

All Party Parliamentary Group on Nuclear Energy

Notes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2009

Present

Members:

John Robertson MP (chair)
Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP
Ian Liddell-Grainger MP
Jim Sheridan MP
Russell Brown MP
Lord Jenkin of Roding

In attendance:

Bill Tynan, TUSNE
Victoria MacGregor, EDF Energy
Bill Hamilton, NDA
Ruth Greenwood, E.ON
Claire James, Sellafield LTD
John McNamara, NIA
Desmond Brown, AREVA
Simon James, NIA
Keith Parker, NIA
Michael Courtney, Researcher to Adam Ingram MP
Jim Carrick, URS Washington Division
Andrew Woodcock, Researcher to John Robertson MP
John Chubb, VT Nuclear Services
Adrian Bull, Westinghouse
Professor Robin Grimes, Imperial College

Presentation : Dr Peter Bleasdale, Managing Director, The National Nuclear Laboratory

Dr Peter Bleasdale thanked the group for the opportunity to present to the group and followed on by explaining the role of National Nuclear Laboratory which was formed in July 2008. Peter stated that it is a major UK asset and an International nuclear research and development centre for excellence which supports new build and clean up. He also explained the role it plays in advising the Government and it's strong social-economic focus of getting younger people to join the industry.

Peter outlined the decline in the UK R & D manpower, from 7000 people in 1990 to 1000 remaining by 2004, mostly in NSTS which became Nexia Solutions in 2005 and the NNL in 2008

He explained that NNL is a Government owned but contractor operated with a customer base predominantly based in the UK but is also growing internationally in the EU, Japan and the States.

Peter covered the products and services they provided which includes: fuel manufacture and reactors; operating reprocessing/waste plants; decommissioning and treatment of legacy waste incl. retrieval; environment management, disposal; defence; new nuclear build/future nuclear systems; research training and academics. He pointed out that the NNL is unique as they are able to offer all these services whereas other companies are not.

He described the facilities and roles of the laboratories which they have, with the central base being in Sellafield and the others in Windscale, Preston and Workington. There are 700 highly qualified employees (60% educated to degree level), with office facilities in Risley, Harwell and Stonehouse. They have a turnover of £200m and a trading profit of £21m. They also have an excellent safety record and have won the RoSPA award for Research and Development Sector for five consecutive years.

Peter explained in details two inventions, namely the RadBall and the development of a Foam Decontamination and stating that both inventions would be a great source of revenue.

A Question and Answer session followed.

The Chairman thanked Peter for a very informative and interesting presentation. He announced to the Group that the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, The Rt Hon Ed Milliband MP had agreed to address the group at the next meeting. Date still to be confirmed but likely to be end Feb/Beg March. EDF Energy has also agreed to address the group and this meeting will take place in May/June