDF EPR engineering

EPR Engineering develops nuclear expertise by assembling leading companies to support in the design, build and commissioning of the Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C nuclear projects.

It’s a subsidiary of Edvance - part of the EDF Group.

HinkleyPointC
Helping Britain Achieve Net Zero
EDF CGN

We are building two new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point C, the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in Britain that will provide zero-carbon electricity for around six million homes.

arabelle solutions
EDF GROUP

Arabelle Solutions is a market leader in nuclear turbine island technology and services.

framatome

Framatome designs and provides equipment, services and fuel for nuclear power plants.

Sizewell C
The power of good for Britain

Sizewell C is a British nuclear project, majority owned by the UK Government. It will provide decades of clean, reliable electricity for around 6 million homes.

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