

Notice: M41 7JB, United Utilities Water Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: United Utilities Water Limited
- Installation name: Davyhulme Wastewater Treatment Works – Sludge Treatment Facility
- Permit number: EPR/HP3931LJ/V010

Notice: GL2 5LF, Severn Trent Water Limited: environmental permit issued

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This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Severn Trent Water Limited
- Installation name: Netheridge Sewage Treatment Plant
- Permit number: EPR/HP3095CT/V003

News story: £3 million Dragon's Den style competition shortlists ideas to clean up old nuclear plants

The shortlisted entries, many of which come from companies that have never worked in the nuclear industry before, now have around 3 months to develop their ideas for a chance to move on to the next stage. They'll start fleshing out their concepts on how to safely dismantle a large number of highly radioactive rooms or 'cells' at Europe's most complex nuclear site,

Sellafield in Cumbria.

Melanie Brownridge, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Head of Technology, said:

This competition is an amazing opportunity for creative, forward-thinking and innovative companies to collaborate and come up with cutting-edge solutions for cleaning up some of the UK's most complex nuclear sites.

[The competition](#), which is being run by the NDA, and the UK government's innovation agency, Innovate UK, is awarding an initial £750,000 to a shortlist of 15 newly formed consortia to help them develop their ideas. Full details remain under commercial wraps but more will be revealed when the winners are picked at the end of the year and begin to build prototypes, supported by the remaining funds.

Shortlisted entries

Lead contractor	Project title
A.N. Technology Ltd	A Flexible Measurement and Waste Led, Robotics-Based Decommissioning Project
Amec Foster Wheeler	Integrated Innovation for Nuclear Decommissioning
Barrnon Ltd	Barrnon Integrated Decommissioning System
Cavendish Nuclear Ltd	Sellafield In-Cell Decommissioning System (SIDS)
Costain Oil, Gas and Process Ltd	Stabilisation, Excavation and Segregation
Createc	Elephants to Ants: Innovation in Integration
Davy Markham Limited	Integrated & Transferable Decommissioning Toolkit
Eadon Consulting Limited	Versatile Decommissioning System (VDS)
James Fisher Nuclear Limited	Hot Hatch Cell Recovery
MDA Space & Robotics Ltd	DecomSmart
Nuvia Limited	Nu-Decom
Oliver Crispin Robotics Ltd	LaserSnake++
Rovtech Solutions Ltd	Integrated Keyhole Remote Decommissioning System
University of the West of England	Integrated robotic system for characterisation and decommissioning
Westinghouse Electric Company UK Limited	Integrated Innovation for Nuclear Decommissioning

Over the next few years several major plants at Sellafield will come to the end of their operational life, such as the [Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant \(THORP\) and Magnox Reprocessing Plants](#), which are used to reprocess spent nuclear fuel from power stations across the UK and the rest of the world.

This will mark the start of an important decommissioning challenge to deal with a number of highly radioactive 'cells' containing a complex network of contaminated pipes, vessels and several miles of steelwork. The competition set out to find and fund technology that will clean up the 'cells' as safely, quickly and cost-effectively as possible whilst minimising risks to the workforce.

The winning technologies will need to find ways of safely accessing the cells, surveying the contents, cleaning them out and putting the radioactive waste into packages for safe storage. The proposals feature the use of leading-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, robots, drones, lasers and specialised remote sensors and detectors.

Although initially focused on Sellafield, the winning ideas could be used to clean up the other nuclear sites owned by the NDA, which date back to the earliest days of the UK nuclear industry.

Melanie added:

The NDA is continually seeking the best ways to encourage new ideas from the supply chain and ensure everyone has an opportunity to get involved. The response we have had to this competition has been fantastic. We've been really impressed by the standard of proposals and the healthy numbers of applicants.

I'm also extremely encouraged by the high level of interest from organisations outside the nuclear sector, offering highly innovative solutions from industries such as the oil and gas sector, defence industries and even space exploration.

Derek Allen, Innovation Lead at Innovate UK, said:

We are delighted to be working again with the NDA as they continue to support innovation to deliver their programme.

We are looking forward to seeing the integration and demonstration of some of these technologies that will ultimately lead to safer, faster, cheaper nuclear decommissioning. This has the potential to open up significant business opportunities for UK organisations both nationally and globally.

[News story: £3 million Dragon's Den](#)

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both nationally and globally.

[Press release: New powers to introduce tough sanctions against individuals, organisations and foreign governments](#)

The government has today (Wednesday 2 August) [published plans](#) to enable post-Brexit Britain to continue to play a central role in global sanctions to combat the threats of terrorism, conflict and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Proposals include additional powers to cut off funding for terrorists by making it easier to freeze assets and block access to bank accounts.

The Sanctions Bill would ensure the UK has the necessary legal powers to implement sanctions after Brexit, as well as greater flexibility in choosing when and how to introduce new measures. The UK will also continue to play a central role in negotiating global sanctions as a member of the UN Security Council.

At the moment, the UK implements over 30 sanctions regimes, including those against Russia, North Korea, Iran, Daesh and Al Qaida.

The government's response to the 9-week public consultation of these new powers is to:

1. Create new powers to impose, implement and enforce sanctions regimes, drawing on the current EU model
2. Introduce an annual review of regimes to ensure that they remain appropriate
3. Ensure individuals and organisations can challenge any sanctions imposed on them
4. Enable the government to issue exemptions when needed, for example in delivering humanitarian aid in regions affected by sanctions; and
5. Make it easier to stop suspected terrorists from accessing their money

The UK currently negotiates and imposes non-UN sanctions against specific countries through EU laws. This Bill will repatriate powers on non-UN sanctions from Brussels, reflecting and building on the measures that the UK currently has under EU law.

Minister for Europe Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP said:

The new Sanctions Bill will ensure that when the UK leaves the

European Union, we retain the ability to impose, update and lift sanctions regimes, both to comply with our international obligations and in pursuit of our foreign policy and national security objectives.

This will enable us to impose sanctions as appropriate either alone or with partners in the EU and around the world, to take targeted action against countries, organisations and individuals who contravene international law, commit or finance terrorism or threaten international peace and security.

The government's proposed plans will also make it easier to freeze a suspected terrorist's bank accounts and stop them making money from their assets, such as selling their house or car.

At the moment, to freeze a person's assets, the government must reasonably believe that the person is, or has been, involved in terrorism, and that freezing their assets is necessary to protect the public.

The new proposals would make it easier to stop suspected terrorists in their tracks as the government would only need to have reasonable grounds to suspect the person or group is or has been involved in terrorism and that sanctions are an appropriate action.

This is important given the evolving nature of terrorism. Terrorists are now causing significant damage using very small amounts of funds and resources.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury Stephen Barclay said:

These new powers will help us keep the British public safer from terrorist attacks by keeping money out of the hands of those wishing to cause us harm.

Our counter terrorist financing proposals will make it easier for law enforcement and government to impose sanctions on those that present a threat to our national or international security.

These powers will help us continue to lead the global fight against Daesh and form part of the review of Britain's counter terrorism strategy announced in the Prime Minister's speech in June.