

Minutes

NIRAB Twelfth meeting

4th October 2016, 13:00-16:00

The Royal Society, London

Attendees:

MEMBERS

Dame Sue Ion	Chair		
Tim Abram	University of Manchester	John Lillington	AMEC Foster Wheeler
Andrew Carlick	DBD Ltd	Martin O'Brien (on behalf of Steve Cowley)	CCFE
Neil Hyatt	Sheffield University	Andrew Sherry	NNL
Malcolm Joyce	Lancaster University	Neil Thomson	EDF Energy
Mick Gornall	Springfields Ltd	Laurence Williams	CORWM
Bill Lee	Imperial College	Peter Wylie	Sellafield Ltd

OBSERVERS

Derek Allen	Innovate UK	John Loughhead	BEIS
Melanie Brownridge	NDA	David Senior	ONR

OFFICIALS

Rob Arnold	BEIS	Craig Lucas	BEIS
Matthew Aylott	BEIS	Anna Stephenson	BEIS
Si Dilks	BEIS	Rupert Wilmouth	GO-Science
Malwina Gradecka	BEIS		

SECRETARIAT

Gordon Bryan	NIRO	Paul Nevitt	NIRO
Andrew Howarth	NIRO	Simon White	NIRO

Apologies:

MEMBERS

Neil Bateman	EPSRC
Richard Clegg	Lloyd's Register
Steve Cowley	CCFE
Paul Harding	URENCO
Paul Stein	Rolls-Royce
Mike Tynan	NAMRC

OBSERVERS

Tim Dafforn	BEIS
Robin Grimes	FCO
Sir Mark Walport	GO-Science

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members and observers for the twelfth meeting of NIRAB. The draft minutes from the last meeting (NIRAB-113-1) were accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – Actions from previous NIRAB meetings

The actions from the last meeting were reviewed using the NIRAB action tracker (NIRAB-24-10).

Action 11.5 NIRO to convene a discussion to look at the programme in greater granularity and advise what, if any, additional research is needed to address BWR needs.

Imperial College and Bangor University are hosting a conference and workshop on BWR research needs on 25th-27th October. NIRO will wait for the output from this workshop to assess whether further work is required. [Action Open].

Action 11.7 NIRO to prepare a paper summarising those views of members on the evolution of the R&D landscape and the implementation of the Nuclear Industrial Strategy since 2013.

These comments have been collated and will be included in the NIRAB final report [Action Complete].

Action 11.9 Neil Thomson to brief the board on developments with the Sir Henry Royce Institute.

Further information will be shared at the next meeting after further details have been released about the institute [Action Open].

Agenda Item 3 – Government Update

The machinery of government change over the summer has resulted in a new ministerial team. The new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) brings together the business, innovation and skills briefs; and the energy and climate change briefs. The combined policies have significant overlap with civil nuclear R&D and the new ministers have been briefed on the current position and future potential options. Ministers have been briefed on NIRAB's nuclear research and innovation recommendations, but have yet to sanction action.

Government has completed dialogue conversations with the respondents to the first phase of the SMR competition. Officials have been assessing all the information and in addition have commissioned the Office of Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency to look at the regulatory requirements for SMR deployment.

Government has requested that NIRAB provide answers to a list of SMR questions in order to add to the overall portfolio of information available to policy makers. This information will be supplied by members in a personal capacity in accordance with the NIRAB terms of reference.

Action 12.1: Members to respond to NIRO with answers to the Government's SMR questions by 14th October so that a compiled NIRAB response can be sent on 24th October.

Agenda Item 4 – NIRAB Final Report

NIRAB members provided feedback on a draft version of the NIRAB final report. This report will be published at the end of 2016 as a record to cover the events, developments and work of NIRAB over the past three years.

Agenda Item 5 – Landscape Survey

BEIS has confirmed its requirements for the Civil Nuclear R&D Landscape Survey 2016 and questionnaires have been sent to universities, national laboratories and industry organisations

engaged in civil nuclear research. The responses are being collated by NIRO and will be compiled into a report which will be published alongside the NIRAB Final Report.

Agenda Item 6 – Post NIRAB

A revised paper of the requirements for a civil nuclear R&D function was presented. The paper was discussed and members provided comments to Government officials.

Agenda Item 7 – UK Initiatives Update

Updates were given on the National Nuclear Users Facility, Sir Henry Royce Institute and the Joint Research and Innovation Centre with China.

Agenda Item 8 – NIRAB Plan 2016

NIRO updated the plan for 2016. The key remaining activities are the publication of the NIRAB final report and the landscape update by the end of 2016.

Agenda Item 9 – NIRAB Chair/NIRO Additional Notable Activities

A paper containing NIRAB Chair and NIRO stakeholder meetings was distributed to the board.

Agenda Item 10 – AOB

The European Nuclear Young Generation Forum (ENYGF) 2017 will be held in Manchester between 11th-16th June. The theme of the conference will be "Innovation in Nuclear: a Rich Heritage and our Bright Future". The call for posters, presentations and workshop managers is open and members were asked to encourage young professionals to get involved. For more information visit the website - <http://www.enygf.org>.

The NDA are currently scoping a competition with Innovate UK setting challenges which integrate systems for the decommissioning market. This will be launched at the NDA supply chain event to be held in November 2016.

Innovate UK has changed its competition structure which is now based on four sectors. In each sector there will be two competitions a year of around £15million. It was highlighted that funding for nuclear R&D opportunities will be available under the infrastructure systems sector, though there are unlikely to be specific nuclear competitions.

Agenda Item 11 – Summary of Actions and Next Steps

A summary of the actions arising from the meeting will be sent to members and observers with the draft minutes.

Date of Next Meeting

The next and final meeting is scheduled for 14th December 2016 in London.