

Connect

Stay connected

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ISSUE 162

A LIFE-CHANGING PARTNERSHIP

Stewart King shares how life and work have transformed since he was partnered with his guide dog, Lewis

Joined up thinking – introducing Business and Wholesale Services (BWS)

How our nuclear fleet is playing a huge role in powering An Electric Britain

Celebrating a golden anniversary for Nuclear Operations



EDITORS' NOTE

This month, in our penultimate issue of Connect, Stewart King shares his powerful story about how the right support and partnerships can transform everyday life. With the help of his new guide dog, Lewis, Stewart's world has opened up, and their bond is already unbreakable.

Christopher Dalley explains how the creation of Business and Wholesale Services will benefit our customers, our people and the company. We also take a moment to reflect on the scale and significance of our nuclear operations, with the publication of our annual nuclear fleet update. As we celebrate an incredible 50 years of our Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors, we reflect on what this means for powering An Electric Britain in the future.

And finally, our debt expos give us a deeper understanding of how debt affects our customers, our business and even ourselves.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's Connect as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.

JULIA AND KATHY
The Connect team

CELEBRATING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Apprentices play a vital role at Hinkley Point C, bringing fresh ideas, enthusiasm and strong connections to our local communities while helping us to build highly skilled teams for the future.

This year, National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) runs from 9 to 15 February and includes a range of activities including the Hinkley Point C Apprenticeship Conference. At the event apprentices will hear from senior leaders, celebrate achievements and take part in team-building sessions designed to strengthen collaboration and confidence.

NAW is a great opportunity to showcase the talent shaping the future and highlight the value apprentices bring to Hinkley Point C and the wider industry.





DRIVING CHANGE IN WORKPLACE HEALTH

Our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) **Dr Sarah Jackson** was recently on Radio 4's Today Programme to discuss the national Keep Britain Working review. The challenge is big: more than one in five working-age adults are out of work, often due to health issues such as rising mental ill-health in young people to older workers leaving too soon.

Sarah has been involved in the review, working with other CMOs and Professor Sir Chris Whitty. The company is leading the way, focusing on three priorities: a healthy working lifecycle, better workplace health provision and clear evidence of what truly works.

FIND OUT MORE ON eNZO



SUCCESS IS PERSONAL

ductu

SHAPING AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Ductu Portal is a charity committed to empowering students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities. We're proud to be working with them to create opportunities for young people to experience our nuclear power stations up close, helping to spark inspiration, build confidence and unlock their potential.

By opening our doors and supporting early experiences like these, we're hoping to shape a more inclusive future and welcome the next generation of talent into our teams.

VISIT THE WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE



A LIFE-CHANGING PARTNERSHIP – FREEDOM WITH FOUR PAWS

Stewart King, a Product Owner in the Retail team, shares how life and work have transformed since he was partnered with his guide dog, **Lewis**.

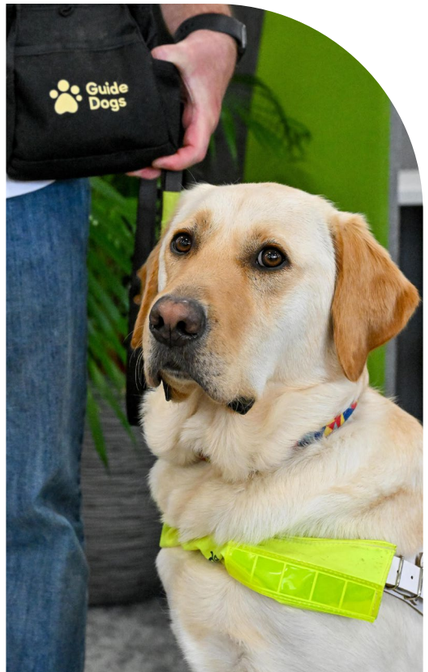
Tell us about yourself
I've worked at EDF for 38 years, having joined when I was just 16.

Outside of work, I enjoy walking along the seafront, swimming, going to restaurants and taking part in pub quizzes. I'm also about to join a choir. I enjoy holidays, though travelling alone isn't as easy.

My eyesight restricts what I can do, and life changed significantly after I lost my partner three years ago as I had relied on her a lot. I socialise with a good friend in Hove who also has a dog and that support has helped me stay active.

In November, I was paired with my guide dog, Lewis, and he has completely changed my life. Before Lewis, I stayed indoors much more but now I'm out and about every day.

How long have you been visually impaired?
I have a genetic condition called retinitis pigmentosa, which affects the retina. I've had it since birth and have been legally blind for about 25-30 years.



My grandad had it and some of my cousins do too.

My sight is getting worse, but I still have some usable vision. I have no peripheral vision and can only see a few feet ahead. At night, I can't see anything. Dark restaurants can be particularly challenging, so I usually go with my friend but having Lewis is already boosting my confidence. Last Sunday, I went to the pub on my own for the first time with him.

What adjustments or tools help you perform your job effectively, and how have your colleagues helped?
I use my computer in high-contrast mode and rely on built-in magnification. Meetings and presentations can be difficult because I can't see what's on screen and need people to explain what's being presented.

The facilities team in Hove has been excellent. They've provided a designated desk, a pen for Lewis and clear signage. Occupational Health has also helped with transport, like arranging taxis after dark. My colleagues are always supportive and if I'm going somewhere new, I don't travel alone.



DONATE TO GUIDE DOGS UK

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CARERS AND ACCESSIBILITY NETWORK

For years, I hid my disability, but now I'm more open about it. Without my cane or Lewis, it's invisible to most people. Sometimes I trip over chairs that haven't been pushed in, but people can't help if they don't know, so I'm more open now.



> Lewis's job is to keep me safe, and he's amazing. He's given me the freedom and confidence to go places I wouldn't have before.

WHAT SHOULD PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT GUIDE DOG ETIQUETTE?

1. If Lewis is in his harness, ignore him – he's working.
2. Don't feed him as he's on a strict diet.
3. Feel free to offer help, but don't be offended if I decline.

What was the process like for getting and training your guide dog?
It was tough. The application process is long, with several stages. There are three assessments: an initial phone call, a home visit and a practical test where I had to show that I could walk independently with a cane. Then there's a guide dog trainer assessment, where you walk with someone in a harness which feels very strange!

The average wait to be partnered with a guide dog is more than a year. I was lucky and only waited nine months. Matching the right dog to the right person is absolutely crucial. Supporting and training each guide dog from birth to qualification costs £77,000, so donations to Guide Dogs UK are invaluable.

What could the business do better to support accessibility and inclusion?
The company has been fantastic. One thing that would help is sharing simple guidance on workplace etiquette around guide dogs so colleagues feel confident about what to do, so it's great that I'm appearing in Connect to raise awareness!



NUCLEAR WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

Nuclear Week in Parliament from 19 to 21 January brought together key politicians, industry leaders and apprentices to highlight the pivotal role of nuclear in strengthening the UK's energy security and economic growth.

As a platinum sponsor, the company played a leading role across the week with representation from different parts of our nuclear family. At the Nuclear Skills and Apprenticeship Fair, six of our brilliant apprentices met MPs to share first-hand how the sector is boosting skills, creating high-quality jobs and providing long-term opportunities across the country.

We also hosted a breakfast roundtable 'Nuclear nation: energising communities and catalysing growth,' chaired by our UK Chair, Alex Chisholm. The session featured contributions from Hinkley Point C's CEO, Stuart Crooks; Hartlepool MP, Jonathan Brash; Somerset Chamber of Commerce Managing Director, David Crew; and East Midlands Mayor Claire Ward. Discussions explored nuclear's role in driving regional regeneration, how the sector can help meet the growing energy needs of a modern, AI-powered economy, and enabling faster project delivery through regulatory reform.

At the flagship Executive Dinner, our CEO Simone Rossi reflected on progress at the Hinkley Point C project and how this momentum is paving the way for Sizewell C and future new nuclear projects.

JOINED UP THINKING

In December last year, Business Solutions (EBS) and Wholesale Market Services (WMS) came together to become **Business and Wholesale Services** (BWS).

Christopher Dalley, Director of BWS, explains what this means for customers, teams and the business.



STRONGER TOGETHER

Bringing the business units together was driven by several important factors. Our customers experience one energy system and don't differentiate between supply, wholesale markets or flexibility services – and now, neither do we.

The energy landscape is becoming increasingly complex, shaped by price volatility, regulatory change and the urgent need to decarbonise. Meeting our customers' needs now requires even more joined up thinking.

BWS allows us to support our customers with innovative products, and we can be more agile in developing and delivering them. It also supports a single and consistent narrative about how energy is bought, managed and optimised in practice.

At its heart, BWS is about organising ourselves around customer outcomes, not internal structures.

THE BENEFITS OF BWS

Bringing EBS and WMS together unlocks benefits for our customers, our people and the company as a whole.

For **customers**, it enables us to reduce complexity of the energy market, by delivering solutions tailored to the unique needs of their organisation.

For **our people**, it creates clearer objectives and greater opportunities for personal development. It also enables increased collaboration amongst teams and the ability to grow a wider knowledge of the industry.

For the **company**, BWS provides the flexibility to serve different customer segments, enhance our credibility in complex market discussions and enhance the ability for commercial growth.

LOOKING AHEAD

The initial focus for BWS is delivery; we are here to deliver for our customers. To do that we will ensure we are aligned on our objectives, both strategic and personal, whilst also adjusting to a new rhythm and routine way of working that drives value. It's about getting the basics right and setting our people up for success.

The long term vision is to be recognised as the organisation that does the thinking for the customer – whether they need simple, competitive supply or a sophisticated blend of flexibility, data and optimisation. The aim is to reduce complexity for our customers and to grow long-standing trusted relationships with them.

This approach is central to delivering **An Electric Britain**, our company purpose. When every customer – large or small – can access low carbon, digitally-enabled solutions with confidence, we accelerate the UK's transition to a cleaner, more resilient energy system.



> "BWS is about enhancing value for our customers, enabling growth and innovation with our people, and driving increased commercial benefits.

NUCLEAR FLEET STILL POWERING AN ELECTRIC BRITAIN

The company has published our annual **Nuclear Fleet Update**, looking back at 2025's performance and setting out what lies ahead for our stations.



It's been a landmark year for the UK nuclear sector. Sizewell C in Somerset secured approval, John Fingleton led a major review into how the industry is regulated and the Government confirmed its plans for Small Modular Reactor development at the Wylfa site in Anglesey, Wales. New project proposals were also announced for our sites at Cottam (from Holtec, EDF and Tritax) and Hartlepool (from XEnergy and Centrica).

Output is down but still providing a significant contribution

In 2025, our nuclear power stations generated 32.9TWh. While this is down 12% compared to 2024 – mainly due to an extended outage at Hartlepool – the stations still produced around 12% of the UK's electricity which is enough to power every home for more than four months. Output is expected to return to around 36TWh in 2026, with a further £1.2bn investment planned over the next three years.

Great progress made on lifetime extensions for some stations

Continued investment now totals £8.6bn. This sustained focus combined with careful operation has allowed four Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations to continue generating beyond their original lifetimes. Heysham 1 and Hartlepool had their expected lifetimes extended by a year to March 2028. Meanwhile discussions with Government continue on extending Sizewell B's life by 20 years, taking it to 2055.



Mark Hartley, Managing Director Nuclear Operations, said: "It is our ambition to generate from the remaining AGR stations for as long as it is safe and commercially viable to do so. We will keep their lifetimes under review to assess whether further life extensions can be achieved."

The update arrives at a notable time for the Nuclear Operations business as we prepare to celebrate a major milestone: **50 years since the UK's first Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors began generating zero carbon electricity** (see next page).

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR NUCLEAR OPERATIONS



50 YEARS OF AGR OPERATIONS



On 5 February, Nuclear Operations marked a remarkable milestone: **50 years** since Hinkley Point B, the first of our Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs), was synchronised to the national grid.

The historic day in 1976 signalled the beginning of our fleet's generating life, swiftly followed by Hunterston B just hours later on 6 February. Since then, our fleet of stations have collectively produced an incredible 2,153.41TWh of electricity (as of October), which is enough to power every home in the UK for more than 23 years.

To recognise this milestone, Nuclear Operations has shared stories from employees past and present as well as putting its nuclear knowledge to the test in a Midweek Nuclear Mastermind quiz!



CEO **Simone Rossi** commented: "For 50 years, the AGRs have played an important role in supplying energy to the UK. It has only been possible because of the people behind it – generations of colleagues whose skill, care and commitment have kept our stations operating safely and reliably. You should all be extremely proud of this incredible milestone."

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ON eNZO HERE

WORKING TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF DEBT

Debt expos give us a deeper understanding of how debt affects our customers, our business and even ourselves.





The Customers team has held some internal exhibition events, known as expos, across our sites to offer a deeper look into the realities of debt and how we can better support those who need help the most. Debt remains one of the biggest challenges facing the industry, and the expos are designed to build understanding, empathy and practical confidence.

Our January event was the first external facing expo and brought together several of our key partners, including TellJo, Citizens Advice Plymouth and Income Max, to showcase how their tools, advice services and early identification models help us spot vulnerability sooner and provide more joined up support.

The roundtable discussed the continuing challenge of energy debt and how best to support customers in vulnerable circumstances. It covered the scale and drivers of household energy debt, the ongoing impacts of high living costs and opportunities for government, regulators, suppliers and consumer groups to work together more effectively.

Representatives from the company, including our CEO Simone Rossi, shared their experiences of supporting customers in debt, including through our Winter Support Package, and reinforced the importance of collaboration across the sector to deliver sustainable, long-term solutions.

The roundtable forms part of our wider engagement programme and helps strengthen relationships with external stakeholders while contributing to the ongoing policy debate on energy affordability and consumer protection.



RED SEA SUSTAINABILITY

EDF Group is involved in the construction of **Amaala**, a new city in Saudi Arabia designed to run entirely on low-carbon energy.

On Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, Amaala is being built as an autonomous, off-grid city that will eventually be home to around 10,000 households. EDF will manage the electricity and water supply for this 100% zero-carbon destination – the Group's first solution of this scale.



Amaala, Saudi Arabia

The energy production and water treatment systems include:

- 250MWp solar plant, 700MWh battery storage and 50MW biofuel thermal engines.
- 50km of high-voltage lines, 20km of buried medium-voltage cables and three substations.
- Seawater desalination (36,800m^3/day), wastewater treatment (6,000m^3/day) and reservoirs totalling 45,000m^3.

Amaala, which means 'hope' in Arabic, demonstrates the Group's ability to deliver reliable renewable energy and water systems around the clock for such large-scale, carbon-free developments. Delivery is scheduled for later this year, setting a new benchmark for building sustainable infrastructure outside of Europe.

FIND OUT MORE ON VIVRE ONLINE



CELEBRATING
LGBTQ+ PIONEERS

As part of this year's LGBTQ+ History Month, the LGBTQ+ Supporters Network invites you on a virtual gallery tour to celebrate more than 25 trailblazing figures from the community who shaped the world we know today.

Selected by Schools OUT, founders of the UK's LGBTQ+ History Month, these pioneers, from engineers and artists to activists and educators, remind us that courage, resilience and creativity have always driven progress.

Schools OUT believes that everyone deserves to feel safe, seen and able to thrive. In the last few years several themes have celebrated science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), exploring career paths, passions and skills that resonate across our organisation.

JOIN THE VIRTUAL GUIDED TOUR ON eNZO ON THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY AT 2PM

CHANGE NEEDS
ALL OF US

For Race Equality Week, running from 2 to 8 February, the RACE Network is hosting a panel session with senior leaders to amplify the voices of colleagues from the global majority and spark conversations between those who've spent time in the industry and those just starting out. This year's theme is #ChangeNeedsAllOfUs to highlight that progress accelerates when every one of us plays our part.

80% of the world population is either black, Asian, brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south or have been racialised as "ethnic minority".

To continue to make a meaningful impact through 2026 and beyond, ED&I advocates across all business units will support the RACE Network to continue those conversations through informal community sessions and networking opportunities across our sites.

FIND OUT MORE AND LISTEN TO THE RECORDING ON eNZO

QUIZ

INTERNET INTELLIGENCE



10 February is **Safer Internet Day**. To mark the occasion, try our quiz to see how much technical knowledge you have about the internet.

1. What does the term 'phishing' refer to?
- A. Testing website speed
- B. Tricking users into giving personal information
- C. Improving search engine rankings

2. What does the HTTP in a web address stand for?
- A. HyperText Transfer Protocol
- B. High Tech Tracking Platform
- C. Host Transfer Timing Process

3. If a website asks you to "accept cookies", what does that usually mean?
- A. You're agreeing to receive email newsletters
- B. You're allowing the site to save small bits of browsing data
- C. You're signing up for an account

4. What is a 'cache' used for in a browser?
- A. Storing frequently accessed data for faster loading
- B. Protecting passwords
- C. Tracking user location

5. What is a VPN primarily used for?
- A. Increasing download speeds
- B. Encrypting your internet connection for privacy
- C. Blocking online ads

6. What does 'cloud computing' mean?
- A. Storing data on local hard drives
- B. Processing data through remote servers accessed via the internet
- C. Backing up data to USB sticks

7. Which company created the web browser Firefox?
- A. Mozilla
- B. Oracle
- C. IBM

8. What is two-factor authentication (2FA)?
- A. A way of filtering junk email
- B. Using two methods to verify your identity when logging in
- C. Paying for internet access in two instalments

9. Which password has been seen over three million times in data breaches?
- A. Password1
- B. LiverpoolFC7898
- C. Edfenergy

Answers: 1B; 2A; 3B; 4A; 5B; 6B; 7A; 8B; 9A

STAYING VIGILANT HELPS PROTECT YOU, OUR DATA, CUSTOMERS AND COMPANY.

Take a moment before you open emails – check the sender, look for unusual wording and don't open anything you're unsure about. If something feels off, report it using the Phish Alert button or email eis@edfenergy.com.

For more tips and best practice, visit the security pages on eNZO.



CONNECT'S PHOTO COMPETITION

Gary Dix, a Group Engineer in Nuclear Operations, tells us about his moment that mattered, the theme for our photo competition.

He said: "The photograph was taken in Tenerife and captures a ritual where dancers bid the sun farewell as it sets over the Atlantic horizon. The ceremony ends with a gong to celebrate the end of another beautiful day."

Connect welcomes news and comments from all employees. Connect is published by EDF. Please email Julia Nutley and Kathy Manson at connect@edfenergy.com
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