

NIRAB Meeting

Thursday 18th September 2023, 10:30-15.30.

ETC Venues, London and virtually on MS Teams

Attendees

NIRAB Members: Francis Livens (Chair), Gordon Bryan, Gregg Butler, Alun Ellis, , John Stairmand, Allyson Armet, Malcolm Joyce, Maggie Brown, Martin Goodfellow, Mike Lewis, Kirsty Armer, Kirsty Gogan, Greg Evans, , Simon Franklin

BEIS: Si Dilks, Ian Johnson

NIRO: Dan Mathers, Liv Thompson (secretary), Greg Black, Nick Underwood, Paddy Ingram, Jeff Holliday, Paddy Ingram, Gavin Dobbin, Gary Bolton

Observers: Ian Streatfield (EA)

Apologies: Mike Lewis, Edoardo Patelli, Martin Goodfellow, Fiona Rayment, Jane Nicholson

Guests: Nick Barron

Minutes

- Chair Update: Professor Francis Livens
 - Damitha Adikaari would like to have early sight of key recommendations/ understanding the outputs from NIRAB work.
 - Focus of the plenary: to understand the work each working group has done to date and discussing output, next steps, and timeline for delivery.
- Update from NIRO
 - An overview of the small projects and key activities NIRO has been working on.
 - NNUF3 outline proposal has been made to EPSRC to cover access scheme extension.
 - NIRO is supporting the process for UK potentially joining FIDES-II and NEST.
- Update from Regulators
 - Overview of EA phase B projects.
 - Innovation Report on Regulation of AI in nuclear from Regulators will be available to circulate to NIRAB soon,
 - ONR involved in international regulatory work. ONR will likely request advice from NIRAB on issues vendors/ ONR have identified, which will be shared in due course.
- Update from Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
 - Funding allotted to NNL and USNC for Phase B to March 2025 to Design Maturity for GDA and to NNL for pilot scale, 4mt/a and process for CPF.
 - Fusion strategy will go alone, rather than Euratom to fund research. Fission approach with Euratom coming up.
 - Looking at the future of NIRAB and NIRO beyond SR.



- Working Group Updates
 - The NIRAB Delivery, Use Case, and Technology leads provided an update on working group activities and asked for comments to be provided on circulated document.
- Update on AMR knowledge capture programme
 - Overview of AMR KM project – project scopes include those who have retired and people who aren't currently employed by nuclear organisations.
 - The team is looking to shortlist a few projects and would like NIRAB to help prioritise the knowledge areas in phase B.
- Summary of R&D landscape survey
 - Overview of the survey is provided; publication will be pushed out by 4 weeks to accommodate late responders.
- Zero Power Reactor Discussion
 - NIRO have undertaken work on the need for a zero-power reactor to understand the benefits of one.
- Timelines and priorities for next steps
 - NIRAB to produce a 2-page summary of strategic priorities which can be interpreted and used to support with policy to use with a strategic case production, bringing all 3 workstreams together.
 - Each working group to produce 1 page on the wider context.
- Summary/ Look ahead
 - There clearly is a role remaining for all 3 working groups to proceed building on the work to date.
- AOB
- Expenses are to be submitted by 30th September 2023
- Next meeting to be held in Manchester on Thursday 7th December.

