

# News story: Busiest ever year as event goes on growing

The visitors, from all across the UK and overseas, enjoyed a day of exhibitions and informal networking at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Estate Supply Chain Event.

Businesses came to Manchester's EventCity venue to be involved in one of the world's largest nuclear decommissioning supplier events, with delegates turning up from all across the UK and overseas.



Informal networking in the Innovation Zone

The NDA and its business units set up the first event 7 years ago with the aim of creating greater visibility of opportunities for suppliers and in particular for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). The event has gone from strength-to-strength and has become a highlight of the nuclear industry calendar, with around half the visitors coming from the SME community.

The day was formally opened by NDA Chief Executive David Peattie, who spoke about the importance of suppliers in providing skills and innovation for the decommissioning mission.

The main hall held 300 exhibition stands, staffed by a wide range of technical and service suppliers, alongside information stands representing the NDA and all its business units, government bodies and regeneration

organisations.

The ever-popular 'Innovation Zone', supported by the government's Innovate UK, hosted more than 40 exhibitor companies, who held demonstrations of leading-edge technologies during the afternoon.

The Skills Zone also returned for 2017, featuring a range of organisations who were able to offer guidance, advice and one-to-one discussions.

Other government departments attending included:

- The Ministry of Defence's Submarine Enterprise Programme
- Department for International Trade
- the Crown Commercial Service
- the Welsh Government

Ron Gorham, the NDA's Head of Supply Chain Optimisation and SME Champion, said:

We have a challenging mission for decades to come which relies on vibrant, dynamic businesses providing solutions to our many challenges. Success across our estate and also the MOD's Submarine Enterprise Programme is good not only for the UK, local and national economies, but also provides fulfilling careers for a whole new generation.

We remain committed to working with the supply chain, from the largest to the smallest players, to improve not only the quality of the opportunities but also help ensure successful outcomes for all.

Informal feedback during the day suggests that yesterday's event was the most successful so far. It provides a unique opportunity to hear leading figures from across our sector, see world-beating technology and enjoy an unrivalled opportunity for networking with other businesses suppliers and clients.

The event remains a key element of our Supply Chain Development programme and the SME action plan both of which show NDA's continued commitment to encourage, support and develop our supply chain for today and for the future.

One of the morning highlights was the [presentation of NDA estate awards.](#)

[More images on the NDA's Flickr account](#)

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## [Hosted sites downloads becoming more accessible](#)

Downloads from our hosted sites are being added to our downloads database in order to make them easier to find.

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## [World-leading livestock scientist honoured by SRUC](#)

An Edinburgh-based scientist who— in the words of Bill Gates— has helped turn the city into “a world capital for livestock health and genetics”, has been presented with an honorary fellowship by SRUC.

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## [SRUC graduates on course for great things](#)

A commis chef at a Michelin-starred restaurant, a national park ranger at Hadrian’s Wall and a greenkeeper at a Ryder Cup golf course are just some of the exciting roles landed by students from SRUC.

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## [World news story: UK at COP23 in Bonn](#)

*Updated:* Programme update

The UK will host a pavilion in the Bonn Zone of COP. Through our programme of talks, events and presentations we aim to showcase the UK’s role in tackling climate change, sharing innovations that will drive the future of the Paris Agreement. We hope that sharing our experiences and expertise can be useful for other countries in taking forward action on their climate commitments, and are keen to explore areas for collaboration in the future.

Our programme will cover a broad range of topics across the climate and clean growth agenda, UK renewable energy, green finance, climate policy (including the Clean Growth Strategy), transport and more.

The UK is playing a leading role in the low carbon transition both nationally and internationally. We were the first country to legislate to reduce carbon emissions with the 2008 Climate Change Act, and have been among the most successful countries in the developed world in growing our economy while reducing emissions. Since 1990, the UK has cut emissions by 42 per cent while our economy has grown by 67%. Our recently launched Clean Growth Strategy builds on this, bringing together for the first time over £2.5 billion of Government funding for low carbon innovation from 2015 to 2021.

Please come and join us at COP 23 in Bonn.

The programme of the pavilion can be viewed below for week 1 and week 2.

[Programme – UK Pavilion at COP 23](#)

(PDF, 491KB, 11 pages)