

# Four new directors complete UKAEA's new-look executive team

## News story

New directors have been appointed to UKAEA's executive team to manage the rapidly-growing range of work areas and programmes.



New UKAEA directors (clockwise from top left): Andrew Kirk, Amanda Quadling, Paul Methven, Steve Wheeler

- Dr. Andrew Kirk has been appointed the new Director of Tokamak Science and [MAST Upgrade](#). Andrew has been spearheading UKAEA's work in fusion science for many years, championing the UK's compact fusion experiment, MAST, through its upgrade project – now into final commissioning. Andrew will help guide UKAEA's strategic scientific direction; especially pertinent to the UK's [STEP fusion powerplant design project](#).
- Dr. Amanda Quadling will become UKAEA's new Director of Materials. Amanda started her career as a geochemist in Africa, working for De Beers and BHP Billiton, Amanda moved to the UK a decade ago and, after completing a PhD in materials science, she has been a Director at Morgan Advanced Materials and M&I Materials. Last year, she was listed among the 10th most influential women in UK engineering in the Financial Times. Amanda will join UKAEA on 2 September and will lead its broad range of materials work in the [Materials Research Facility](#), modelling and various other programmes.
- Steve Wheeler has been appointed as UKAEA's Director of Fusion Technology. Steve's career started as a design engineer for medical devices, white goods and oil & gas and then a number of production and operations roles at Element Six, becoming Operations Director in 2011. In 2015 he joined UKAEA as Operations Manager at the [RACE robotics facility](#) and has recently started his new role, with responsibility for

delivery of the new [Fusion Technology](#) and [H3AT tritium science](#) facilities and UKAEA's existing tritium facilities.

- Paul Methven is the new Director for STEP – UKAEA's programme to develop a UK compact fusion powerplant. Paul joined the Royal Navy in 1988 as a submariner, then held a succession of major project leadership roles in the MoD. As STEP Director, Paul will bring a wealth of large project experience to this challenging and cutting-edge initiative. Paul will take up his post in September.

UKAEA CEO Professor Ian Chapman commented: "UKAEA is growing very quickly, and the wide range of activities – from fusion science to various technology areas to the exciting new STEP design programme – clearly requires new leadership and ideas. I am delighted with these new appointments, blending people who have worked in UKAEA for some time, with others who will bring invaluable experience and insight from other fields and industries."

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